



UN Major Group for
Children and Youth
the space for children and youth in the United Nations

Response by UN MGCY

Revised Zero Draft of Outcome Document for 19 September 2016

High-Level Meeting to Address Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

20th July 2015

I'm speaking behalf of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth, which is the General Assembly-mandated mechanism for children and youth participation in a number of UN processes.

First, the document makes multiple references to the burden for host communities of large movements and refugees. While we recognize the challenges many countries face when responding to such movements, this is diminishing of the contributions by and potential of refugees and migrants. We therefore ask for a more neutral phrasing.

Overall, the declaration seems to pay particular attention to the situation for host communities. Any declaration from this meeting should first and foremost be firmly based on the needs, rights and priorities of refugees and migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations. To ensure that such needs, rights and priorities are met, we consider it crucial that migrants and refugees are given space to participate in decision-making processes.

We also believe that the declaration could better reflect the situation in all regions, and would agree with the requests to broaden the references made to travels by sea.

In regards to the Follow-up and Review, we welcome the suggestions made in paragraph 5.2 and 5.3, and ask to see these in operationalised language. We also stress the need to give a clear space for refugees, migrants and families and stateless people to be included in the follow-up and review process.