**International Dialogue on Migration**

**Day 1 – Panel 2**

Intervention, Chiara Scissa:

Thank you very much for your insightful presentations. My name is Chiara Scissa, Ph.D student in Law at Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies and Human Rights and Migrant Protection Focal Point at the UN Major Group for Children and Youth. I would like to make a brief intervention, which highlights the indivisible yet challenged link between covid-19 and human rights.

Although there are cases where the pandemic seems to have been leveraged to further restrict the fundamental rights and freedoms of migrants at national level, there have been some relevant attempts to increase assistance and access to basic services for migrant communities, including access to health care and social security. Portugal, for instance, announced to give asylum seekers and migrants with pending applications the same right as permanent residents to access social services, while Spain ensured a work and residence permits to foreign workers involved in the agricultural sector. Remarkably, the Spanish Government granted a work and residence permit of two years, renewable, to young migrants who obtained their first work contract in the agricultural sector.

Decreasing migrants’ vulnerability and exposition to the coronavirus was not only at the core of some political actions, but also of national courts. Specifically, Madrid’s High Court recently ruled that it wouldn’t approve recent COVID-19 restrictions imposed on several Spanish cities by the central government because they amount to violation of residents’ fundamental freedoms. Beyond the specific case, what is of utmost interest here is that a state of emergency cannot justify, according to the High Court in Madrid, an unlawful limitation of fundamental rights, even if this operation is deemed necessary to protect another fundamental right, namely the right to health.

In a time of severe uncertainty and unsafety, it is more than ever essential to uphold and safeguard the human rights of all, while fully complying with international obligations stemming from human rights law.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**Day 2 – Panel 6**

Question, Chiara Scissa:

Thank you very much for your insightful presentations. My name is Chiara Scissa, Ph.D student in Law at Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies and Human Rights and Migrant Protection Focal Point at the UN Major Group for Children and Youth. I would like to deepen the discussion on covid-19 and its impacts on migrant children and minors. Irregular children and minors are, in fact, particularly vulnerable to violence and exploitation, something that Covid-19 may exacerbate. Migrant children are indeed uniquely vulnerable to dangers and traumas that could jeopardize their well-being and development and therefore should be provided with child-specific and child-centred care. However, this is often not the case. For instance, as noted by the UN Network on Migration policy brief, some unaccompanied children have been removed during the pandemic without due process or individual assessment, thus violating not only their human rights, but also potentially compromising their health. My question for the panellists therefore is, how can the Global Compact for Migration be leveraged to protect the best interest of the child and the children’s fundamental rights? How to integrate a truly child-centred approach into international migration governance?

Thank you very much for your attention.