



YOUTH INPUT INTO THE REPORT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION COMMITTEE

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(GFMD Youth Stakeholder Network)*

Youth (coordinated by the Migration Youth & Children Platform (MYCP) as the Youth Stakeholder Network) were present at the XIV GFMD Summit with an in-person delegation of 50+ young migrants from across the world. At the Summit, MYCP hosted three official events as part of the programme. On 21st January, we held the 4th Migration Youth Forum as the official youth preparatory space for the GFMD which brought together partners and young people from the youth, other stakeholders and State delegations in person and online. The message from the Forum was clear - **work with young people, not for us**. Delegates reiterated the importance of youth inclusion in migration governance for a whole-of-society approach. As Ambassador Dumas, Representative of the French Presidency of the GFMD noted, youth draw across the various sectors of society and represent them in all of their diversity. The Forum also transformed the IOM HQ into a hub of reflection and ideas, allowing delegates to find joint priorities and collaborative solutions to migration challenges which was taken to Summit in the following days. Young people, alongside the GFMD Presidency, emphasised the pressing need to recognise and establish pathways for climate migrants, empower the contributions of diaspora, and shape positive narratives on migration to combat over-politicisation. In tackling these challenges, youth emphasised the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration.

At the Summit, MYCP hosted the 2nd Youth Leadership & Innovation Award to showcase the actions already being undertaken by youth at the local level on climate mobility, diaspora contributions, and access to services. Also, the Regional Innovation Labs which brought together youth, civil society, governments, and business for discussion to foster action and impact on regional migration challenges. Delegates were represented at every Government-led Roundtable, and delivered interventions at a majority of the side events to ensure their perspectives, and those of young people unable to be present, were heard - including the civil society chat circles. It was noted by one State delegation that young people's presence and technical participation was vital in "reinvigorating the GFMD". However, it must be noted that more can be done. Our delegation would welcome more young people present in government and other stakeholder delegations. This was also the case for civil society, which only had 9 delegates under the age of 30. Youth inclusion should be a priority across mechanisms. Nevertheless, there was a clear collaborative spirit at the GFMD which included young people. We must build on this momentum going forward, and furthering cross-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships. Young people also welcome Colombia as the next Chair of the GFMD and their commitment to strengthening youth inclusion in the process, as well as thank the Government of France for their support of youth activities.