

English version / 21/10/10/ G20 Civil

Extracts from Recommendations to President Lee Myung-bak for the G20 Summit

By Emmanuel Argo
President G20 Civil

“From valuable discussions with Dr IL Sakong (Chairman of the G20 Summit Committee) concerning the organisation of the G20 Summit to be held in Seoul in November. As the President of Civil Society Forum International Network, an advisory grouping providing advice and support to the Heads of Government meeting in the G20 format. It is an extension of the G8 Civil Society Advisory Council established in 2006 in Moscow for the Summit that year in St Petersburg. I had the honour to be present on that occasion, was able to work directly with President Putin in a special meeting of civil society convened in March 2006 in Moscow. It was at that time that the network’s priority on remittances was accepted and the impetus for further work was created”.

“I now have the honour to bring to your attention the network’s conclusions as they relate to the impact of the current international crisis on the tens of millions of people who depend on remittances as the main sources of family income and community development in their countries throughout the world”.

“The recommendations have brought forth an initiative which complements the civil society dimension that was added to the G8 process in recent years. This dimension is very broadly based, and includes the views of network members encompassing business organisations, the money transfer industry, corporate social organisations, international organisations, governmental and non-governmental policy-makers, academics and foundations. Our network also includes Nobel Prize laureates and other distinguished individuals with a real contribution to offer. Its also includes participation from members of Association of Money Transfer Networks , EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) a United Nations Development Programme with migration4development and the European Euclid programme”.

“The conclusions and recommendations being brought to the G20 this year concern the key role played in human-solidarity and development by remittances. This money transfer subject is of vital concern to the economies of many developing countries, and is also of legitimate concern to the countries from which remittances flow, for it is the heart of issues relevant to jobs and productivity for many people who are now the mainstay of prosperity in the receiving countries as well”.

“This is why the subject is not only a straightforward financial matter, but one with very wide social and humanitarian implications. Its affects the growth of small, medium and micro enterprises as well general questions surrounding job creation, services provision, housing, construction, town planning likes for Haiti and community stability. It has a significant place in any programme which seeks to tackle poverty in developing countries and harmony in the countries where remitters work”.

“Our approach is one which is based on the principle of peace and solidarity-the ability of people to work together towards common humanitarian goals with humanitarian concept underpinning the handling of money transfers to and from diaspora population. It’s aimed at building solutions which fit the ideal expressed by the President of the 63rd United Nations General Assembly, who said: “Only full participation within a truly representative network will restore the confidence of citizen in our governments and financial institutions”.

“We felt it would be our mutual advantage to give you early notice of our hope that the Seoul Summit will be the occasion for a call to attention on the key role played by remittances and the money transfer

industry in the eradication of poverty, and a tool of economic and social development especially in the least developed countries”.

Our recommendations are the follows:

- **Regulation of Money Transfer industry;**
- **Diminution of exaggerated commissions paid by money remitters who are generally poor for helping poorest;**
- **Creation of a contribution of solidarity paid by money Transfer Company on each transaction they made when remitters give money to be transfer;**
- **Creation of Remittances Solidarity Fund (RSF) to facilitate development projects to least developed countries.**

“The recommendations we bring forward are based on a book now being publish, written by me with a foreword by Nobel Peace Laureate Lech Wałęsa of Poland. The book is entitled “Thanks, Remitt@nces” The direct message of this title is that thanks for remittances are given, daily, by those people who receive them, those who send them, the communities and nations where they are received, and the business and the countries from which they are sent. Through this, it underline also the role that solidarity can play in the eradication of poverty over the world, as well the part which money transfer industry can play in helping achieve these objectives”. -----