

Common Space, Berlin, Friday 30 June 2017

Reporting template 2017 Common Space Focus Sessions	
Focus Session theme:	Focus Session 3: “Mechanisms for migrants in the face of growing xenophobia”
<p>1. What concrete mechanisms¹ exist, existed or might be developed that can achieve “safe, orderly and regular migration” within the theme of this focus session? Please name 3 to 4 mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Particular <u>resource</u>: what mechanisms if any does the Sutherland Report suggest in this regard? 	
<p><i>(If possible, please detail the stakeholders involved in this mechanism, and - if it is being implemented - please include country/region of implementation. If mechanisms are mentioned that should be omitted because they go against the principles of ‘safe, orderly and regular’, feel free to also take note of them).</i></p>	
<p><u>Provincial Government of Pichincha, Ecuador</u>: this local authority has decided to invest in youth, and to provide platforms for migrant youth and “local” youths to interact and meet around activities such as music (rap, hip hop), art (street art, graffiti). The goal is not to have them speak about migration, but simply to learn to know one another. Several short movies were also created to give the public a chance to learn more about migrants and their stories. Finally, the Provincial Government of Pichincha created a handbook designed in cooperation of all actors of society to allow people to learn more about migration.</p> <p><u>Alianza Americas’ “We Are” (“Somos”) campaign</u>: helps combat stereotypes and negative views on migrants.</p> <p><u>Suggestions</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need local Role Models to represent migrant communities, who would be available to meet with the community and create a dialogue, especially in situations of tensions. Education is key: from an early age, youth needs to be taught not only about migration, but about Human Rights in general. Local governments are extremely well placed to effectively combat xenophobia. Their role needs to be acknowledged. Private sector: we need to look at small to medium-size business (as opposed to always focusing on big brands) because they can really help make a difference in the fight against xenophobia. Xenophobia is often based on fear of the unknown. The more we create opportunities for diverse communities to learn to know one another, the easier it will be to combat xenophobia. We need a narrative of a common society, as opposed to “us versus them.” 	

¹ Mechanisms” are policies, practices, programmes or partnerships that focus on *implementation*, not simply restating rights or commitments, that concretely help to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration and that either already exist, existed or can be developed. Mechanisms can be implemented individually or in partnerships among states or local authorities, civil society, private sector, international organisations, or several of the above, and they can be local, national, regional, global or multi-levelled.

2. Is it possible to conceive timelines that the Global Compact on Migration might include for a few goals and targets that can increasingly implement such mechanisms for example, over 2, 5 and 12 years?

(Here we are looking at practical next steps to achieve these mechanisms, in the short, mid and longer term. If mentioned, please list who should initiate these next steps).

The combat against xenophobia needs to be fully included in the process towards the Global Compact, and it is a long-term effort, as it needs to work on youth and educate youth about human rights.

3. If your session could choose one key message to be conveyed in the plenary by the Grand Rapporteur, what would it be?

- The combat against xenophobia needs to be part and parcel of the process towards the Global Compact. The Global Compact should not result in more bans and restriction against migration. It needs to create concrete measures against xenophobia, regardless of legal status. We can't possibly fight xenophobia if policies feed it.
- All actors in society need to work together to create a culture of solidarity.

4. Additional comments, e.g. particular challenges or highlights worth mentioning? [optional]

Accurate facts and data about migration are necessary to combat xenophobia and create a positive counter narrative. However, we need to understand that it's sometimes hard to fight emotions (in this case: xenophobia) with data. It's often more efficient to combat emotions with other emotions. We need to combat xenophobia with positive messages.

5. Inspirational quotes? [optional]