

# UPDATE ON THE OUTCOMES OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION ON THE GFMD CONSULTATION

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AMERICAS' YOUTH REGIONAL CONSULTATION RCM -  
PUEBLA 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 RCM (Puebla Process):

- **Providing migrants skills for employment**
- **Addressing gaps in migrants protection**
- **Discussing approaches to address irregular migration**

We also participated in a Special Session in **Public Narratives on Migration**.

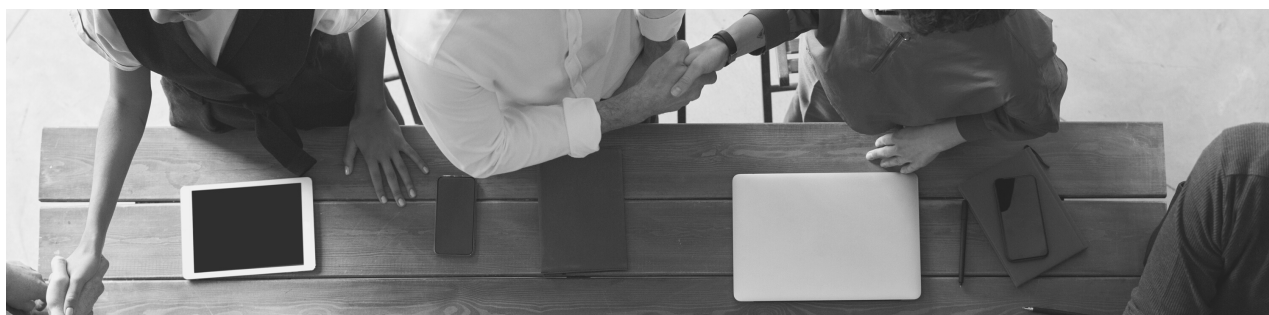
The regional teams - North America, Central America and South America - of the Migration Working Group consulted a total of **66 locally-based youth- led and youth- focused organizations** working across the continent. These organizations represent **19 countries**, and around **40,000 youth**, including leaders and beneficiaries, on migration issues. The results of these consultations are summarized in the policy briefs that can be reached here: [North America](#) and [South America](#).

# CONTEXT

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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**



**19**

countries represented in this process.

**40,000**

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

**66**

locally-based youth- led and youth- focused organizations working across the continent.

**85%**

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

**75%**

agree that our interventions helped to steer the debates.

# REFLECTION ON OUR IMPACT ON THE GFMD PROCESS: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Our participation at the Puebla Process regional consultation was well received by the other participants and stakeholders. We were able to share key findings, best practices, and recommendations to address youth priorities on migration policy. We respected the assigned times and were able to join the conversation during all the sessions.

We had **6 youth representatives** in the three breakout sessions: **2 participants per session, 1 participant per subregion in each session.** We were given between 2 - 5 minutes per representative during the breakout sessions debates, we were also given a few minutes at the end of each session to invite participants to establish partnerships and prioritize youth in migration.

In addition to our virtual participation, we were acknowledged by stakeholders for our contributions in highlighting youth needs and commitment to shape inclusive policies for migrants in the Americas. **We were invited by the International Organization on Migration - Costa Rica to contribute to [Xenofobia Cero](#), a regional report on xenophobia and best practices to avoid it, and by Alianza Américas in Mexico to discuss opportunities for collaboration** after breakout sessions.

Based on our self-assessment impact performance, **more than 85%** of the youth representatives agree that **we were able to effectively bring the voice of the consulted youth organizations** and **75%** agree that **our interventions helped to steer the debates.** Approximately **80%** also agreed that the UN MGCY team was well represented and had adequate time to speak.

# REFLECTION ON OUR IMPACT ON THE GFMD PROCESS: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

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Compared to last year, we exponentially increased the number of organizations consulted, and we have been able to continue partnerships with some of them. Nonetheless, as an opportunity for improvement, we **recognize the need to continue working with grassroots youth-led initiatives and to expand our networks into non-Spanish and English-speaking countries, such as Brazil and the Caribbean.** The final reports from the three thematic breakout sessions will be launched at the GFMD website at the end of October, so we expect to update this impact report mentioning which topics of the Regional Consultation that we addressed in our Policy briefs were expressly stated on the final version of the background documents, which will support the GFMD Summit discussions.

Overall, UN MGCY youth representatives are very honored to report **that Americas' youth priorities, experiences and contributions were explicitly mentioned during the Regional breakout sessions,** and that these priorities were mentioned and connected to the high-level policy discussion. We can say that youth have been successfully represented and included into the regional discussion, which translates to an opportunity for the consulted organizations to further participate in the GFMD regional and global process.

# ADDITIONAL NEXT STEPS PROPOSALS

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The main objective of our advocacy strategy is to **get youth voices in the Americas heard on migration issues**. We want youth experiences and perspectives to matter in the upcoming GFMD Forum, and successful youth-led projects to get visibility. In the next months, we aim to offer youth-focused and youth-led organizations and initiatives in the region new opportunities to engage with each other, creating a space to discuss shared goals and to form long lasting partnerships and support youth-led initiatives to address migration from a human rights perspective.

For this, in order to strengthen capacity and skills amongst youth, provide a unified voice in the advocacy and policy actions and ensure meaningful youth engagement, we have organized a **Migration Webinars Series** aimed at youth and youth-led organizations to present the results of the regional consultation and to promote dialogue on these topics:

- [Protecting the Human Rights of Migrants: addressing and mitigating situations of vulnerability, on August 21th, 2020 at 18:00 \(GMT-5\)](#)
- [Addressing Irregular Migration: border management and the fight against transnational crime, on September 4th, 2020 at 18:00 \(GMT-5\)](#)
- [Facilitating Regular Migration and Decent Work: enhancing the positive effects of human mobility on development, on September 18th, 2020 at 18:00 \(GMT-5\)](#)

More information reach us at [migrationyouthforum@unmgcy.org](mailto: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 at establishing 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 and to insure 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](#).