GMG SYMPOSIUM RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Enhance the visibility of youth migration issues in international migration policy dialogues and debates**, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), through new channels and platforms, including the use of social media.

2. Adopt a **rights-based approach** to migration and youth, ensuring that all legislation, administrative regulations, policies and interventions that affect migrant children and youth comply with State obligations under international human rights instruments and are guided by the principle of the **best interests of the child**.

3. Ensure the realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all young migrants, regardless of their immigration status. Rights are an essential condition for the full integration of migrant children and youth into destination societies and for enhancing their contributions to development.

4. Provide **equitable access to social services** such as healthcare and education to ensure the right to development of migrant children and youth, irrespective of their immigration status. Such services should be gender-sensitive and not be used to monitor the legal status of young migrants or their families.

5. Ensure that **all migration-related decisions and procedures**, especially those concerning unaccompanied migrant children and youth, are **age- and gender-sensitive**. This includes, inter alia, *en route* interception, entry, identification, status determination, guardianship, integration, third-country resettlement, returns and repatriation.

6. Improve the collection, dissemination, analysis and use of **sex- and age-disaggregated migration data** for policy formulation, and **expand policy-relevant and action-oriented research** on the human, economic and social benefits and costs of migration as they relate to youth. Such research should **take the views, needs and experiences of young migrants into account**.

7. Promote meaningful participation and active **engagement of young migrants** at all stages of the migration and development debate and policy-making process at the local, national, regional and global levels. This is especially relevant for planning and implementation of policies and programs in education, migrant integration, health services and labor training, as well as for combating xenophobia and discrimination.

8. Avoid the criminalisation of **irregular migrant children and youth**. Punitive measures of any nature, such as administrative detention and deportation, should only be applied as last resort and ensuring at all times the best interests of the child. Explore ways to address irregular migration of youth through the promotion of regular migration channels and regularization programs.

9. Provide **unaccompanied migrant children and youth** with **protection**, support and durable solutions that address their needs and take into account their best interests and right to family unity, regardless of their immigration status, in accordance with human rights standards. The right to protection does not end at international borders, and States have the responsibility to ensure protective environments for migrant children and adolescents.
10. Facilitate **access to justice** for young migrants, especially adolescent girls and young women, including appropriate protection measures, meaningful redress, and legal aid and assistance for victims of rights violations, including victims of human trafficking.

11. Recognise the **entitlements and rights of young migrants to seek asylum** on their own. Gender- and age-related forms of persecution should be taken into account in refugee-status determination procedures, including forced labor, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, other forms of sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV), and forced military recruitment.

12. Prevent and combat **human trafficking and migrant smuggling**. Gender-sensitive and age-appropriate policies and programs that involve actors in origin, transit and destination countries should be implemented in this field. Children and youth must have access to age-appropriate information on safe migration, the risk of trafficking and smuggling, their rights and obligations, and ways to (re)claim these rights in contexts of exploitation in countries of transit and destination. **Victims of trafficking**, especially adolescent girls and young women, must be ensured swift access to protection services, including (but not limited to) legal residence in destination countries, following best interests determination.

13. Promote the design and implementation of **holistic migration policies and programs** that do not merely focus on the economic dimensions of migration, but also address the needs and contributions of young migrants in both their home and host societies from a **broader human development perspective**.

14. **Mainstream migration into development policy and planning.** Human mobility must become an integral part of development strategies to maximize the development potential of youth migration, generating a triple win for countries of origin, destination, and young migrants themselves.

15. **Mainstream gender and human rights** into the formulation, implementation and evaluation of all policies and programs related to migration and development.

16. Adopt a **comprehensive approach to youth in countries of origin**, providing **children, adolescents and youth seeking to migrate** with gender-sensitive pre-departure information to help them make informed decisions, and assisting **youth and families left behind** through social services and periodic assessment of their human development and subjective well-being (i.e. their own assessment of her/his overall life satisfaction).

17. Address the particular vulnerability of young migrants to rising levels of **xenophobic violence and discrimination** through enhanced socio-economic inclusion and protection. **Countries of destination and transit** should prevent the escalation of these trends and guarantee that public perceptions of migrants are fair and balanced. **Countries of origin** should address discrimination of young migrants upon return.

18. Increase **financial and technical support** to policies and programs that strengthen governmental and non-governmental **institutional capacities** at all levels. **Countries of destination** should train immigration authorities and border officials to recognize and appropriately respond to the vulnerabilities, needs and rights of migrant youth. **Countries of origin** should invest more in education, training and creation of employment opportunities, which would help mitigate brain drain. **Countries of origin and destination** should collaborate in promoting the developmental benefits of migration by encouraging youth entrepreneurship and skills transfers, including through diaspora networks, exchange programs and circular migration.

19. Harness the human development and growth potential of youth migration at all levels through **international cooperation**, coordination and dialogue between and within countries of origin,
transit and destination, in particular in areas such as human trafficking, employment, health and education. **Mainstream migration into international cooperation** on trade, MDGs, development aid, financial assistance and conflict-prevention. People-centred and cross-regional development partnerships between origin and destination countries and sub-regions on these issues should be further encouraged.

20. Promote **multi-stakeholder dialogues and synergies at the national level.** All relevant actors, including employers, workers, local governments and the media, must be included in the design of a coherent national approach to address challenges faced by young migrants, especially labour exploitation and xenophobia.

21. Raise further awareness of the development potential of leveraging **remittances and diaspora contributions,** while recognizing that remittances are private funds and no substitute for coherent economic development strategies, and that States have a responsibility to ensure the fulfillment of socio-economic rights.

22. Enhance the **positive impact of remittances,** especially on the well-being of children and youth in countries of origin, by reducing transfer costs through competition and technological innovation, and by promoting financial inclusion of recipients, in particular young women and rural populations. This could entail actively encouraging diaspora investment in countries of origin through **diaspora bonds** and through gender-sensitive or women-targeted development and empowerment initiatives that are carried out in consultation with local women.

23. Consider the **adoption of an international protocol** addressing the situation of populations displaced because of global environmental change, taking into account the youth dimension. **Mainstream environmentally-induced migration** into National Adaptation Plans to provide assistance and protection to environmental migrants, especially young migrants. Enhance meaningful youth participation in sustainable development and disaster risk reduction strategies.

**GMG SYMPOSIUM KEY POLICY MESSAGES**

The following **key policy messages** are a compilation of the main ideas and recommendations formulated by participants at the GMG Symposium. They have been grouped around six themes: (I) Rights, Protection and Participation of Young Migrants; (II) Capacity Development; (III) Cooperation and Development; (IV) Data Collection, Knowledge Gaps and a Research Agenda; (V) Remittances; and (VI) Environmental Change.

**RIGHTS, PROTECTION AND PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG MIGRANTS**

**A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND YOUTH**
The main objective of a rights-based approach to migration and youth\(^1\) should be focusing on “the faces behind the facts” of each individual migration story.

Migration policies and migrant protection mechanisms should be gender- and age-sensitive, as well as take into account the social and cultural reality of each migrant.

The traditional clear-cut distinction between forced migration and economic migration should be approached with discernment - motivations of migrants are extremely complex and intertwined, and not all economic migrants are migrants ‘by choice’.

Migration should be a choice and not a necessity. Migration should not be the only alternative for young people and the right of every person not to migrate should be encouraged in countries of origin.

Managing migration responsibly – that is, in a humane and orderly manner - requires greater recognition of the overwhelmingly positive contribution of all migrants, including young migrants, to host economies and societies.

Strengthening the links between human rights, migration and development is key to maximize the contributions of migrants to development, as well as the positive impact of migration on the human development of migrants.

A holistic and cross-sectorial approach to migration policy-making and planning should be promoted to address the needs of children and young migrants, as well as those of children who remain in countries of origin.

The rights of migrant and non-migrant children and youth in origin, transit and destination countries must be monitored, protected and upheld, regardless of their immigration status, to minimise the risks that they face throughout the migration process. Special attention must be paid to vulnerable groups such as children, young migrant women and men, and stranded migrants.

Migration policies need to factor that youth often leave home voluntarily. States should develop and enforce a safe migration framework for children and youth that prevents violence and exploitation, including giving greater visibility and addressing migrant child labour issues, as well as the lack of registration of migrant children and youth.

Age-assessment procedures should be culturally sensitive. Clinical tests (e.g. X-rays) do not allow for a precise assessment of age and may therefore not be a reliable means in the absence of an official birth certificate.

Child- and youth-friendly information should be provided at all stages of the migration process in a language that children and young migrants understand. All individuals considering migrating or closely affected by migration should also be provided information on the potential risks involved in migration, as a means of promoting safe and regular migration.

International development agencies could support initiatives that showcase effective models and best practices on combating abusive child and adolescent labor practices.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

- States should ensure that all legislation, policies, and administrative regulations that affect young migrants comply with obligations under international human rights instruments\(^2\).

\(^1\) Youth is defined by the United Nations as people between 15 and 24 years of age. See: UN Social Policy and Development Division - [http://social.un.org/index/Youth/FAQ.aspx](http://social.un.org/index/Youth/FAQ.aspx)

\(^2\) Such instruments include:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR 1966)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR 1966)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD 1966)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW 1979)
• States should ratify, inter alia, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the ILO Migrant Workers Convention No. 143, the ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention No. 181, the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182, and the ILO Domestic Workers Convention No. 189.

• States should also take into consideration internationally-recognized rights and standards contained in non-binding ILO instruments, such as the ILO Decent Work Agenda and the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration (a comprehensive synthesis of all applicable principles and guidelines in this field).

• States should be encouraged to put in place policies that effectively ensure the protection of all children living within their territory, in accordance with their international obligations. Sufficient budgetary allocations for competent child protection institutions should be ensured.

**BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD**

• Migrant children are children above all, and as such it is crucial to ensure that the principle of ‘best interest of the child’ remains at the heart of all interventions adopted by any State regarding child and young migrants, especially unaccompanied migrant children and youth.

• States have an obligation to ensure the protection of all children and adolescents at all stages of the migration process. Decisions and procedures regarding entry, identification, status determination, integration, guardianship, third-country resettlement, en route interception, detention, returns, and repatriation should take into account this principle, as called for in the CRC.

• Best Interest Determination (BID) procedures must involve legal guardians and State welfare entities, comply with international law principles, and be based on the participation of children and adolescents at all stages of the procedure.

• The case of each and every child and adolescent is unique and should be considered in the light of his or her specific circumstances by taking into account age, gender and specific needs. Responses to such needs must be informed by the views and experiences of each individual child or adolescent.

• All children and young migrants are entitled to their fundamental human rights and protected by international law, regardless of their migratory status. In all circumstances,
deprivation of liberty for children and youth should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible period of time.

MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- Member States should promote and ensure the right of youth to active and meaningful participation and engagement in the design, planning and implementation of migration and development policies and programmes at all levels, taking into account their social and cultural reality.
- To enhance the development potential of migration, it is necessary to recognize young migrants as essential and active stakeholders and participants in migration and development policies.
- It is of key importance to increase youth visibility in migration policy dialogues and debates, such as the GA Informal Debate on Migration and Development and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) process, through various channels and platforms, including the use of new social media or artistic expressions. Youth should also be included in initiatives to combat xenophobia and discrimination.

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS; LABOUR RIGHTS; INTEGRATION

- Ensuring economic and social rights for young migrants is a sine qua non condition for their full integration into their host societies. Human rights enhance the contributions of migrants to development and help prevent discrimination, exclusion, poverty and inequality, contributing to social cohesion in countries of destination.
- States should effectively implement the principle of equality of treatment. Migrants and their families must be granted equal access to the job market, wages, healthcare, education and other social services, working hours, portable social security schemes, freedom of association, and labour rights.
- States should ensure the safe, legal and transparent recruitment of migrants, as well as decent work conditions, through labour migration policies and schemes that are gender-sensitive, promote human development, reflect consultation with social partners, and recognize labour rights.
- Young migrants must be protected from child labour and other forms of exploitation, in compliance with the CRC and ILO Conventions 138 and 182.
- Member States should not disregard their obligations emanating from international human rights instruments such as the ICESCR and should eliminate constraints that may hinder access of migrants to their social, economic and cultural rights, such as irregularity (evidence shows that regularisation processes substantially increase the levels of human development of migrants); obligations of civil servants to report irregular migrants; criminalisation of migrants; detention and deportation practices, including of unaccompanied migrant children and families travelling with children; cultural and linguistic barriers; institutional discrimination.
- Effective access of all migrants to education, healthcare, decent housing, and work should be ensured. In particular, access to healthcare should be improved, as well as the capacity of Member States to offer culturally- and linguistically-appropriate health services and to address the specific health needs of migrants, especially of young migrants.
- Service provision in areas such as health education for migrants, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, women, and migrants with disabilities, should be improved. Migrant
health services must be culturally and linguistically appropriate as much as possible and emphasize prevention and health promotion.

- It is important to facilitate access of migrant children and youth to social media and information and communication technologies (ICTs), as well as media literacy.

### IRREGULAR MIGRATION

- Address irregular migration by creating additional regular channels of migration and by putting in place regularization policies; amending restrictive migration policies that cause irregular migration and human trafficking.

- All children and young migrants are entitled to the respect of their fundamental rights and to protection, irrespective of their migration status. Care, support, and provision of social services, including healthcare, should be assured.

- Children, adolescents and youth should never be criminalised because of their migratory status. In any case, punitive measures of any nature, such as administrative detention and deportation, should only be applied as a last resort and in the context of promoting the best interest of the child. Administrative detention should always be for the shortest period of time and subject to judicial review. Meaningful alternatives to administrative detention should be provided, such as regularization programmes.

- Child and adolescent migrants travelling with their parents should also be granted alternatives to detention, in order to ensure their right to family unity and physical liberty.

- Migration policies should aim to protect and avoid punishing young migrants, especially second-generation irregular immigrants, by hindering their access to services such as education, healthcare and employment.

- Social services should not be used to identify irregular migrants for deportation purposes.

- All children must have access to birth registration. Legal and administrative practice should not render any child stateless in the context of migration.

### UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

- States are responsible for providing immediate protection and support to unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, addressing their needs, including their health needs, in accordance with human rights standards, regardless of their migratory status. Such efforts should ensure an individual case-by-case analysis with attention to particular circumstances, vulnerabilities, and protection needs. When performing situational and family assessments and reaching a decision concerning an unaccompanied child or young migrant, their evolving capacities and agency must be taken into consideration and respected.

- International law principles such as non-discrimination, best interest of the child, age-appropriateness, right to life, right to full development, right to family unity, right to participation, access to information and justice, and confidentiality must remain at the heart of policies and interventions addressing the needs of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.

- When reaching a decision concerning an unaccompanied child or young migrant, focus should be on durable solutions, thoroughly and systematically assessing whether assisted voluntary return or integration are more suitable. This decision is never straightforward
and must be always guided by the principles of best interest of the child and family reunification (either in the home or in the host country).

- Return of unaccompanied children and youth should only happen in accordance with international standards, after a best interest determination procedure has taken place and with the necessary safeguards and assistance (family tracing, participation of legal guardians, plan for the future development of the child, etc.).
- All unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents are entitled to protective measures that take into account their best interest. Protection systems should ensure a continuum of protective environments for migrant children and youth, before and after they cross an international border.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL PROTECTION

- The role of the judiciary system and independent monitoring bodies should be strengthened as far as the rights of young migrants are concerned.
- Legal protection mechanisms must be enhanced to protect young migrants and prosecute exploiters.
- Rules and practices should seek to identify a means for children and youth, whether alone or together with their families, to be heard in proceedings concerning admission, residence, and deportation of their parents.

ASYLUM

- Children and young migrants should be recognised the entitlement to seek asylum on their own and be granted access to justice accordingly. They should be provided with relevant child-friendly information on asylum-seeking procedures.
- The situation of young asylum-seekers once they turn 18 must be effectively addressed by all governments, as voluntary return should not be the only option available to them.
- Refugee-status determination procedures should be gender- and youth-sensitive, as well as taking into account forced labor, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and forced military recruitment.

TRAFFICKING

- Gender-sensitive development policies and programmes involving all development and human rights actors in origin, transit, and destination countries should be implemented to protect and prevent human trafficking, to which adolescent girls and young women are particularly vulnerable.
- All forms of migration-related exploitation, including child labour, trafficking and sexual abuse, should be addressed in countries of origin, transit and destination.
- Counter-trafficking measures should be prioritised by all States, although it should not be assumed that all “youth on the move” are trafficked.
- Children should have access to child-friendly information on safe migration and the risk of trafficking, smuggling, and other forms of exploitation.
- Victims of trafficking, especially adolescent girls and young women, should not only be identified, but also be granted access to protection services, including legal residence in destination countries.
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (MIGRATION AS ‘TRIPLE WIN’)

- Social, economic and political integration is crucial to enhancing the full contribution of young migrants to development: increasing their access to welfare and education is transforming them into contributing members of society. Their human development is essential to the development of their societies of origin and destination, as migrants are always agents of change, being for example key to improve the education and health levels of families who remain in countries of origin.

- It is crucial to promote the design and implementation of holistic migration policies and programmes that do not merely focus on the economic dimensions of migration, but also address the needs and contributions of young migrants to both their home and host society from a broader human development perspective.

- Migrant development initiatives should not only focus on economic issues, but encompass broader human development and human rights concerns. For instance, apart from employment opportunities, migrants could take part in civic engagement initiatives. Migrants can enrich both their destination and origin society in multiple ways. Young migrant’s energy, vitality, imagination, curiosity and hope should be harnessed for the enrichment of both home and host societies.

- The contributions of young migrants to development can only be maximized if their development needs and potential are met through improved access to healthcare and educational services that are culturally and linguistically sensitive.

GENDER

- Gender and human rights should be mainstreamed into migration and development policies, including access to preventive healthcare and education.

- Gender-sensitive pre-departure information about legal forms of migration, labour laws and low-cost loans should be provided.

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN: POTENTIAL YOUNG MIGRANTS AND YOUTH WHO HAVE REMAINED IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

- Potential young migrants should be provided support to make informed decisions about their lives and decision to migrate.

- The conditions in which children and youth who have remained in countries of origin access rights should be taken into account; access to social services is essential for migration to have a positive impact on their own development.

- A comprehensive approach should be adopted for youth who have remained in countries of origin, not forgetting the inter-generational aspects of their reality, as they are mostly taken care of by their grandparents. Care-givers and youth who have remained in countries of origin should be provided assistance, including social protection, and their human development and satisfaction levels should be assessed.

- Visa policies should aim to allow families to migrate together, as well as to facilitate circular migration, regularization, and family reunification, changing the current paradigm where migration is framed as a security issue.

XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION
Social and economic inclusion, enhanced protection of young migrants in host societies, and improved access to basic social services is of critical importance to break the link between migration, discrimination and xenophobia.

States should ensure that public perceptions of migrants are fair and balanced. This is particularly important in the context of youth, whose potential is yet to be fully developed.

The particular vulnerability of young migrants to rising levels of xenophobic violence, hate crimes and discrimination worldwide should be addressed, including upon return to their home countries.

Member States must provide strong responses to prevent the escalation of such trends through, inter alia, monitoring and documentation of cases; data collection, information-sharing and dissemination among different State institutions; support to training on xenophobia and the work of social protection institutions on the ground; prosecution of anti-immigrant abuses and crimes.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- Factual evidence is not the only precondition for sound policy-making. Capacity building should address accountability, transparency, policy evaluation, absence of corruption, and training needs of government officials and civil society.

- Capacity building at the national level is a key building block of international cooperation on migration and youth, especially in new countries of immigration. Migration is a new issue for many governments, including developed countries. Authorities and personnel working on child and youth migration issues should be trained to recognize and appropriately respond to the vulnerabilities, needs and rights of young migrants.

- Governmental and non-governmental institutional capacities require further financial and technical support at all levels to address the issue of youth migration.

- Evidence-based policy-planning tools and multi-stakeholder dialogue should be promoted. This could include support to national research institutions to collect, analyze and disseminate disaggregated statistical data. This will allow identifying trends and emerging issues for future planning of policies and programmes.

- The GMG can provide relevant support to training activities and foster more opportunities to share best practices among countries and regions. Capacities in developing countries could be enhanced to enable their full participation in the GFMD and relevant migration fora.

- Statistical data collection disaggregated by sex and age must be promoted to enhance the evidence base on migration, development and remittances, including capacity building.

- As mentioned above, migration should be a choice and not a necessity. Migration should not be the only alternative for young people and the right of every person not to migrate should be encouraged in countries of origin. Developing countries need to invest in education and training, as well as on skills, workforce development and creation of employment opportunities. This can help address “brain drain” of young people by ensuring that high-skilled workers have incentives to remain in countries of origin.
Adequate political, economic and social frameworks can maximize capacities and new skills acquired during the migration process. Diasporas could be engaged in “brain gain” initiatives, such as exchange programmes and return or circular migration.

Health, educational, and capacity development activities in countries of origin should be linked to employment schemes, not only to satisfy the demand of the labour market, but also to increase migrants’ personal development and productive contribution to society.

Protection at the border should be enhanced by providing training to immigration authorities and border officials, so that they are sensitive to the vulnerabilities, needs and rights of migrant youth and are able to identify and adequately respond to potential victims of trafficking. Such measures could provide border guards with age-appropriate information about children’s rights, available services, and ways to record and consider the views of youth during the petitioning and appeal process.

More capacity-building initiatives could address State institutions, civil society, and young migrant networks working with unaccompanied migrant children and youth. Further support should be given to personnel working on repatriation issues to address the specific vulnerabilities and protection needs of unaccompanied migrant children and youth.

Awareness-raising and advocacy on xenophobia, discrimination and hate crimes against immigrants should be promoted, including training workshops for civil servants.

Teachers and health workers need to be informed and trained to address the specific needs of youth belonging to migrant and non-migrant households.

COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Cooperation, coordination and dialogue at all levels between and within countries of origin, transit, and destination are essential to harness the human development and economic growth potential of international migration.

Further efforts in promoting a rights- and evidence-based approach to migration are needed in international cooperation to maximize gains and reduce risks.

International and national governance of labour migration should recognize that most migration, including youth migration, is in search of decent work. Greater legal opportunities for labour mobility (especially for low-skilled workers), through development- and mobility- and circulation-friendly policies are needed. Current temporary and circular labour migration programmes cannot address the permanent demand for migrant labour.

More international cooperation, inter-governmental partnerships and bilateral agreements (or effective implementation of existing mechanisms where they exist) are needed in the following areas:

- the protection, prevention and prosecution of human trafficking in countries of origin, transit and destination, in particular of migrant children, youth and women;
- the creation of opportunities for youth development in areas such as employment and education;
- health- and labour-related aspects of child and youth migration.

Identifying, disseminating, and replicating good and best practices in migration management, i.e. bilateral cooperation agreements or regional dialogues on migration.
• Regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation initiatives have proven very effective, as well as complementary to cooperation at the global level, and should be enhanced. Recent examples of regional and sub-regional cooperation initiatives are: the Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs); the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Observatory on Migration; the Managed Migration Program of the Caribbean; the Fund on Migration and Development established by the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Government of Spain; the Migration Facility established by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States; and the advisory opinion relating to the rights of migrant children promoted before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) by the High Authorities of Human Rights and Ministries of Foreign Affairs of MERCOSUR (RAADDHH) and Partner States.

• South-South cooperation should be strongly encouraged.

• Further efforts to monitor recruitment agencies are necessary.

• Policy cooperation between countries of origin and destination should also be promoted, e.g. by ensuring that old-age, disability and survivor pensions, benefits paid for employment injuries and occupational diseases, and health insurance benefits are portable and account for dependent family members (accompanying and/or those family members who have remained in places of origin).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

• Drawing on normative core values, including the equality and dignity of all human beings, the United Nations System (and particularly the GMG) will need to focus more attention on policy advocacy and evidence-based migration policies. Only facts and arguments can oppose emotional and negative responses to migration in host countries. For example, rising xenophobia and discrimination against immigrants can be addressed by fostering public understanding of the contributions of migrants to the development of countries of destination. The UN System (and particularly the GMG) can better address the difficult situation of migrants by promoting inter-agency cooperation, as well as mainstreaming a human-centred approach to migration and development in ongoing policy debates (IMF, LDCs, CSW).

• In the wake of the “Arab Spring”, Member States need to take action to tackle mass youth unemployment and underemployment, which is the basis of increasing youth migration.

• Migration should be mainstreamed into international cooperation on issues such as trade, MDGs, development aid, and conflict-prevention. This is key to addressing the root causes of migration and making of migration a choice and not a necessity, although migration is no panacea for development and the links between the two should not be overestimated.

• International organisations and the GMG should develop more effective alliances with the private sector, civil society and migrant organisations on youth and migration issues.

• The GFMD, which has so far provided a useful platform for governments to share experiences and ideas, will play an important role in the formulation of coherent and cohesive responses to global migration and development challenges. Member States participating in the 2012 assessment of the GFMD are encouraged to consider migrant youth issues.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

• Cooperation entails a multi-level process: a coherent national approach to migration is a precondition for effective international cooperation. To develop such an approach, all relevant stakeholders should be taken into consideration, including employers and local
governments. Multi-stakeholder dialogues on migration need to include civil society to promote an objective policy discussion and solutions. This may require capacity development of civil society to enable it to enter into dialogue with States.

- Regular dialogue and synergies among national actors should be promoted to enhance the development potential of migration.
- Coordination and cooperation are required among line ministries in charge of migration, health, education, and labour policies in countries of origin, transit and destination.
- Social partners (workers and entrepreneurs alike) should work together to address the main challenges of labour migration. In this regard, the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration can provide useful guidance and good practices.
- All stakeholders should be involved in combating anti-immigrant violence and xenophobia. States could collaborate more effectively with journalists and opinion-makers to address negative images of migrants in the media, including social media.

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

- Human mobility must become an integral part of development strategies to maximize the development potential of migration, generating a triple win for countries of origin, destination and migrants themselves. People-centred and cross-regional development partnerships between origin and destination countries and sub-regions on key development themes such as aid, trade, and financial assistance should be further encouraged.
- Member States should mainstream migration into development policy planning, integrating it in national development strategies (see for example the recommendations contained in the GMG Handbook on “Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning”).
- Countries of origin should address the root causes of youth migration by creating opportunities for youth development.
- Civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, and diaspora communities should be considered by countries of origin and destination as active development actors that can be proactive in addressing youth issues.
- Capacity development, policy coherence, cooperation and dialogue between international organisations and agencies, Member States, and development actors should be enhanced to ensure access of young migrant to their rights. This has to be balanced with the need for host countries to regulate migration flows.

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS WHO HAVE REMAINED IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN**

- The international community should adopt a holistic protection system allowing governments and stakeholders to understand the complexities surrounding unaccompanied migrant youth. Such an approach should include cultural factors.
- Inter-agency cooperation on this issue is particularly relevant, as well as the participation and involvement of unaccompanied children and youth themselves, local communities, extended families and diasporas. In West Africa, local populations and NGOs working in the field have successfully developed a comprehensive protection framework for “youth on the move” throughout the entire migration cycle. National ministries of interior, labour, social welfare, child protection and immigration in the sub-region are also coordinating efforts with international organizations (UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF).
International cooperation should focus on providing children and youth in countries of origin with alternatives to migration through quality public education, scholarships and youth employment opportunities.

DATA COLLECTION, KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND A RESEARCH AGENDA

- The collection, dissemination, analysis, and use of age- and sex-disaggregated data for migration policy formulation must be improved. Addressing the current lack of reliable and timely data is essential for evidence-based policy-making.
- All relevant stakeholders should work towards a common agreement on the definition of youth to ensure comparability. Furthermore, any analysis involving youth should explicitly state how youth are defined in that specific context.
- Comparative data should be collected on: anti-immigrant incidents and violence; the social costs of migration, including costs for families; youth and children who remain in countries of origin; unaccompanied migrant youth.
- Sound rights-based indicators in migration data analysis should be developed.
- It is particularly important to increase international cooperation through capacity development, as well as financial and technical support, to facilitate statistical data collection, dissemination, and analysis by government officials in cooperation with research institutions and international organizations. This includes identifying trends that will inform the formulation of future policies and programmes in migration and development. This will promote a knowledge-based approach to migration and development management.
- Ensuring an evidence-based and sound analysis of migration issues is key to counter anti-immigration sentiments and misconceptions about migration, as well as to harness the economic, social and cultural potential of migration.
- Decision-makers should be presented with a set of evidence-based policy options on migration and development. A knowledge platform on this issue could be developed in the near future, including experts with divergent views and using peer-review mechanisms.
- Research on migration and youth should aim to:
  - be policy-relevant and action-oriented;
  - be mainstreamed into development plans, in particular regarding women’s empowerment;
  - take the views, needs and experiences of young migrants into account;
  - develop evidence-based strategies for enhancing the safety, well-being and contribution to development of migrant children and youth.
- A coordinated research agenda should provide evidence on the following topics:
  - trends and emerging issues related to migration and development;
  - the correlation between migration and violence, exploitation and abuse;
  - the links between migration (in particular female migration), remittances and development;
  - the negative economic impact of the exclusion of migrants, including migrant youth (as this would provide valuable arguments for advocacy upon Member States);
  - the impact of internal, short-term and cyclical migration on development;
- linkages between migration, remittances, household income, human development, and gender empowerment;
- stigmatisation of migrant households and correlation between migration and risky adolescent behaviour;
- innovative ways of reducing remittance costs through technology;
- the human and social dimensions of climate change, especially the links between migration, climate change and urbanization.

**REMITTANCES**

- Remittances are private funds and cannot be an alternative to ODA or development policies. States cannot depend on remittance flows as a substitute to reforming macro-economic and gender-equity policies. Member States have a responsibility to ensure the fulfilment of socio-economic rights in their societies.
- States should implement policies aiming at lowering the cost of transferring remittances through competition and technical innovation; this will enhance the flow of international remittances.
- States could implement projects and policy programmes to enhance the financial inclusion and economic literacy of migrants, including young migrants. This may work to maintain the level of remittances and even augment them in the long term.
- More awareness of the potential of leveraging remittances, especially of mobilizing diaspora wealth, is needed. Global diaspora savings are estimated in USD 397.5 billion. To encourage diaspora investments in countries of origin, it is advisable for their governments to consider offering diaspora bonds.
- States should implement projects and policy programmes to improve the financial inclusion and economic literacy of migrants through technology, especially young migrants, women, and populations living in rural areas.
- Financial services should target both migrants and recipients of remittances, especially women and rural populations, to ensure their broader inclusion into financial systems and markets through loans and saving products for productive investments.
- Remittances should be linked to capital markets through remittance-securitization for development bond financing.
- Diaspora investment in countries of origin should be actively encouraged, in particular in gender-sensitive or women-targeted development and empowerment initiatives, in consultation with local women.
- Given the feminization of migration and women’s potential to save and remit more, it is important to design innovative women-focused financial instruments and investment options, such as diaspora bonds.
- Remittances could and should be invested more productively, for example as collateral credit or as innovative financial mechanisms for development.
- Promoting dialogues on migration and finance, as well as innovative financial instruments that leverage remittances for development financing, albeit migration and remittances are no panacea for development.

**CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE**

- Internationally-recognized terms and definitions regarding environmentally-induced migration must be developed and adopted.
Climate change must be acknowledged as a challenge for the human rights of environmental migrants, who should accordingly be provided assistance and protection. A wider range of options should be made available to particularly vulnerable groups affected by environmental change.

The international legal system needs to be reformed in order to provide a normative protection framework to all those displaced by environmental push factors. For instance, an international protocol on environmentally-induced displacement could be adopted and the legal status of stateless people could be defined taking into account environmental change, for example sea-level rise.

Environmental adaptation and risk-reduction mechanisms through diversification of household income sources should be enhanced to prevent forced migration and displacement, particularly among rural populations where agricultural decline due to environmental change is likely to be substantial.

It is of key importance to facilitate circular mobility, including seasonal migration and strong urban-rural linkages, to provide support structures and allow for income diversification. Such efforts should be gender-sensitive, consistent with the sustainable growth of urban spaces, and anchored in human rights standards that promote the right to family unity.

Disaster risk-reduction and conflict mediation strategies must be supported, along with strengthened humanitarian response capacity to environmental change, in particular with regard to youth and women.

Environmentally-induced migration should be mainstreamed and climate change adaptation strategies integrated into disaster management tools.

International and regional cooperation on this issue should be enhanced at all levels and focus not only on mitigating the impact of forced mass environmentally-induced migration, but also on facilitating migration as adaptation strategy.

Multi-stakeholder discussions on climate change and migration must be stimulated. The voice, agency and participation of all those whose livelihoods are affected by environmental change, including youth and women, should be enhanced through training, advocacy and policy-planning in order to include their perspectives into disaster risk management and environmental change strategies.

Data collection and research in this field should be solid and sound to counter alarmism on the media.