

Section 4: Policy formation for the benefit of countries and migrants alike.

- *Who do you feel is best placed to take the initiative on migration policy: the UN or national governments? Is there a need for a common migration policy?*

I think that with the current state where sovereign states have the right to decide on who enters their states is very important with the emergence of terrorism and insecurity. However, I think that in circumstances where there is the need of an individual to make a contribution in some areas of life, for instance, if a person is needed to make a contribution towards economic development of a country, then the UN will be in the best position to make policies that will overshadow the policies of sovereign states.

We must not lose sight of the fact that it is the current social and economic policies for migration that has brought about increased cases of human trafficking, illegal migration, poor working conditions, frequent abuses and violations of human rights and smuggling networks which are both dangerous and exploitative in nature. For the majority of would-be migrants, these routes represent the only way to enter an industrialized state.

The current VISA acquisition procedure for young people in developing countries does not encourage young people to travel on legal grounds. Young people are scrutinized for legitimate travel, work and educational opportunities in visa processes.

Thus, both the UN and the national government can make their policies and they must all be geared towards denying those who have bad intentions of migration and also promoting the intentions of genuine minded immigrants. Policies of both bodies should be cordial.

There is not the need for a common policy. A common policy will never help in the realization of the benefits international of migration. The UN must have its policy which must be superior to that of sovereign states.

- *What kinds of policies should be developed to enhance the economic and social benefits of migration for national governments?*

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. Thus policies on human rights and access to all services should be enhanced and should be re-examined.

Moreover, there must be policies that will facilitate the 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 and policies that will 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.

- *What socio-economic safety nets should be provided by national governments in the future to better secure the human rights of young migrants, their families and local communities?*

National governments must set up a National Youth Migration Movement that will advance and also promote the rights of young migrants. The governments of countries must seek and support the involvement of professional legal bodies, organizations, surveys and the setting up of educational phone-in radio programs.

How can we ensure that the effects of youth migration outweigh the negative impact?

Despite the fact that migration has some disadvantages, in order to realize the full benefits of international migration much emphasis must be place on the benefits of migration by agents like the media.

- *Do you think that young people in your community have enough opportunities to participate in the debates surrounding migration?*

No. Eventhough in recent times there have been growing recognition of the importance of youth participation at all levels, here in Ghana, most debates invite the eminent people in society ,while relegating the youth to the background. I haven't seen a youth participating in a media programme that centers on debate on migration.

It is very rare to even hear of debates or read articles on migration.

If not, what could be done to increase their involvement at both the local and the national level?

As said early, a National Youth Migration Movement, will be the place for creating awareness on the issue of migration and will also be a congenial place for debating on migration by the youth.

New efforts that are geared towards getting youth participation in debatable migration issues should take into account the significant changes occurring in the patterns and the structures of the youth movement.

Adequate funding, information, furnish training to facilitate integrational collaboration must be made available.

Effective youth participation will require a change in the way societies perceive young people.

Moreover, to ensure that effective youth participation is an option for all young people, explicit efforts must be made to address obstacles such as cultural norms that favor hierarchical relationships, economic circumstances and financial constraints that will bring about the inactiveness or the collapse of the proposed youth movement on migration.

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