

Common Space, Berlin, Friday 30 June 2017

Reporting template 2017 Common Space Focus Sessions	
Focus Session theme:	Focus Session 1: Mechanisms for Children on the Move
<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>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe and regular pathways for Children on the Move (CoM) and other children affected by migration as well as their families to migrate together or reunite, with full protection throughout their journey. This was emphasised by both civil society and representatives of the Governments of Mexico and Greece. No child should be detained for immigration purposes. Provide alternatives to detention, which evidently are better solutions for children as well as reception countries. Effective case management can be used as cost-effective and efficient alternative to detention which is already being used by several states. The UNHCR pilot program in Mexico was highlighted as one that is effectively using case management. In regards to the Best Interest Determination (BID): Meaningful, formal, individualised BID procedures in every decision affecting children, including children accompanied by family members, with procedural safeguards. CSOs and UN agencies are collaborating to build on the existing mechanisms to provide practical guidance for governments to implement. GCs to provide appropriate accountability mechanisms, similar and/or in reference to CRC reporting, UPR; also linked with the High Level Political Forum and Agenda 2030 voluntary reporting. <p><u>Other points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide existing generic and adaptable guidelines to social workers and other service providers for CoM. Children and youth TO be actively involved in political decision-making processes for CoM, as is in the case of, e.g., Sweden. Include provisions for the global community to assist reception countries who lack the necessary resources to provide adequate services. 	

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.

- Strengthen consular services (also in collaborating with other partner institutions, various stakeholders) to be enabled to better assist migrant children, youths and their families, irrespective of their status.
- Provide services and facilities that assist migrants, including CoM, if they are returned to their country of origin, to avoid their exploitation, as exemplified by El Salvador.

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).

- End child immigration detention: by 2021, identify and initiate implementation of alternatives to detention that respect the rights of CoM; by 2023, enact legislation and policies that prohibit child immigration detention.
- In regards to the timelines proposed in the document “Child Rights in the Global Compacts: Summary of recommendations for protecting, promoting and implementing the human rights of children on the move in the proposed Global Compacts”, at least some should be happening earlier, provided we already have a lot of CoM related legislation. What is lacking is the implementation.

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

A child is a child first, and migrating children should receive the same rights and services as children native to the country of reception.

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

- Lack of legal pathways for CoM from SSA to be safe.
- Big challenge is the implementation.
- Lack of global standards for BID and sufficient firewalls.
- Lack of psycho-social services.
- Lack of capacities in terms of adequate facilities for migrant children.

5. Inspirational quotes? [optional]

- *Education is key for children on the move. This is difficult to recognise for parents when they find themselves in crisis* (Farah Abdullahi Abdi, Advocate)
- *Governments should consider child migrants as an investment: they should see the next doctor, lawyer, contributor to society* (Farah Abdullahi Abdi)
- *To be clear: a child must never be detained.* (Joshua Hofert, Terre des Hommes)
- *Reunite families, don't separate them* (Marianna, IDC, Global Youth)