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**Child Rights Report  
for the GFMD Civil Society Days, Marrakesh 2018**

Throughout the 2 day programme, what 4 examples of vulnerabilities, agency and resilience of children were identified as priorities for the protection of children on the move and child rights.

**Priority 1: Children on the Move:**

- Ensure that the best interest of the child is the primary consideration in all matters concerning migrant children. Best Interest Determination Procedures must on the one hand, be individualized to address the unique situation and demands of the child, and formalized on the other hand.
- Safe and regular pathways for children on the move and other children affected by migration (as well as their families) with full protection throughout their journey. Children must not be separated from their families, unless this is in their best interest.
- Family reunification is very important.
- Prohibit the immigration detention of children: provide alternatives to detention which evidently are better solutions for children.
- Actions ensuring safe, dignified and rights-based transit, entry, reception
- Maintain family unity.
- Ensure that children have access to all services to the same extent as national, during the time that their status is regularized.
- Work together across borders to protect children.

**Priority 2: Xenophobia & Integration:**

- Adopt and implement measures to foster an open and non- discriminatory society, including by preventing xenophobia, racism, and discrimination against migrant children, starting from the moment of their arrival.
- Implement, by means of awareness raising and educational initiatives, measures to actively address stereotypes, misconceptions and misinformation.
- Adopt and implement measures that actively support reciprocal inclusion between host and migrant communities and social inclusion of migrant children, including as regard the access to legal identity, nationality, education, health care, justice and language training.
- More legal possibilities should be opened up for young people to study.
- Implement a foster care programme in order to offer vulnerable children temporary protection.
- Inclusion and Integration: Adopt and implement measures that actively support inclusion, but both ways - integration and inclusion is not a one-way street, but requires programs and commitments of both the host communities and migrants themselves. Inclusion is largely facilitated by access to formal and regular education and health care systems in the host country. Having the chance to

learn the language is critical to successful inclusion of migrant communities.

- Repeal provisions that criminalize the provision of services to migrant children or require a service provider to share personal data to immigration enforcement.
- Grant minors citizenship.
- States should not leave children stateless.
- Provide psychosocial and medical support as necessary.

Priority 3: Return:

- End the immigration detention of children and all the practices that result in the deprivation of liberty of children for immigration related reasons.
- There should be no discussion on the return of children, especially when they are fleeing war, famine or any sort of situation which is life threatening.
- Agree an intentionally recognized procedure for monitoring returns of children whether accompanied or unaccompanied and for monitoring the subsequent reintegration of children in their countries of origin.
- Thinking about optional returns and how to ensure it is done safely for children.
- An individual reintegration plan must be put in place before any return takes place.
- Children must never be separated from their parents unless it is in their best interest.

Priority 4: Protection:

- Migrant children should not be subjected to any form of abuse, violence and exploitation in the workplace, national laws that ensure the protection of migrant children should be enacted.
- Migrant children need referral and support from a national child protection system based on a legal framework including formal and informal structures with the capacity to protect them from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect
- The immediate identification and referral of exploited migrant children to the child protection system is critical.
- Children should not be negatively affected by the consequences of their parent or guardian’s migrant worker status.
- Involving children and young people more or giving them space to find solutions.

**1. Specific observations per breakout session:**

<p><b>Theme 1: Actions responding to the drivers of forced displacement, including due to climate change and environmental degradation</b></p>	<p>The following recommendations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce political / economic corruption, which is responsible for unemployment, for example, people have no future and are forced to leave.</li> <li>• Government to create jobs.</li> <li>• Improve legal frameworks and education systems.</li> <li>• Laws on labor rights / ensuring adequate wages and elimination of exploitation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme 2: Actions ensuring safe, dignified and rights-based transit, entry,</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and regular pathways for children on the move and other children affected by migration (as well as their families) with full protection throughout their journey.</li> <li>• Children must not be separated from their families, unless this is in</li> </ul>

<b>reception and return</b>	<p>their best interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be no discussion on the return of children, especially when they are fleeing war, famine or any sort of situation which is life threatening.</li> <li>• Agree an intentionally recognized procedure for monitoring returns of children whether accompanied or unaccompanied and for monitoring the subsequent reintegration of children in their countries of origin.</li> <li>• Thinking about optional returns and how to ensure it is done safely for children.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 3: Actions ensuring decent work, labour rights and fair recruitment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of work opportunities for young migrants is a big challenge.</li> <li>• Governments should give visas to young people with experience and serious projects to avoid dangerous migration and create decent work opportunities so young people aren't forced to move to find work.</li> <li>• Defined legal frameworks to be observed to ensure labor and social rights.</li> <li>• Passports should have the same power in all countries.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 4: Actions ensuring the social, economic and political inclusion of migrants in communities</b>	<p>Recommend that states promote inclusion of child and young migrants in communities, countries and continents.</p>
<p>2. Please detail any specific <b>case studies of practices</b> at sub national, national, regional level that are attempting to reduce vulnerability, or increase the agency or resilience of children on the move.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One country which is leading on best policies for migration detention is Brazil. In 2017, Brazil passed a new law that means that if child enters with family or without family, he or she is given temporary protocol with which they have access to all services that national Brazilians have. Treated equally until their situation has been processed or decided upon. They are directed straight to NGOs, informed about accessing to services, such as healthcare, education, access to justice. These are all programmes run by UNHCR with IOM.</li> <li>• Mexico talked about cases of child victims of violence and implementing a foster care programme in order to offer vulnerable children to receive temporary protection.</li> <li>• Germany is thinking about returns and how to do it so it is safe for children.</li> <li>• Focusing on women and children who are left behind. Families staying in Germany with refugee status but the women and children stay behind in Turkey and Lebanon.</li> <li>• We heard some examples of what is being done at local level like the city of Chicago which describes itself as a welcoming city or a sanctuary state despite the rhetoric of the national government. In Chicago, everyone, no matter where they were born, can have free primary education and subsidized secondary schooling.</li> <li>• We heard some governments trying to improve, like Mexico where children are detained for immigration purposes. But they are working really hard to have alternative ways of managing migration without detaining children.</li> <li>• West African States working together on cross-border child protection.</li> </ul>	

If could choose one or **two key messages** to be conveyed by the civil society CSD Chair in her report to states on the 7 December in the Official Closing Ceremony of the GFMD, which would these be?

The GFMD from now on will have a role in monitoring how the migration compact will be implemented. We want to emphasise that it is important to think of all children and young people on the move. So for children and young people, the two compacts for refugees and migrants need to go together.

Talk with children and young people, especially those with experience of migration. They will help governments and others to find solutions.