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„Inside-Outside" or „Outsiders by choice"?

Civil society strategies towards the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Manila

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Summary
„Global governance" and the *„migration and development nexus"* are among the latest buzzwords in academia and policy discourses alike. The 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), held in October 2008 in Manila, provided an ample litmus test for these concepts. In a way, the GFMD – a new, non-binding forum which was deliberately established outside the realm of the UN – is testimony itself to the hitherto failed attempts at establishing a „global governance" of migration. Still, it provides a perspective, albeit a vague one, for a possible way out of the gridlock between the sending and receiving states of migrants. Civil society organizations (CSOs), on the other hand, have succeeded in using – and significantly expanding – the political space provided by the GFMD for advocacy, networking and various forms of protest. Even though Manila became the site of an impressive display of the organizational power and global scope of migrant CSOs for almost two weeks, the severe divisions in the migrant movement became apparent as well: the cleavages run between those actors employing an „inside-outside" strategy towards GFMD and those positioning themselves as „outsiders by choice" in total opposition to the process. Thus, Philippine domestic politics and cleavages were intertwined with the global issues of migration and development.

Keywords: Migration; Development; Global Governance; GFMD; civil society organizations; grassroots movements.

1 Introduction: The Philippine background

When the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was established with its first meeting in Brussels, Belgium in July 2007, the Philippine government came quickly forward with an offer to host the follow-up meeting. The offer was accepted, and more than 1130 delegates participated in the 2nd GFMD held in Manila from October 27 to October 30 2008, representing some 163 Member States and Observers of the United Nations, 33 international organizations as well as 220