



*Alicja Lelwic-Ojeda, Global Lead of the Migration Youth and Children Platform,  
Major Group for Children and Youth  
22 November 2022, Friends of the Forum Meeting*

Thank you to GFMD co-chairs and members, excellencies, honorable colleagues and fellow stakeholders for coming together today.

On behalf of the Migration Youth & Children Platform, please allow me to express our delight in being invited to join you today. We are once again humbled to be working with you and, with your continued support, we look forward to our collaboration in the upcoming months.

For those who may not know us, the Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) is the Steering Group-mandated stakeholder group facilitating youth engagement in the GFMD. Since 2017, we have sought to continue our mission of facilitating the meaningful participation and engagement of young people to GFMD discussions and activities, as well as in all levels of GFMD-related, instigated, or inspired cooperation.

Thank you in particular to our co-chairs France and Senegal for facilitating our in-person presence today, as well as the previous 2 chairs, United Arab Emirates, Ecuador and the Swiss Confederation and Canada, and for your support for youth action in previous years. Thank you as well to our UN partners IOM and UNICEF, as well as the other mechanisms, for their continued support. Thanks to you, we have been able to bring forward the perspectives of over 300 of young people in the GFMD, both in the lead up and at the summits.

We commend the co-chairs and our fellow stakeholders in the progress thus far, including in the pressing focus areas selected, and we likewise join you in shared excitement for the year ahead.

### **Objectives for 2022-23**

Please allow us to briefly reiterate our objectives for this co-chairmanship.

1. **First, we seek to ensure that youth continue to be meaningfully engaged and represented at all activities of the GFMD**, including at the Government-led Roundtables.
2. **Furthermore, in line with our goal of building and amplifying youth action, MYCP seeks to encourage** multilateral and multi-stakeholder partnerships for bringing effective solutions to migration issues.
3. **And last but not the least, we look to ensure that a wide array of youth activities** are conducted to support and input into the thematic priorities of the France-Senegal GFMD Co-Chairmanship, to further dialogue, discussion, awareness and substantive input by youth voices- **including our mandated preparatory Youth Forum in advance of the GFMD Summit.**

### **Proposed Activities**

We would like to achieve a similar level of impact in the previous years. To work towards our objectives, we are pleased to share with you our plan of proposed activities:



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### **1. Meaningful Youth Engagement and Participation**

Our past engagements have shown us the importance of being *present in the room* to meaningfully engage and participate as youth stakeholders. Without being in the room, young people miss out on the conversations and priority alignments that happen on the margin of GFMD events. Thanks to the generosity of our French co-chair and IOM, this has started as a strong priority, allowing us to be here today as well as attend the Narratives Conference in Rabat, and we hope to continue this throughout the rest of the co-chairmanship. We have identified 3 avenues that would ensure this:

- a) The Migration Youth Forum preparatory space for the 14th GFMD Summit is a crucial and significant engagement avenue. Building upon our strong track record of participation, we hope to bring 60 diverse youth representatives with at least **30 fully funded participants from underrepresented backgrounds**, and we would thoroughly appreciate your generous assistance in achieving this milestone.
- b) To ensure our resources and capacity are consistent throughout the year, we are hoping to establish a **Youth Secretariat** for the coordination of all youth engagement in all GFMD processes, related activities, working groups, and the capacity building of the global youth network.
- c) Building on the lessons learnt from the successful ITAC campaign delivered together with the esteemed colleagues from the Ad-Hoc WG on Public Narratives on Migration, we would like to continue this good work through a **two-way communication social media campaign**, that allows young migrants to share their ideas and perspectives on migration issues. The idea is to scale youth-led sustainable evidence-based narratives on migration across the world.

### **2. Migration Youth Forum**

As is a core part of our mandate, we are looking to continue the legacy of successful Migration Youth Forums by hosting the 4th Global Migration Youth Forum as the official youth preparatory space for the GFMD Summit. This has been a crucial platform for youth to prepare to enter the world of intergovernmental processes, as well as consolidate and exchange priorities, recommendations, youth-led solutions and best practices, and has been key to delivering on a strong, inspirational and substantive youth presence.

### **3. Youth Leadership and Innovation Award**

In view of last year's Innovation Award, we are hoping to continue this impact dedicated to innovations addressing issues directly related to the main 2022-2023 GFMD priorities. Since their recognition at the GFMD, the finalists were all able to scale their impact, and start cooperation with INGOs and UN agencies.

Our previous partners, including UNICEF and IOM, are keen to continue this partnership, and we have received great interest from our co-chairs, the civil society, as well as from local and regional governments networks and the private sector to support us in some way. We also hope to receive further support from active GFMD Member States.



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→ **Bringing Synergies by elevating multi-stakeholder collaboration**

Finally, we would like to make multi-stakeholder collaboration a key component of our activities this year, including at the Migration Youth Forum. We would like to synergize GFMD with other workstreams, including our collaboration with ACMI, UNICEF, YOUNGO and the Bosch Foundation as a follow up to the COP27. We would like to also develop intersection points with our work on Global Diaspora.

We welcome financial contributions of all kinds and offer you our sincerest gratitude in advance for your consideration. Once again, thank you to the co-chairs for your willingness to engage youth and the mechanisms in plans and direction, and, together with the other mechanisms, we again very much look forward to working with you in the coming months.