

Report on Stakeholder Dialogue: Seminar on Establishing National Public Council on Migration

January 25, 2013, Kashkasuu, Kyrgyzstan

The Seminar is supported in part by a grant from the Open Society Foundation

The Seminar was held within the Stakeholder Dialogue activities of the TSPC project on “Protecting the Rights of Kyrgyz and other Central Asian Migrants: Utilizing policy analysis, public outreach, and stakeholder dialogue to mobilize action toward reform”. The seminar was co-organized by the “Resource Center for Elderly” Public Association.

The Seminar was organized with the aim to develop projection and plan for the new National Public Council on Migration in KR. The participants were supposed to develop plan and schedule of activities, as well as plan the licensing procedures of the Council.

The Resource Center for Elderly (RCE) has invited Aleksandr Tretyakov, Director of CASE-Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek, to moderate the Seminar. Welcome speech were delivered by Aigul Ryskulova, Chair of the Working Group, who noted that the WG is a mobile and flexible group of professionals who will continue its work until the National Public Council on Migration is recognized in the country. She wished productive work for the Seminar to be conducted in informal format.

Rodger Dillon, Executive Director of the TSPC, has also welcomed the Seminar participants on behalf of the TSPC. He first introduced TSPC’s goals and activities, and said that the Seminar is devoted to an important issue of building a strong organization that could reach out to all regions of Kyrgyzstan. He also suggested that it was important to have one person to work on press and Public Relation, as well as to have one “champion” in the JK KR who would push the WG’s interests among the Parliamentarians. He concluded that it was not that important to work on what is happening in migration field and in the Parliament, as to build the organization strong.

Svetlana Bashtovenko, Director of the RCE, thanked all participants for their concern in taking up issues of migration and for spending their time on this day. She thanked TSPC for making this Seminar happen taking the participants out of Bishkek to a wonderful Ski Resort. She briefed about the background of the idea of establishing the National Council. She particularly said that within the RCE’s migration project, the organization has created Small Public Councils on Migration in few regions of KR, who initiated establishing a Big Council at the national level, which would deal with migration issues at the national and international levels. At one of the meetings of the Small Public Councils in Bishkek, the participants unanimously voted for establishing Big Public Council and elected Aigul Ryskulova to chair the Council. At the same meeting, a Working Group on establishing National Public Council has been elected. Most important for the Seminar is to produce an Action Plan, develop a format and schedule of meetings, find the ways to unite the National Public Council on Migration with the Big Public Council on Migration, develop a Charter for the National Council and find funds. In her reply to Rodger Dillon, Svetlana Bashtovenko said that Big Public Council has in its members a Parliamentarian - Damira Niyazalieva, Head of the Committee on Social Protection at the JK KR. Her advisor Saltanat Barakanova is in the Working Group.

Ainura Asamidinova, Program Manager on Migration of TSPC and member of the Working Group, added that this meeting was being held in the framework of TSPC’s project on migration. She invited participants to give ideas for a short video report on migration to be produced by TSPC within its project, and invited all participants to take part in a roundtable discussion in March to be organized within this migration project.

Discussion

The moderator has started with time schedule saying that the group would have 5,5 hours of work that was more than enough time to develop the following documents planned for the day:

1. Format
2. Goals
3. Tasks
4. Name
5. Package of documents:
 - a. Charter
 - b. Plan of activities
 - c. Budget
 - d. Letter to the President

Then the moderator has brain stormed the participants on their view what would the Council do. The participants came up with the following suggestions:

- Training/education
- Accumulation of various instruments and resources
- Protection of rights
- Develop recommendations for the government and society
- Control and monitoring
- Assistance to the government in implementation of migration policies
- Creating environment for ideas, instruments
- Mechanism of interaction between the government and civil society
- Providing assistance in effective management of migration processes
- Drawing attention to the problems of the field
- Response/ feedback of government-migrants
- Advocacy
- Civil society assistance in providing effective results from migration process

The Moderator slowly turned the discussion to the definition of the mission of the Council. The participants were divided into three groups and every group has given their ideas on what the mission of the Council should be:

Group I:

The mission of the National Public Council is providing assistance to the government agencies in effective regulation of migration processes.

Group II:

The Mission of the Council is:

- Providing assistance in developing and coordination of decisions in migration processes field, as well as interaction between government bodies and civil society in migration field.
- Assistance in international dialogue with aim to improve migration policies

Group III

Mission:

- Assistance in organization of regulation of migration processes and decision-making using the best practices and international experience
- Accumulation of efforts, resources and opportunities of government, non-government, and international organizations for finding solutions to the migration problems
- Assisting the developing and realization of effective migration policy, that is useful for the government and its citizens.
- Assisting in improving the protection of migrants' families...

The next discussion of the group was devoted to the goals and tasks of the Council. During the course of the discussion, the participants have agreed on the idea that the first year of the Council should be devoted to the establishing the foundation of the Council, and the next stage should be devoted to the implementation of the planned activities.

Thus, the following are the results of the group discussion.

Group I

Goals and tasks for the Stage I (by May 1, 2013)

Inside the organization	Outside of the organization
1 Develop Charter	Consultation with the decision-makers
2. Discussion meeting	Letters + Appeal
3 Composition	Public discussion of all founding documents of the Council

4. Approving the Action Plan	Contacting migrant organizations
5. Involving donors	
6. “National Council on Migration (NCM)” – is a real body in the migration field	
7. Package of tools	

Group II

Goals and tasks for the Stage II (by December 31, 2013)

1. Revision of legislation
2. Statistics
3. Public event – National Report on Migration Situation
4. Package of documents to the government strategy
5. Initiating Parliament hearings
6. Recognition of the Council
7. Update the Action Plan and identify the issues and level of work of the Council

Group III

Goals and tasks for the Stage III – 2014 -2017 (the year the when the President’s Strategy on Sustainable Development ends)

1. “Normal” Migration Policy is adopted and is being implemented
2. At least 30% of migrants are protected. Favorable conditions are created for civilized migration
3. Legislation is revised
4. Expanding the scope of the work of the Council to include issues of labor and education (professional education)
5. Favorable condition are created to protect citizens abroad
6. Annual National Report on results
7. System of financing is established.

The next task for the groups was to develop Action Plan within each Stage to include such information as on: activities, timeline, responsible person(s), and resources.

Group I - Stage I (by May 1, 2013)

Tasks:

Inside the organization	Outside of the organization
1 Develop Charter	Consultation with the decision-makers
2. Discussion meeting	Letters + Appeal
3 Composition	Public discussion of all founding documents of the Council
4. Approving the Action Plan	Contacting migrant organizations
5. Involving donors	
6. “National Council on Migration (NCM)” – is a real body in the migration field	
7. Package of tools	

Goal: By May 2013, the NCM becomes a legal body of the migration sphere

Task: Charter (mode of the work, how it works, collection of methodologies of work)

Indicator: approved Charter

Between these points is the following:

No	Activities	Timeline	Responsible	Budget	Result	Remarks
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1. Developing Draft Charter						
1.1	Conduct seminar/meeting on developing key points of the Charter, mode of work of the Council, format of the Council, mode of interaction inside and outside	February 1	Under question	USD 500	Coordinated points on the content of the Draft Charter	
1.2	Develop a draft Charter and draft of the package of other required documents (legislation), plus cover letter	By February 20			Draft Charter for public discussions	Contents of the Charter. Mode of work, how it works, collection of methodologies of work
1.3	Meeting of the Working group on approval of the developed drafts of documents	By March 15				
2. Discussion process						
2.1	Discussion of the draft Charter with the decision-makers (coordination with the President and other decision-makers. In case of the President agreement to establish the Council – the procedures are described further, in case of refusal – the Council will still be created but separately from the Government)	1-15 March				
2.2	Public discussion with interest groups (8 round tables – 7 in regions and 1 final in Bishkek)	15-27 March		USD 2,000		Discussion of the composition of the Council
3.	Legitimization (legalization) 1 case – Legal Act (by the decree of the President, decision of the KR Government 2 case – public agreement, Memorandum	1-30 April				
4.	Publication, public	May		USD		

	information campaign (website, press-conference, etc.)			10,000		
5.	First Meeting of the Council	By May 15		USD 5,000	Approved Plan of Action of the Council	
6.	Developing the Strategy and fundraising					

Some additional tasks were suggested during the presentation of the Group:

- To develop the list of persons who would sign the Letter to the President
- Organize network discussion on necessity of establishment of the NCM.

Group II: Stage II (by December 31, 2013)

No	Activities	Timeline	Responsible	Resources	
1	Revision of the migration legislation, migration policy and analysis of the situation				
1.1	Selecting a Working Group to make revision of the current legislation on migration	May 2013	NCM (Government agency in charge of migration issues) International org-ns (IOM, Soros, ICCO, DCA, etc. Experts	International donors 10,000	
1.2	Analysis of the migration policies and current situation of the migration processes				
1.3	Developing recommendations on: - Legislation - introducing amendments to the state program - materials to include to the National Report				
2	National Report on migration (connect it with the Year of Labor) (May-December)				
2.1	Review of the report, results of the working groups	June	NCM	USD 7,000	
2.2	Selecting a Working Group on developing the Report	June			
2.3	Identification of the topic and communication	September			
2.4	Developing the draft Report	October-November			
2.5	Review, discussion, finalization, posting in the website, preparation to the conference	November	RCE		
2.6	Holding a Conference with presentation of the National Report	December 18			
3.	Draft Package of Recommendations to the Sustainable Development Strategy				

implementation					
3.1	Developing recommendations on introducing amendments into sectoral programs on implementation of the SDS Discussion Publication	September 2013	NCM	USD 5,000	
4.	Pubic Relation				
4.1	Creating NCM image	May 2013 - permanently	NCM		
4.2	Developing strategy on creating image of the NCM				
	Establishing a PR group				
	Website				
	Roundtables				
	Participation in other conferences			TSPC	
	Getting feedback	Once a quarter	NCM		
	Meeting with Big Public Council, with the Platform				
	Information materials (press releases, booklets, etc.)				

The TSPC made a suggestion to have a joint conference in May to attract more stakeholders and interested persons. The idea is to be discussed.

Group III: Stage III 2014-2017

This part will be submitted when the Protocol of the Seminar will be developed by the RCE.

Discussion of the Letter to the President

At the end of the Seminar, the participants discussed the text of the Letter to the President. Four persons have initiated to develop the final text of the Letter. TSPC's Tatiana has volunteered to check the wording and style. The next discussion among the participants was on who should lead the List of persons to sign the Letter. The idea was to make the list of leading experts, professionals that could be heard by the President and the government. This List was left as a homework for those who selected responsible for finalizing the text of the Letter.

Conclusion

The Moderator proclaimed that the Seminar was successful and productive. Chair of the WG Aigul Ryskulova has thanked the TSPC once again for organizing the Seminar.

At the end, the feedback questionnaire has been distributed among the participants. The report on the feedback is attached to this Report.

The next meeting of the WG is planned to be held in RCE office according to the developed schedule.