



Policy Responses: Promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike.

Distinguished members of the Panel,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The history of migration is that of people's quest to survive, to prosper, to escape insecurity and poverty and to move in response to opportunities.

Recent surveys have shown that international migration has doubled to almost 200 million. Young people under age 30 today compose the largest group of international migrants (32-39 million), and are therefore usually the most affected by migration benefits, risks, policies and other aspects of migration.

The young African is likely to migrate to the developed world for reasons such as lack of economic opportunities and political instability. The realities of low wages for the fresh university graduate and expectations from extended family members are also contributing factors to youth migration. Pull factors include possibilities of employment, and opportunities for personal and professional development.

In response to some of the aforementioned factors, surveys have shown that between 33 and 55 per cent of the highly-educated people of Angola, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania have migrated to the developed world. That proportion is even higher, about 60 percent, for Guyana, Haiti, Fiji, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

However, the question been posed here, is that, are young people able to exploit the benefits of migration? The answer is No!

The idea that migration and migrants are problems to be dealt with is a fallacy. First, migration presents both benefits and challenges. In dealing with these challenges, countries must not lose sight of the opportunities that it presents. Secondly, migrants are not problems. They are people trying to improve their lives.

The cost and benefits of migration are distributed, unevenly between and within countries and social groups and it is dependent on the nature of migration in question and on the links which migration establishes between places of origin and destination areas.

Migration is important economically and politically –because of the links it establishes between countries.

Governments in host countries must ensure that migrants are not denied access to services. Migrants should be well integrated in host countries with support and their rights should not be infringed upon. If States manage migratory flows in a manner that is respectful of human rights of migrants, a climate of non confrontation and a feeling of security will grow in society.

Moreover, there must be flexible systems of temporary and circular migration. Ways of making return sustainable should be well established and facilitated. If these schemes are to deliver the needed development benefits, it behooves stakeholders to be fully involved in its design.

Furthermore, policymakers must encourage the flow of remittances by reducing the cost of sending money home. Surveys have shown that remittances sent home by international migrants through official channels amount to \$93 billion per year with informal transfers including, remittances would amount to around \$300 billion per year. For most countries like the Philippines remittances forms a major component of National Income. These are likely to help countries in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Temporary migration should be encouraged with incentives by host countries .However developing countries will only benefit from this if there is sustainable return and mechanisms are putted in place to facilitate the reintegration of migrants into societies in their respective countries.

Taking a step further, both sending and receiving countries can initiate bilateral programs to assist youth migrants in preparation and integration for their journeys, helping them to learn about the culture of the countries they are entering, etc.

Most importantly, sending countries can mitigate the risks involved in migration. Trafficking and illegal migration can be lessened if sending countries can develop more work opportunities domestically. Also, information on the plight of illegal migrants could also less cases of illegal migration.

Young People We Care welcomes the emphasis placed in the UN Secretary General's Report that governmental cooperation should ensure co-development by improving the distribution of skills where they are most needed, including sending countries' ability to retain skilled workers when necessary and developed countries' responsibility to respect developing countries' necessities.

Thank you for your audience.

Presentation by:

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