

Thank you Jonathan for the floor, and esteemed guests for your interventions. Good afternoon everyone, let me thank you first for an enriching discussion over the past two days and for having involved youth voices in such a key process at the European and International level. It is an honour for us to engage with such distinguished panelists.

With the 2030 Agenda commitment of "leaving no one behind", it is impossible to ignore the issue of migration. For this reason, as UNMGCY we strongly support the GCM and its implementation at all levels.

With one-third of people on the move under the age of 30, it is crucial to include the youth perspectives. We conducted an extensive consultation of youth-led and youth-serving organizations representing over 4600 youth in Europe to gather young people's perspectives and action on the implementation of the GCM. We have policy briefs collecting all the results which we will circulate.

One of the key learnings from our consultations is that youth are leading and are involved in high numbers of innovative projects contributing to the implementation of the GCM. For instance:

- Youth projects are helping migrants integrate economically and socially including through skill-building programs, education and employability support, as well as intensive language training matching their chosen areas of work and study.
- Young people are also contributing to migrants' protection and helping them access services, with particular attention to more vulnerable groups, including LGBTQI+ or younger adolescents. For example, an organization in Germany provides in demand vocational training, consultancy on the importance of legal residence and identity stabilization supports.
- Young people are fighting discrimination and xenophobia by building relationships between migrants and local community leaders by creating areas of discussion and integration such as workshops in schools, or sport activities. For example, an organisation in Portugal helps migrant youth build stronger relationships with local communities by providing them with facilitators who help them navigate existing bureaucratic channels and providing access to local support systems such as enrollment in local schools.

Our consultations also made it really clear that current implementation of the GCM is not enough. In particular, we call for an emphasis on the following: :

**First, we ask to prioritize the streamlining of recognition of foreign qualifications and certifications.** Inflexible and burdensome requirements on documentation that do not take into account the situation of home countries mean that many migrants are unable to meet the requirements, and thus are not able to work in their professions and contribute with their skills to their new communities. Young migrants bring with them incredible talent and potential -- let's stop wasting it!

Second, **we call on governments to increase funding for organizations and projects linked to GCM implementation, including those led by youth.** For instance social workers and legal support, language classes and skilling programs. Important, we need to ensure **that no child or young person, regardless of migratory status, is missing out on their education. This is not still the case. Youth migrants at the borders of Europe and in European countries are lacking access to school.**

Third, we are asking for an end to child detention once and for all, in line with the rights of the child and their best interests. We are too far from the commitment that was made in the Compact. As you all know, the negative impact on a child's health, psychosocial, and academic development is extremely profound and long-lasting.

If no progress is made on these issues and the GCM overall, not only Europe will be missing out on migrants' contributions to its society and economy, but we will all face long-term economic and political challenges. We know the COVID19 pandemic has made it hard for everyone to focus on issues beside the health emergency. But the pandemic accelerated inequalities and negatively impacted migrants - much more than many other groups - and with long-lasting consequences. This makes GCM implementation more and not less urgent.

The 2022 deadline for the global review is coming up and we stress the urgency of the state of youth migration. We call on governments and all relevant stakeholders to prioritize increasing their efforts in implementing the GCM, including with youth priorities in mind. Young people are mobilizing.

Thank you.