

My name is Alicja Lelwic, the Social and Economic Integration Lead at the Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP), the migration constituency of the Major Group for Children and Youth. For the past 3 years, the MYCP has enabled youth participation in migration spaces at the regional and global levels, such as at the GCM Regional Reviews and the Global Forum for Migration and Development. We also recently co-hosted IMRF Preparatory Roundtable 3 on access to services and social inclusion with WHO and UCLG.

During the last three days of the IDM, we've heard a number of best practices and innovative approaches to protecting migrants in vulnerable situations, facilitating regular migration, and advancing migrants' socio-economic inclusion and empowerment. The demographic boom across much of the developing world has made these areas particularly important for youth. Young people face higher rates of under- and unemployment, lack opportunities to make their voices heard and often experience a feeling of exclusion from society. Given that youth also tend to have higher emigration rates than the rest of the population, making up to 33% of international migrants, the issues discussed at this IDM are of crucial importance going forward.

However, we must move beyond recognizing the vulnerabilities of migrant youth to maximizing their roles in spurring development and broader prosperity. Children and Youth have unique migratory experiences due to their adaptability, their ability to quickly absorb a new language, or culture. Their recommendations hold a sense of positivity about the future - youth tend to face issues with an optimistic and fix-it attitude which we hope further intergovernmental organizations and governments can draw from. We should be listening to the recommendations of young people, include migrant youth in all stages of policy and programme design, implementation, and review, rather than make broad assumptions on their behalf. Young people must be part of the solution to make migration safe for everyone.

Member states and partners should ask themselves whether youth and other marginalized groups have been sufficiently engaged in developing solutions to opening legal migration avenues or migrant inclusion? Could the level of their engagement be a factor in the success or failure of a given solution?

Young people must be meaningfully involved in the development of bilateral and multilateral migration policies and instruments, such as skills mobility partnerships. During our consultations, youth have repeatedly called for access to decent jobs, the elimination of structural barriers to access the labor market and expanded legal pathways for regular labor migration. After 3 global youth forums bringing together 100s of youth, thousands more applicants, and consultations gathering the perspectives of tens of thousands of young people, it is clear that we care about migrant issues. As such, youth want - and should - be involved in the development of policies that are of key interest to them.

Young people must be also meaningfully involved in international policy debates, such as the GCM implementation and review process, with "meaningful" being the key word. Unlike the diplomatic community, young people do not have extensive experience in navigating spaces like the GCM. The Youth Forums organized by MYCP are an example of a space for children that

facilitate their meaningful engagement in policy processes. It's a platform that prepares young people before their participation, allows them to articulate their thoughts and learn how to advocate effectively. To maximize the role of youth in migration policy processes, member states and organizations need to support and scale these types of tools and platforms provided by youth, for youth.

As part of the MYCP, I'm privileged to work with youth making a difference- from building incomes for vulnerable and displaced migrants through hospitality and tech training in Malaysia and Turkey, and so much more. Let me finish by saying that we, as MYCP, are ready to work with Member States, international organizations and local authorities to help engage children and youth in the implementation of the Global Compact's measures at local, regional and global levels.