

UPDATE ON THE OUTCOMES OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION ON THE GFMD CONSULTATION

ASIA & PACIFIC YOUTH REGIONAL CONSULTATION -
BALI PROCESS - BY UNMGCY



UN Major Group for
Children and Youth
the space for children and youth in the United Nations

CONTEXT

Created in 2007, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is a state-led, informal and non-binding process, which helps shape the global debate on migration and development. It provides a flexible, multi-stakeholder space where governments can discuss the multi-dimensional aspects, opportunities and challenges related to migration, development, and the link between these two areas. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) took over the Chairmanship of the GFMD on February 1st 2020.

The UAE has proposed that six GFMD regional consultations were held over the course of 2020, with the assistance of state-led regional processes. The regional consultations elaborated on the six thematic priorities, according to each region. The Friends of the Forum meetings will finalise background documents for the Summit, which is anticipated to take place, in the UAE, in January 2021.

The GFMD Chair choose three priority themes for the Bali Process:

- **Leveraging Technology to Empower Migrants**
- **Addressing Gaps in Migrant Protection**
- **Discussing Approaches to Address Irregular Migration**

The Asia & Pacific regional team of the Migration Working Group consulted a total of **22 locally-based youth- led and youth- focused organisations** working across the region. These organisations represent **10 countries**, and over **31,000 youth**, including leaders and beneficiaries, on migration issues. The results of these consultations are summarised in the policy briefs that can be reached [here](#).

CONTEXT

The main objectives of our participation were to:

- **Identify youth led actions and perspectives in the region**
- **Bring youth perspectives to the attention of relevant stakeholders**
- **Create a solid presentation and basis to foster partnerships among youth organizations and other stakeholders**



10

countries represented in this process.

31,000

youth reached, including leaders and beneficiaries, on migration issues.

22

locally-based youth- led and youth- focused organisations represented at the meeting.

100%

of the youth representatives agree that we were able to effectively bring the voice of the consulted youth organisations.

75%

strongly agreed that youth remarks were listened to or well-received.

REFLECTION ON OUR IMPACT ON THE GFMD PROCESS: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The participation of UN MGCY in the regional Bali Process meeting seemed well received by other participants. We ensured that our contributions were detailed, concise, and well-illustrated - focusing on a few key policy asks that were reinforced by existing youth initiatives and experience. We had **6 youth delegates in total, two for each breakout session**, and, in each, **at least one youth participant was able to make a three minutes intervention**. In the Closing Plenary many of our contributions were explicitly mentioned by the session moderators.

According to our self-assessment, **75% of our delegates agreed or strongly agreed that youth were well represented at the meeting and received adequate time to speak**. Similarly, **75% strongly agreed that their remarks were listened to or well-received**, and **100% of our delegates agreed or strongly agreed that we were effective in bringing the voices of our constituents to the discussion**. In particular, our participants highlighted the **importance of our presence in legitimising the voices of youth organisations**.

During the consultation process, we mapped and reached out to over **80 organisations from across the Asia & Pacific region**, with **22** participating in our consultations, **representing over 31,000 youth from 10 countries**. This was seen as a success due to our relatively new presence in the area, but the team identified our reach and the need to increase partnerships as a goal to constantly push forward.

REFLECTION ON OUR IMPACT ON THE GFMD PROCESS: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Whilst in the consultation stage, **we established a partnership with Migrant Forum Asia**, which we consolidated by inviting one of their members to be part of our youth delegation. We hope for this to be a fruitful partnership, and we **have discussed the opportunity to further collaborate through their civil society activities**. All delegates have also expressed their desire to continue collaborating with UN MGCY, focusing on engaging youth-led organizations locally.

The final reports from the three thematic breakout sessions will be launched on the GFMD website at the end of October, **so we expect to update this impact report with further detail** on which topics presented during the regional consultation - summarised on our policy briefs- were explicitly mentioned on the final version of the background documents that will support the Summit discussions.

Overall, the recognition of youth contributions during the breakout sessions, as well as the reach of our consultations and continuously developing relationships in the region, leads us to say that youth perspectives have been successfully included in the discussion. This not only translates to **opportunities for consulted organisations to further participate in the GFMD process, but also for them to develop cross-border partnerships and learning exchanges**.

ADDITIONAL NEXT STEPS PROPOSALS

The main objective of our advocacy strategy is to continuously grow the presence and recognition of youth voices in Asia & The Pacific heard on migration issues. We want youth experiences and perspectives to matter in the upcoming GFMD Forum, and successful projects to be visibly highlighted. Further, we want these to also play a key role in the upcoming GCM regional reviews, as well as for youth organisations across the region to grow together.

In the next months, we aim to offer youth-focused and youth-led organisations and initiatives in the region new opportunities to engage and collaborate with each other, creating a space to discuss shared goals and opportunities for learning and partnerships.

For this reason, we are presenting the following for future activities:

- We will participate in the GFMD **Migration Labs**, proposed with a focus on facilitating the identification of potential partnerships among GFMD stakeholders, to be presented at the GFMD Summit's Open Space. We will participate in small group discussions, to start fleshing out concrete ideas and building a work plan.
- We will organise a Informative Webinar at the end of October following the publication of the final background documents, in order to fully brief youth-focused or youth-led organisations in the Asia and Pacific region about GFMD process.

ADDITIONAL NEXT STEPS PROPOSALS

- We will organise **2 virtual roundtable discussions** in the latter half of 2020, in order to gather projects and initiatives showing the diversity of perspectives and experiences within youth migration, focusing on vulnerable groups such as girls and women, undocumented and/or irregular migrants, collect data regarding youth and migration, as well as to provide an opportunity for organisations to discuss important issues and connect.
- We will **increase our presence** on social media. In addition to deepening **our partnerships** with youth and migration organisations, as well as **expanding our current network of partners**.
- We aim at establishing partnerships with as many youth-led and youth-focused organisations as possible, in order to bring their voices to the **Migration Youth Forum of the XIII GFMD**, where youth will sit at the same table as governments, mayors, business leaders, and civil society stakeholders to discuss common migration policy priorities and actions at the GFMD.
- We are also launching the 1st **Youth Leadership and Innovation Award for Migration**. The Award will showcase existing initiatives aiming to empower and improve the living conditions of young people on the move, led by youth at the XVIII GFMD and receive support in their ongoing journey, with a two months mentorship program, seed funding for their initiative (TBC) and the chance to participate in the Youth Forum and be part of the GFMD process.

For more information, reach us at migrationyouthforum@unmgcy.org

We thank all youth-led organizations that have participated in this process. This was only possible as a result of the contribution that all youth-led organisations offered to the consultation process.

We aim to establish partnerships with as many youth-led and youth-focused organisations as possible, in order to be aware of all the innovative initiatives based on strong and successful track records present in the region, as well as to overcome language and inequality barriers and to ensure meaningful youth participation in upcoming events.

We invite you to work with us to demonstrate youth's contributions and proposed solutions to these spaces.



Follow the communication on our **Social Media** pages: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Website](#).