

GRT1: The impact of climate change on human mobility: preventive action, humanitarian action and development (9:30-11:30 CET)

Thank you X for the floor, and our esteemed Co-Chairs France and Senegal for providing us the space today and throughout their term to discuss this pressing thematic. Thank you also to our co-chairs, *Fiji, and Benin*, who we will be happy to support in their mobilization on the impact of climate change on human mobility.

I am the [Insert Position], representing MYCP (Migration Youth and Children Platform), is a constituency of the Major Group for Children and Youth, and **one of the GFMD Steering Group-mandated stakeholder groups**.

Given the worsening impacts of climate change, the challenge of climate mobility is growing in scale, pace, and magnitude around the world, with the recent climate-related disasters forcibly displacing people from their homes. For instance, the recent flood crisis in Nigeria displaced over 1.4million persons and killed about 600 persons.. Youth and children are disproportionately affected by the impact of climate mobility. Through the recently concluded COP27, the inaugural climate mobility pavilion underscored this challenge, while Paragraph 22 of the COP27 cover decision highlighted human mobility and forced displacement as one of the devastating forms of loss and damage.

In these dire circumstances, we commend the GFMD for centralising the theme of climate mobility. Recognising climate mobility as a cross-cutting priority, MYCP served as a co-partner in organising the African Climate Mobility Initiative Youth Innovation Award, providing 9 African youth, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds and with firsthand experience of climate mobility, with the opportunity to develop solutions on climate mobility at COP27. We commend many of these efforts as a good start, but more must still be done to ensure we make the urgent progress needed.

Moving forward, we would like to highlight 3 recommendations on government action in order to take advantage of this dialogue space:

- Invest in youth, grassroots and indigenous solutions regarding climate mobility, recognising that young people and local communities stand at the forefront of climate change and have the potential to contribute context-specific and ground-up responses to climate mobility
- Support and institutionalise youth participation in policy advocacy in the GFMD process
 - Specifically, MYCP would like to contribute to the GRT discussions by facilitating the participation of young people in the processes, and we would be honored to support the work of this RT.

- Engage further with youth innovation award on climate mobility as a way to maximise youth-led impact

GRT 2: Rights and migration: working to ensure the health, safety and rights of migrants (9:30-11:30 CET)

Thank you for the floor, and our esteemed Co-chairs France and Senegal for providing us the space today and throughout their term to discuss this pressing thematic. Thank you also to our co-chairs Colombia and Egypt, who we are happy to support in their mobilization for the health, safety and rights of migrants.

I am representing MYCP (Migration Youth and Children Platform), a constituency of the Major Group for Children and Youth, and one of the GFMD Steering Group-mandated stakeholder groups.

All migrants deserve to have unhindered access to a safe route of migration, food, education, employment, and healthcare services. Yet, many migrants lack such necessities despite these fundamental human rights being re-affirmed by multiple international resolutions. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been increasing discussions and dialogues on migrant health which is a positive step forward.

However, to keep true to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, to leave no one behind and guarantee health for all, we must recognise that empowering migrants is key to COVID-19 recovery. As without this, it will be impossible to fully recover from the health, social and economic effects of COVID-19, which will cause existing negative structures and inequalities to continue or, worse, be exacerbated.

To ensure migrant access to healthcare services, health must be centered in all policy approaches. Such approaches must fully comprehend and meet the actual health needs of migrants, which can only be achieved through engaging migrants in the designing and planning of healthcare interventions and integrating them into existing health care and social protection systems and policies. Thus, we call upon governments to adopt an intersectional approach to health in which the voices of migrants including children and youth are central in the creation and implementation of such policies to ensure their needs and experiences are taken into consideration. Migrants are experts in their own needs and lived experiences, and must be considered as such.

The compounding crises of COVID-19, climate change, conflict and economic inequalities are increasing the number of people on the move and deepening existing vulnerabilities. To mitigate this, migrants must have equal access to services, to education and gainful employment opportunities: being migrants must not prevent us from accessing basic human rights, and we must not fear negative repercussions for seeking them. We call for ensuring access to basic

life-saving services, and the right to protection and seeking asylum at border crossings and beyond, for all migrants, regardless of status. We also call for urgent investment and well rounded policies which ensure building resilience from early childhood along with the continuum of adolescence and young adults who are often on the move.

Further, migrants cannot be protected if service providers result in hostile environments for migrants, thus we call for migrant and youth-friendly accessibility provisions in essential services (such as child-friendly language and translations), and a migrant-centred approach to address structural racism and discrimination within essential service providers, migration and asylum governance. This is not an overnight solution, thus it is crucial that interim protections be established in conjunction with long-term efforts. Good practices from our global consultations show that solutions such as enforced recognition of local service access or identification cards (including the recognition of UNHCR IDs), and the funding of migrant-friendly legal justice and alternative education providers make a significant impact in improving lives. Too many migrants, especially those with intersectional vulnerabilities, live without safety, and this must change today.

We urge governments to implement multi-stakeholder, multilateral strategies, to scale and partner with existing youth and migrant-led solutions to leverage migrants' contributions to host society. These innovations, especially those created by migrants and those with lived experiences of intersectional needs, already accurately address gaps and should be scaled or incorporated into existing government plans instead of efforts being duplicated. An example of this is **A Global Voice for Autism** the awarded 2nd place winner in the GFMD Youth Innovation Award, that works to equip refugee and conflict-affected communities with the skills to support the development and success of children on the autism spectrum and with developmental disabilities across their classrooms, homes and communities. After receiving the award, they enhanced and scaled their Include2020 mobile application, which now serves as a virtual center for educators, researchers, learners and inclusivity professionals to share best practices on inclusive education, and also offers offline educational content access in English and Arabic. As of 2021, they have served more than 16,000 children, parents and teachers across the world through their capacity-building support and advocacy programmes.

As a young person, I call upon governments to ensure meaningful youth engagement focusing on young migrants and refugees with lived experiences within the policy making process in their respective governments and at this international body.

Thank you

GRT 3: Diasporas: actors of economic, social and cultural development of regions (13:30-15:30 CET)

Thank you to the chair for the floor and to our honorable GFMD Co-chairs, France and Senegal for your continued support in this process and in providing us youth a space to discuss this important issue. We would also like to express our gratitude and support to the governments of *Mexico and Moldova* in their leadership in the mobilization and empowerment of diasporas. I am Riza Franchesca Regala, GFMD Co-Programme Manager of the Migration Youth and Children Platform, the mandated stakeholder group facilitating youth engagement in the GFMD.

It is no secret that migrants are more than capable of contributing to a country's development. This holds true not only for countries of origin and host countries, but also for transit countries alike. This is why we are so delighted to see that this is among the current GFMD's thematic priorities. On behalf of the Migration Youth and Children Platform, please allow me to commend our esteemed co-chairs and our fellow GFMD stakeholders in the progress that has been made in this respect. Nevertheless, we believe that there is still much untapped potential and we stand ready to support as a key priority for the youth- who are a significant proportion of current and future diaspora. Please allow me to share with you three key reflections:

- We are a self-organized space of over 100+ entirely remote youth volunteers, 56% of which are members of the diaspora, with our 5 regional teams further connected with young diaspora across the world. We have had, for instance, the opportunity to consult with the youth diaspora when we were conducting the GCM Regional Consultations, resulting in concrete Policy Recommendations submitted to our local and regional governments. Among our key priorities is ensuring meaningful participation and representation of young people at the GFMD. However, we have noticed that the lived experiences of migrants are still often left as a second thought. It is clear that many intersectional needs and anxieties affect the diaspora in varied and unique ways, many of which are impossible to understand without being a 1st, 2nd or 3rd generation migrant yourself. Equal opportunity and access to the labour market, support for further education, discrimination and racial bias, as well as complex identity issues continue to plague diaspora youth, with very little institutional attention paid to them. Young migrants have limited opportunities to make their voices heard and often experience a feeling of exclusion from society. We urge governments to engage their young diaspora, both within resident and heritage countries, and help them to bring their lived experiences as a form of cultural, social and economic expertise to the table at all GFMD related engagements and we, for this, are hoping for your utmost support.
- Second, we believe that stories are powerful tools in mobilization, particularly in creating crucial connections between resident and heritage countries, as well as in showcasing positive narratives and role models in diaspora communities. Together with our partners, we are currently developing a creative initiative highlighting the achievements of young diaspora members. We would be happy to find synergies between this and the work of this RT, for instance, in relation to the 6th guide question on diaspora action.
- Finally, we will also be integrating discussions on diaspora engagement within the framework and sessions of our proposed Migration Youth Forum, the official youth preparatory space for participating in the GFMD. As such, we are hoping to work with Member States in helping us tap and support young and deserving members of diaspora groups to represent as youth delegates, and encourage the GFMD co-chairs and roundtable leaders to embed diaspora perspectives and considerations not just in this

Roundtable but across all thematics. As part of our National Youth Forums programme, we are engaging youth and young migrants within countries, as well as engaging their diaspora members to create synergies between the expertise, skills, and innovations across migration routes, and encourage the GFMD to consider the potential of similar models.

As a young migrant and as a member of the Filipino diaspora in Europe myself, I would thus like to call on governments, agencies and the GFMD mechanisms for your technical, logistical, and resource support to see that young people in diaspora can have access to these essential spaces and processes and to ensure that no voice is left behind.

Thank you.

GRT 4: Labour migration: promoting the economic inclusion of migrants (13:30-15:30 CET)

Thank you to our esteemed Co-Chairs France and Senegal for providing us the space today and throughout their term to discuss this pressing thematic. Thank you also to our co-chairs, We will be happy to support the UAE and Zimbabwe in their mobilization on labor migration.

I am Victoria Kulesza, an international development professional from the United States. I serve as the Labor and Skilling Specialist, representing MYCP (Migration Youth and Children Platform), a constituency of the Major Group for Children and Youth, and one of the GFMD Steering Group-mandated stakeholder groups.

I would like highlight the fact that a significant proportion of the global wage workforce is composed of young international migrant workers. On average, the ILO estimates this population contributes approximately 9.2 per cent to the workforce of high-income countries and around 1.2 per cent in lower-middle-income countries, give or take slight variations across countries. Additionally, in 2020, nearly 90 million migrants were 15–34 years old, of which 36 percent belonged to the 15–24 age group. In the face of challenges such as COVID-19, rising costs of living, social exclusion, and unemployment, amongst other challenges; international migration has become an increasingly critical opportunity for young people to pursue aspirations related to education, career development, and improving quality of life for themselves and their families.

It is vital to work towards sustainably including and supporting future generations that are already grappling with difficult, life-changing realities prior to or at the onset of their transition to adulthood; along with the social and economic vulnerabilities that come at this age. Young migrants carry vast potential to contribute dedication, creativity, and innovation towards the improvement of the greatest challenges currently facing local, national, and international

communities. Regardless of age, children and youth on the move will increasingly become key actors in the global economy and thus should be provided the appropriate support mechanisms and resources to self-actualize their place in society.

In order to commit to sustained support for the economic inclusion of youth migrants we call for the regularized labor pathways for migrant workers, as well as asylum seekers, which will facilitate labor mobility through efficient and contextually-appropriate legal channels. Additionally, we also urge the implementation of improved access to legal residency status by decreasing burdensome administrative processes that impede migrant access to employment opportunities which contribute to the development of the host society. Furthermore, inclusion and integration into the workforces of host countries would be fortified through adequate access and response to the mental health needs of migrant workers, who oftentimes suffer xenophobic treatment and fear of deportation diminishing their health and overall quality of life. As such, we urge Member States to allow migrants to access healthcare services within host countries on an equal terms.

Lastly, as MYCP, we also advocate for improved funding, development, and monitoring of capacity building programs that foster the skills and competencies of young migrants such as: language classes, traineeships, networking events, as well as workshops on key abilities (resume-writing, computer skills, financial literacy, cultural awareness, etc.). These opportunities should be made available regardless of migration status and held in accordance to industry standards, at a minimum on a regional basis and ideally on a global basis. One such example is the Association for the Integration of Women, which operates programmes working to upskill and support migrant and refugee women in Italy through training and apprenticeships—ultimately with the aim of providing employment as well as community-building through platforms showcasing the skills of participants. These capacity-building efforts would be further validated by alignment towards skills acquisition guidelines and frameworks that should be set and adopted by governments and industry professionals alike.

We hope to work together with Member States to advance these objectives, as well as further encourage the participation of youth within these efforts to foster a more inclusive and prosperous future for generations to come. Thank you on behalf of the MYCP team.

GRT 5: Improving the perception of migration in public opinion through narratives, culture, emotion and rational discourse (16:00-18:00 CET)

Thank you X for the floor, and our esteemed Co-Chairs France and Senegal for providing us the space today and throughout their term to discuss this pressing thematic. Thank you also to the chair, Canada, who we will be happy to support in their mobilization on the perception of

migration in public opinion, and we would be honoured to also support the Mayors Mechanism's efforts on this thematic.

Since we began widespread consultations with our fellow global youth in 2017, we have been astounded by the sheer number and creativity of our peers working to combat disinformation and improve perceptions of migrants. From local migrant integration community events, to global social media campaigns to 'Meet a Refugee' or highlight the achievements of diaspora role models around the world, young people are already shaping narratives on migration in their communities in innovative ways many of us have barely heard of.

Yet, despite valiant efforts both by youth as well as governments and our many stakeholders present here, xenophobia and discrimination remains a huge problem in realising the dignity and potential of migrants- exacerbating inequalities and division.

Both the long-term impact of this issue, as well as young people's potential to contribute to its solution, has made Shaping Narratives a constant priority for youth.

We aim to support the change by giving global youth and young migrants a platform to showcase their initiatives and voices, creating tools and avenues for youth to share their ideas, recommendations and best practices.

We aim to support already existing ideas and passion, by supporting activists through helping them build the tools and fight for funding opportunities to further develop their visibility and impact, as well as spaces to exchange ideas/good case practices.

Some examples include:

The Change the conversation challenge, launched last year, aimed at sharing youths' ways of shaping narratives through art, media, sports, technology and other creative methods and collaborating with them to spread their knowledge and tools with the global community of young people looking to create similar impact.

In December of 2020, we participated in the #ItTakesACommunityCampaign, by hosting two live talks with young conversation changers on migration in collaboration with IOM, three takeovers by young leaders of the IOM Instagram account and a livestream with the participants from the change the conversation challenge.

Shaping Narratives was also one of the thematic categories for our Youth Innovation Award in the 2020-2021 GFMD chaired by the UAE, with our 1st place winner the Xenophobia Barometer, who the esteemed representative from Canada kindly highlighted yesterday, going on

to expand their robust data collection, analysis, and recommendations platform from Colombia into Ecuador, Chile and Peru.

As youth, we call on governments and stakeholders to meaningfully engage youth in their narratives work, not only by highlighting prominent youth voices and lived experiences, but by supporting youth-led initiatives in scaling their impact. We also ask that governments and institutions ensure the accuracy and localisation of their narratives work by partnering with grassroots community and migrant groups, as well as with local governments in the co-design and co-implementation of their initiatives.

As youth, we stand ready to collaborate with you and reframe conversations on migrants in creative ways that will reach the wider public, whilst building on scientific facts, research and the valuable years of experience and networks we all already have.

Only together we can make a valuable contribution around narratives, only by combining ideas and building on each other's efforts can we move forward. We do not need to invent a new method or campaign every year. We need to find an efficient and successful way to combine our power, different expertise and tools towards the same goal, with a focus on mitigating uneven power dynamics, and channeling resources to migrants themselves.

We are here to ensure that youth voices are heard, included and empowered, across all sectors of society, and we invite you to join us. Thank you.

GRT 6: Multi-level governance: bringing together the various stakeholders for improved migration management (16:00-18:00 CET)

Thank you Azerbaijan for the floor, and our esteemed Co-Chairs France and Senegal for organizing this consultation today and the space throughout your term to discuss this pressing thematic. We will be happy to support Azerbaijan and other Member States, as well as cities and local and regional governments, in their mobilization on multi-level governance. A special thanks to Azerbaijan for mentioning the importance of youth in your speech.

1 of 3 Migrants is under the age of 30 but, unfortunately, many migrants still struggle to have their voices heard and we, young people, young migrants, still have very limited opportunities to influence policies that directly affect us. Therefore, in order to build a sustainable and effective governance structure for the benefit of future generations, we must ensure that youth and children are included at all levels of policy and decision-making processes.

We should be listening to the recommendations of young people and include migrant youth as co-designers in all stages of policy and programme design, implementation, and review, rather

than make broad assumptions on their behalf. Young people must be part of the solution to make migration safe for everyone, and must be treated as experts in their own lived experiences and visions for the future.

To improve sustainability of migration management solutions, migrants, including the youth among us, must be involved in decision-making, having the freedom and capacity to self-organize, to assemble, to associate, and self-represent. This must be recognised and upheld. Echoing the Civil Society Mechanism, only through the creation of an enabling civic space for migrant groups to operate, can migrants truly be safe and meaningfully engage in decision-making into the policies that affect them.

We once more want to stress that working at all levels of governance is essential to be able to reach out to the largest number of people possible. Young migrants have a role in forging the future and it is important for them to be represented and have a voice by recognizing them as crucial stakeholders, endorsing the value of youth-led actions through funding, and capacity-building, and ensuring that the information is timely, transparent, clear, and accessible for civil society actors, including youth. The National Youth Forums organized by MYCP are an example of a space for children that facilitate their meaningful engagement in policy processes. It allows them to articulate their thoughts, contribute to the policy process, and learn how to advocate effectively. To maximize the role of youth in GFMD and other processes, member states need to support and scale these types of tools, and platforms provided by youth, for youth.

We need to design public policies around migration using an inclusive and bottom-up approach, together with local governments and grassroots migrant collectives, taking into account intersectional aspects such as race, sex, ethnicity, culture, and religion, among others and creating spaces for collective deliberation. We call on Member States to support these objectives and recognise, uphold, and accelerate youth participation in decision making.

Today's interactivity and participation will not only enrich the discussion, but will be crucial for migration governance to move forward. We look forward to seeing progress and substantive actions as this GFMD term continues. Thank you.