

UPDATE ON THE OUTCOMES OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION ON THE GFMD CONSULTATION

GFMD – ABU DHABI DIALOGUE (ADD) PROCESS
YOUTH PARTICIPATION 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 Summit, is anticipated to take place, in the UAE, in January 2021.

The GFMD Chair chose three priority themes for the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) process:

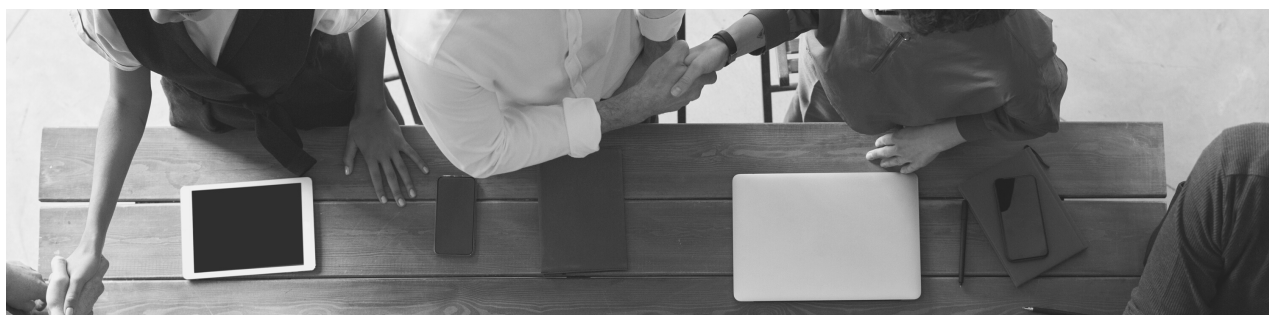
- **The governance of labour migration in the context of changing employment**
- **Leveraging technology to empower migrants**
- **Fostering partnerships to realize migration-related goals in the Sustainable Development Agenda and managing the future of human mobility**

The MENA Regional team of United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) consulted a total of **20 locally-based, youth-focused and youth-led organizations** working across the region. These organizations represent **6 countries, and around 15,000+ young people**, including leaders and beneficiaries, on migration issues. The results of these consultations are summarized in the policy briefs that can be read, [here](#).

CONTEXT

The main objectives of our participation were to:

- Identify and build on youth led actions and perspectives in the region
- Meaningfully bring youth perspectives to the attention of relevant stakeholders
- Create a solid network and basis to foster partnerships among youth organizations and other stakeholders



6

countries represented in this process.

15,000

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

20

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

90%

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

85%

agree that our interventions helped to steer the debates.

REFLECTION ON OUR IMPACT ON THE GFMD PROCESS: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Our participation at the Abu Dhabi Regional consultation was generally **well-heard and well-received**. We were given between 2 - 5 minutes per representative during the breakout sessions, and were able to share key findings, best practices, and recommendations to address youth priorities on migration policy amid the complexities to the MENA region.

Based on our self- assessment impact performance, **more than 90%** of the youth representatives agree that **we were able to effectively bring the voice of the consulted youth organizations** and **85% agree that our interventions helped to steer the debates**. **100% additionally agreed that the UN MGCY team was well represented and had adequate time to speak and voice their concerns.**

Despite the difficulty we faced in contacting organizations from the MENA region, as well as the complexities posed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which delayed working schedules among the interviewees, we did **manage to expand our sample of engaged organizations this year**. **Nonetheless, as an opportunity for improvement, we recognize the need to continue working with grassroots youth-led initiatives and to expand our networks.**

The MENA group is pleased that youth priorities identified during the regional consultation were voiced and connected to the high-level policy discussions. The consultations did raise homogeneous and generally 'similar' needs prioritized by youth in the region, and **highlighted the changes necessary for the region as a whole.**

ADDITIONAL NEXT STEPS PROPOSALS

The main objective of our advocacy strategy is to get youth voices in the MENA region heard on migration-related issues. We want youth experiences and perspectives from this region to matter and be heard in the upcoming GFMD Forum, as well as be part of projects on the ground which can voice this. In the next months, we would like to create a network where youth-led organizations can openly share their ideas with us and their shared goals. **For this reason, we are presenting the following for future activities:**

- We aim to organize online events with the objective of generating participation and interest among youth and the organizations they lead, take part in, or represent.
- 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.

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 at establishing partnerships with as many youth-led and youth-focused organisations as possible in the future, in order to highlight the innovative initiatives from young people, and for young people.

The MENA regional team invites all participants in this process, as well as the organizations that did not take part this year, to reach out in order to build on their experiences and strengthen our work and participation in the next GFMD.



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