

International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) 2013

Follow-Up Survey

Diaspora Ministerial Conference (DMC), 18-19 June 2013

An invitation to take part in an online survey was sent to all participants approximately five months after the 18-19 June 2013 IDM: DMC “Diasporas and Development: Bridging Societies and States”. The objectives of this survey were the following:

- to ascertain if the Conference contributed to advancing participants’ understanding of the diaspora issues;
- to determine if and how, in the months following the conference, participants applied and disseminated information acquired at the event to their work;
- to monitor participant satisfaction with this ministerial conference-type format of the IDM;
- to inform the IOM membership and donors of the value derived from the DMC and to identify areas for further improving this type of meeting.

While any survey will only yield partial results, it represents one strategy among others through which IOM ensures regular feedback and consultation about the IDM with the IOM membership.

Methodology

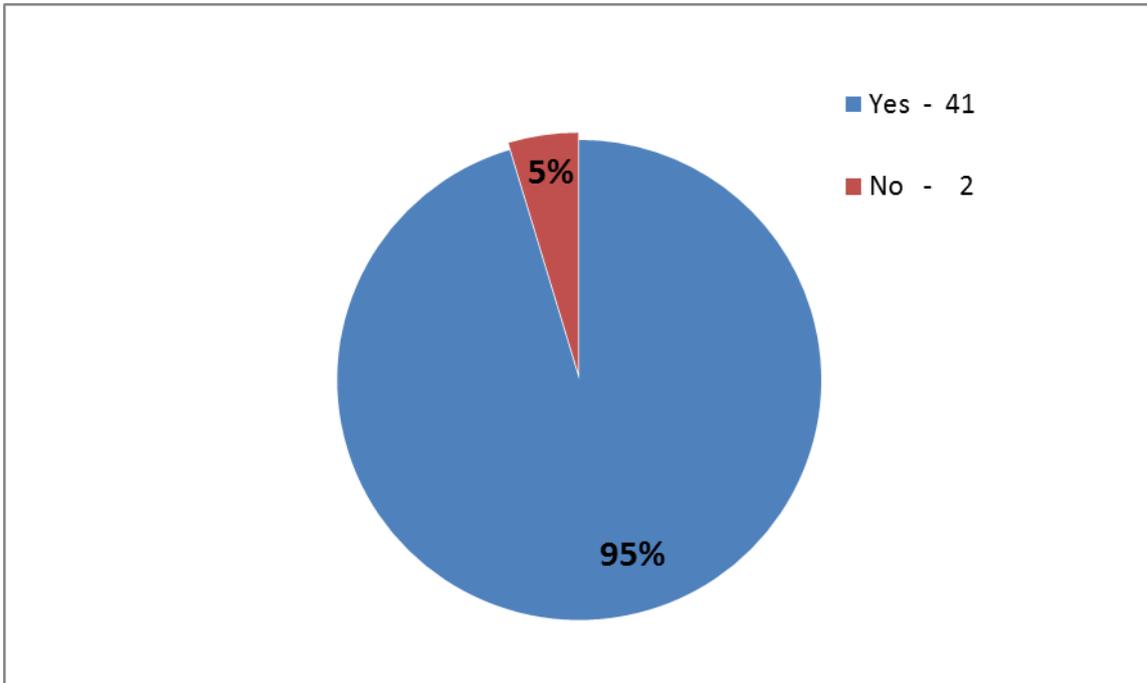
A request to fill out an online survey was sent to all participants via email five months after the event. A follow-up email was sent three weeks after the initial request and another one ten days before the closing date extending the deadline by seven days. Participants were asked to provide feedback through a six-question online questionnaire hosted by Survey Monkey. The survey was available in English, French, and Spanish and featured a mix of yes-or-no, multiple-choice, and open-ended questions. Participation in the survey was voluntary and there was no inducement to take part.

Results

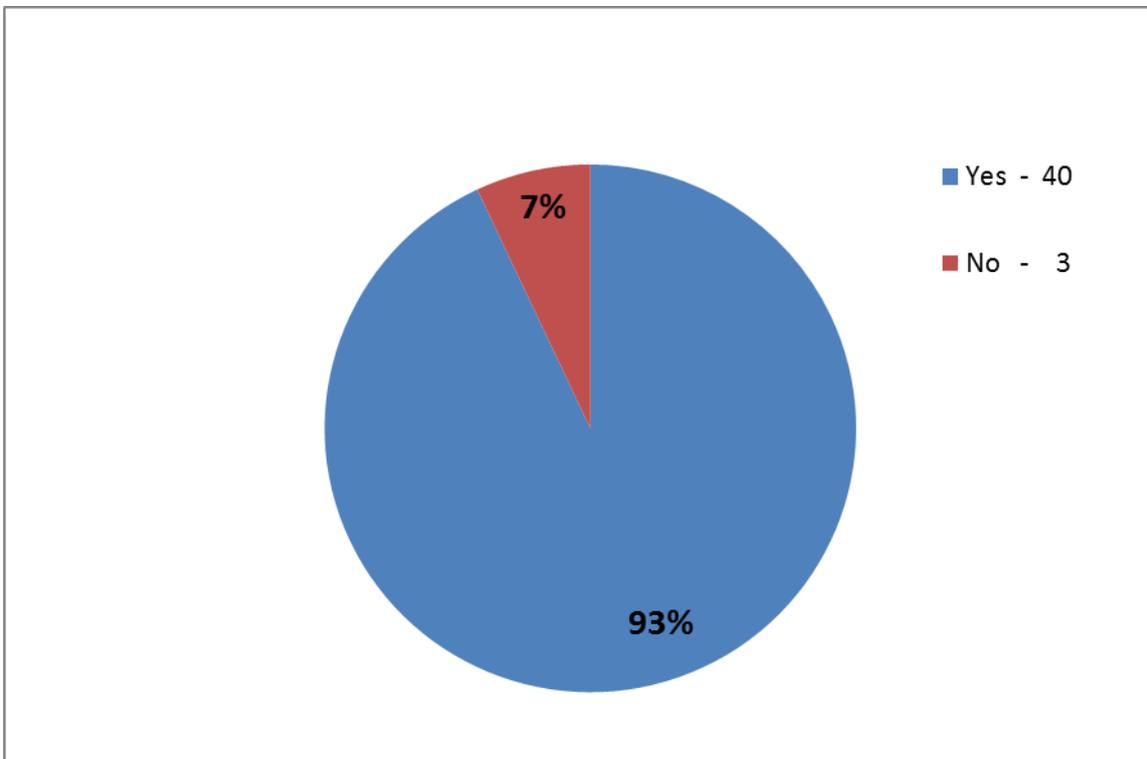
Forty-three individuals participated in the survey representing a response rate of 7 per cent. Questions 1 to 4b and 6 allowed participants to provide one response only. While questions 4c and 5 allowed for more than one response.

The breakdown of the results for each individual question is as follows:

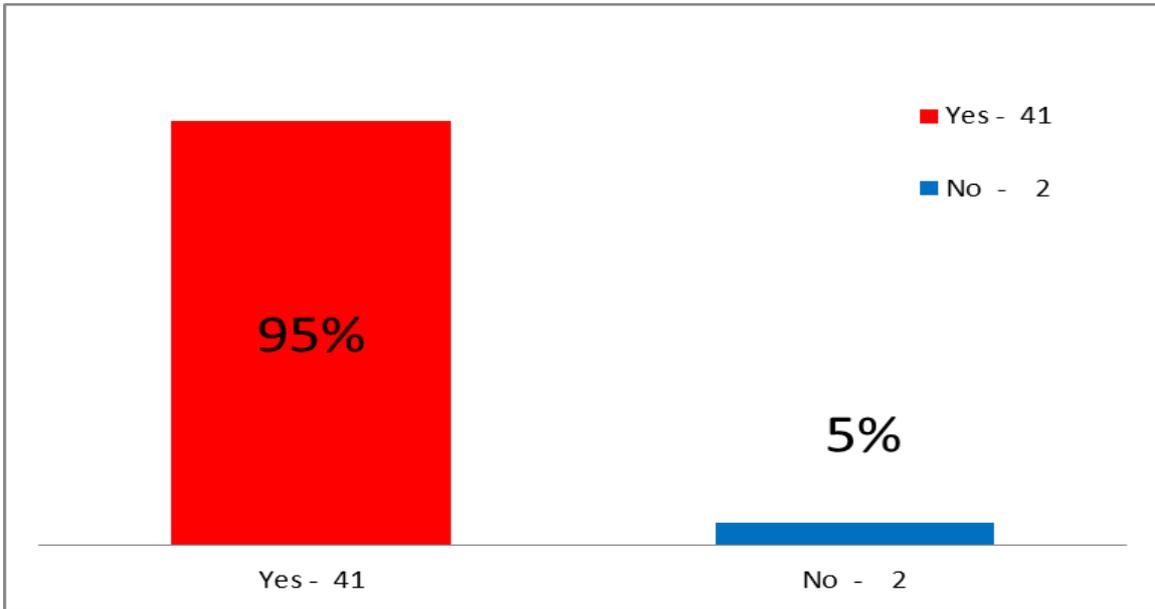
Q. 1. Were you satisfied overall with the Conference (logistical information received, quality of background paper, composition of panels, quality of presentations and discussions, etc.)?



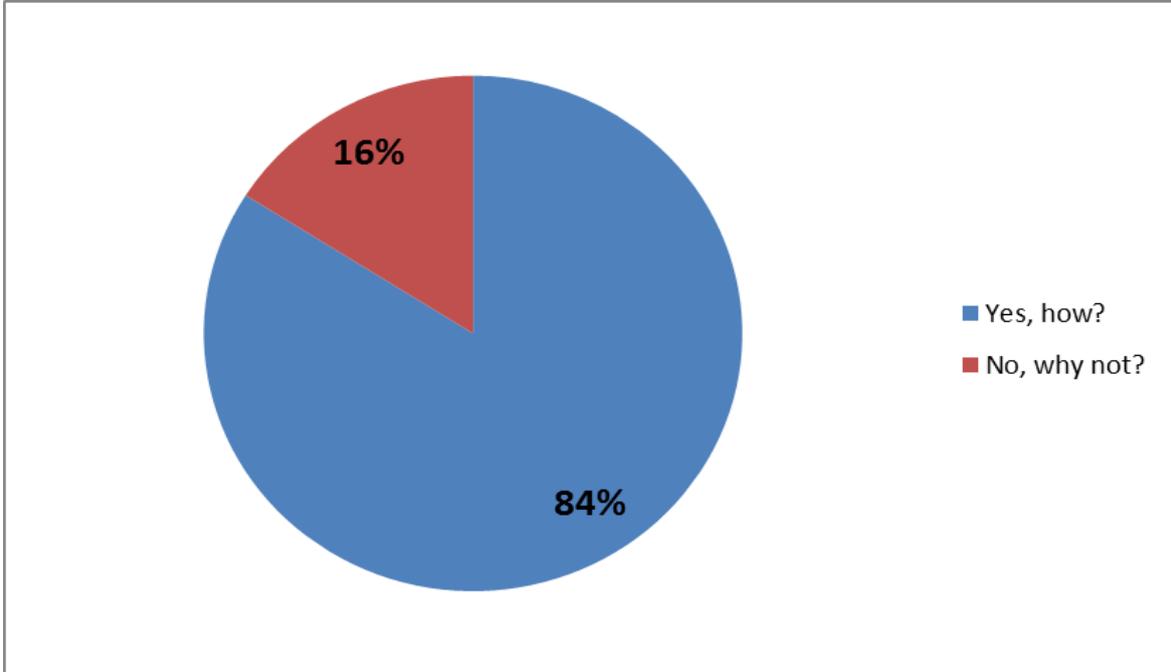
Q. 2. Did the Conference give you the opportunity to learn from the experiences and practices of governments and other stakeholders?



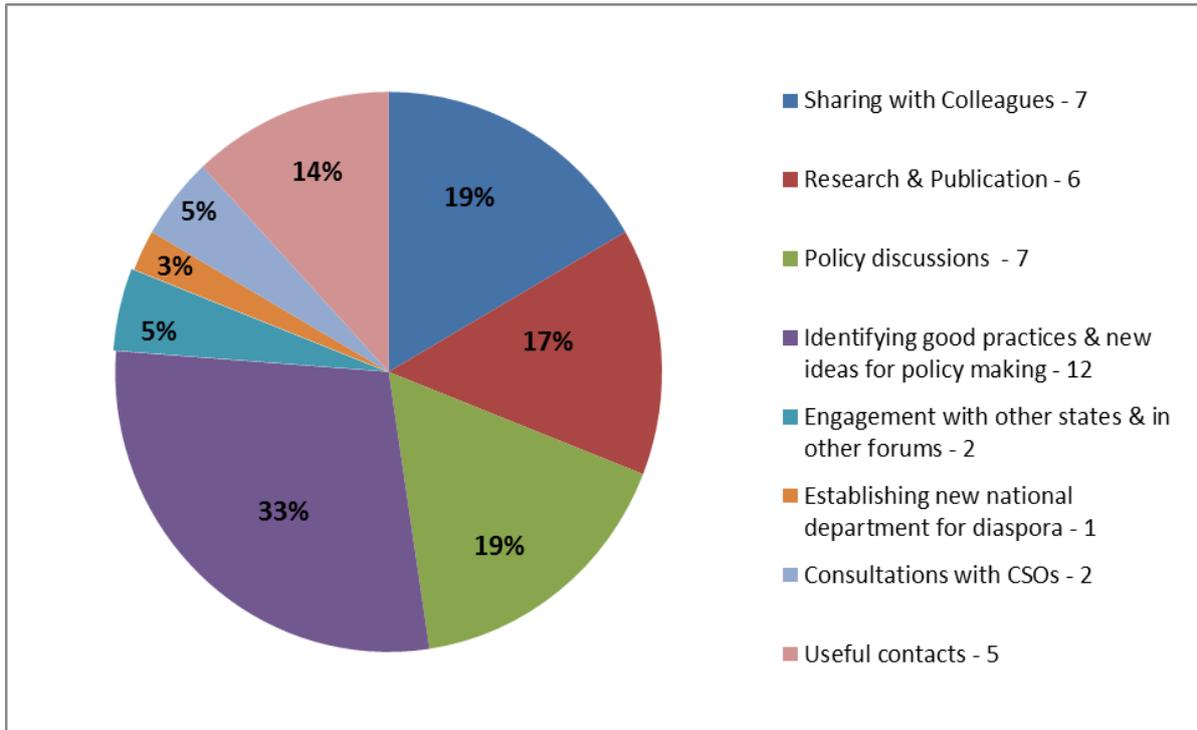
Q. 3. Did the Conference contribute to advancing your understanding of diaspora policies?



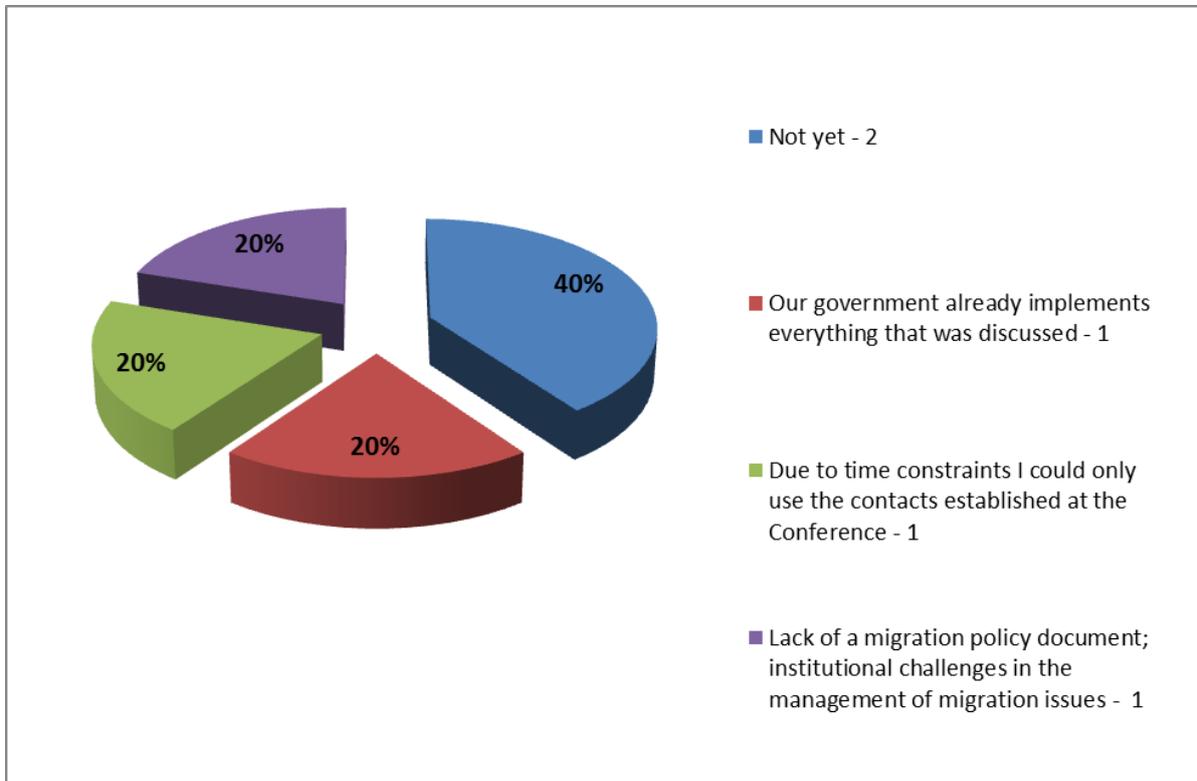
Q. 4. a. Have you used anything you learned at the Conference (e.g. the Conference materials and products, contacts made at the Conference, new ideas for policy or research) in your work in any way? Yes, how? No, why not?



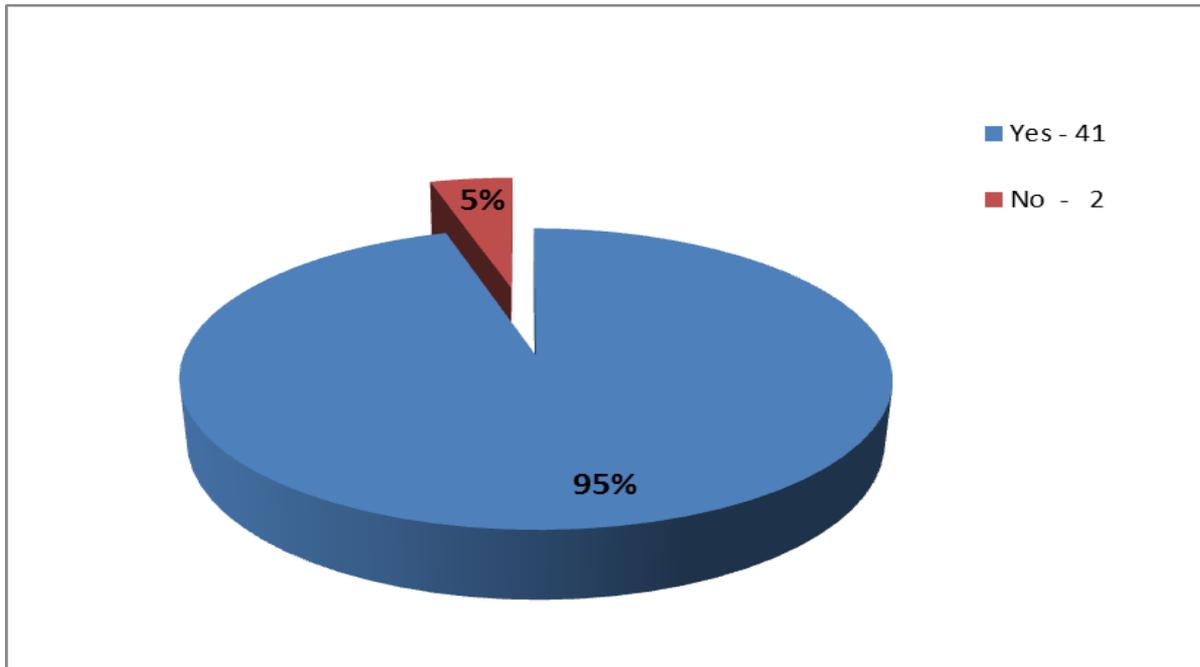
Breakdown of “Yes” responses:



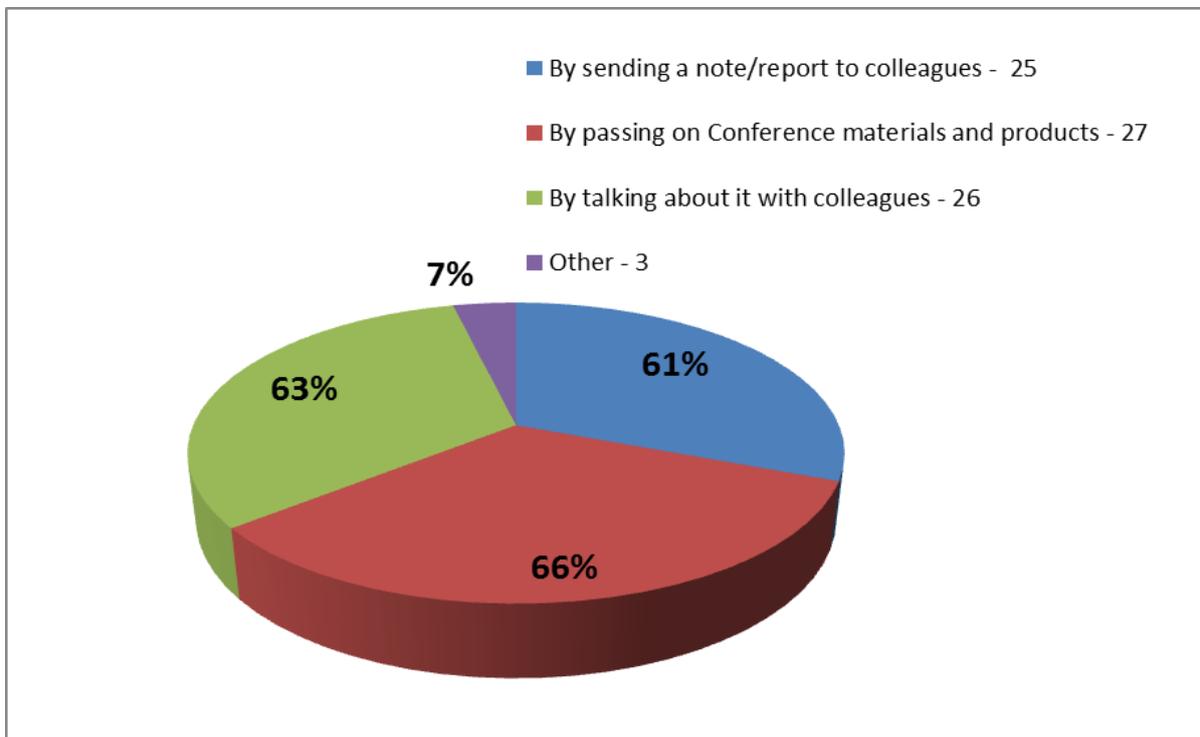
Breakdown of “No” responses:



Q. 4. b. Have you passed on anything learned at this conference to colleagues in your institution/government or to other counterparts?



Q. 4. c. In what way did you pass along information from the workshop to your colleagues?

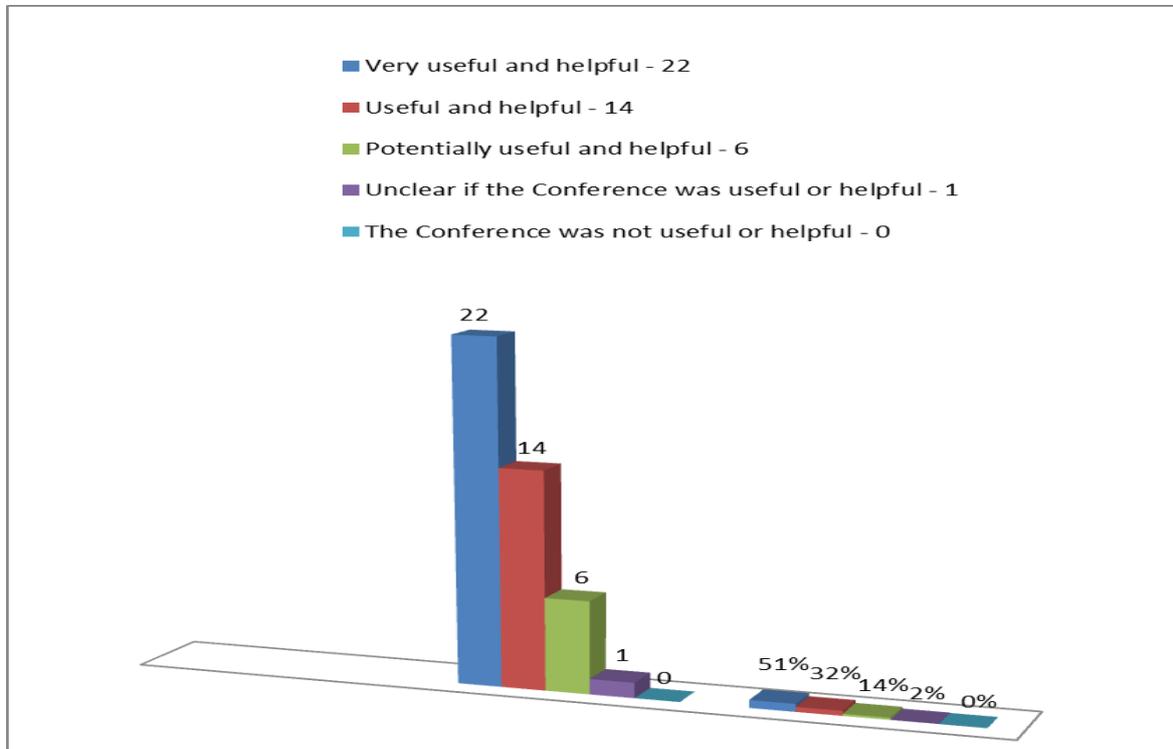


"Other" responses include the following:

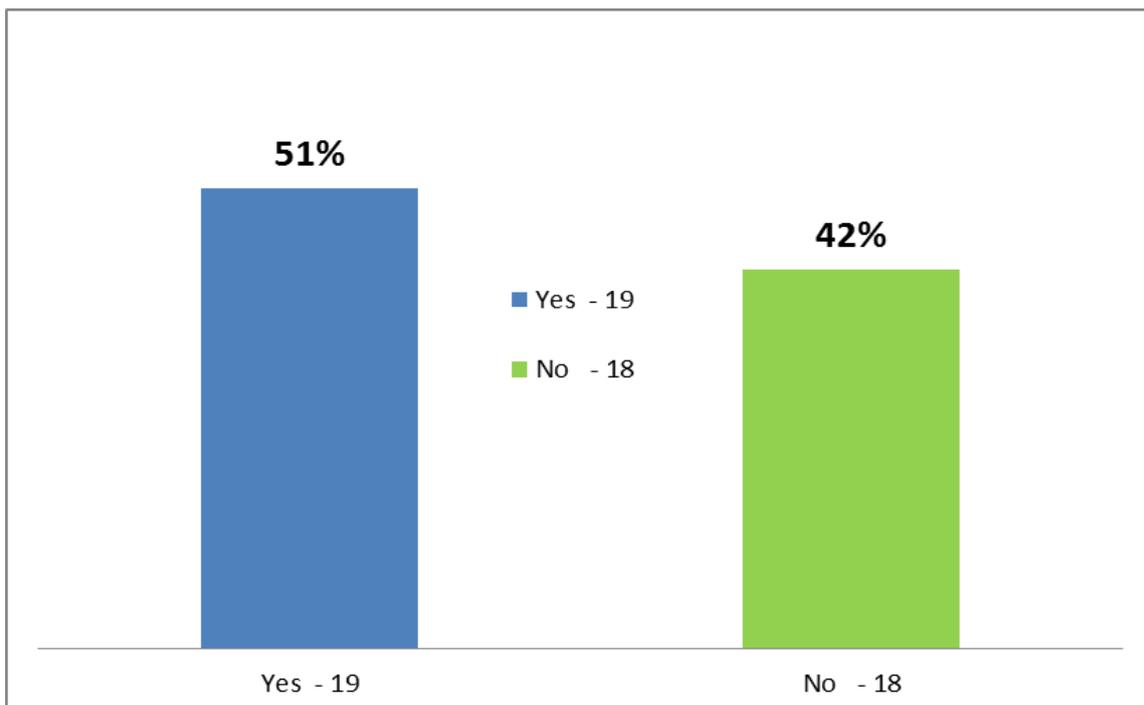
- "Participate in a meeting to present the Conference's "PowerPoint report""
- "By sharing information on social media"

- “Thanks to the experience acquired, the formulation of strategy to engage the Mozambican diaspora has started”

Q. 5. Overall, how would you rate the usefulness of this Conference and its related materials and products to your work?



Q. 6. Are there topics you would like to suggest for discussion at future conferences at ministerial level? If yes, please mention them.



The respondents who answered “Yes” to Question 6 suggested the following topics:

- “Reducing illegal migration procedures to preparing people to migration”
- “Best practices and lessons learned working and/or discussion groups. Ministerial statements are not always conducive for real discussion”
- “Role of Diaspora in Socio-Economic Development of Post-conflict Countries” (two respondents suggested this theme)
- “Making regional free movement regimes such as the Andean Pact, ASEAN, CARICOM, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, EEC, EU, MERCOSUR, IGAD, SAARC, SADC, and others work. This requires, however, political will on the part of member states, that ministers have key role in generating”
- “Migration in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda “
- “Capacity building for diaspora engagement using new technology in reaching out to the diasporas, setting up diaspora bonds and lessons learned from those countries who have issued diaspora bonds “
- “Human Rights and Migration; remittances, opportunities and challenges”
- “Human mobility and climate change; regularization; cooperation and return”
- “How to improve the reception of migrants; how to ensure a secure migration”
- “Integration of diasporas in national economies. The impact of migrants on development”
- “The participation of representatives of diaspora associations in these meetings is important, because it is the diasporas we should be listening to. Also there would be additional propositions to make in that respect, especially for the less prepared countries.”
- “European emigration and European diasporas”
- “The role that diasporas of the less developed or developing countries could play in raising awareness of the dangers of irregular migration by sea. How these diasporas can help their countrymen avoid the associated risks. Because they are indeed the examples of successful migration to encourage the youth, in search of a better life, to embark on risky adventures”
- “The integration of diasporas in the host countries”
- “I believe that in the future it would also be useful to engage with the representatives of diaspora associations, because you cannot speak about the diaspora without involving them”
- “Experience-sharing on national policy migration mainstreaming”
- “How to encourage diasporas to register with embassies in order to facilitate their mapping (for war-affected countries)”

Other Comments:

Participants were given the opportunity to provide open-ended comments on aspects of the Conference not addressed elsewhere in the survey. Comments were submitted by six respondents:

- “Despite the fact I enjoyed the conference and found it useful, I would have given preference to a more dynamic meeting. Most of the delegates read out prepared statements and the panel debates were quite lengthy. Also, it would have been interesting if the Western states had been more outspoken. Right now, most of them kept a low profile and it were mostly the African states who spoke about diaspora involvement, whereas I believe interaction is important.”
- “Thank you for the opportunity to attend and comment.”
- “I believe that if the conference is followed by a workshop for the senior officials who participated in the conference it would give them a chance to learn more on the topic.”
- “We continue to observe challenges of reception of migrants in the European countries, in particular severe human rights issues which should be appropriately addressed.”
- “Being interested in everything related to migration issues (towards a specialization in this area), I wish I could, in the future, participate in events organized by IOM or any other Organization.”
- “The drafting of the Conference report and conclusions took a lot of time”

Conclusion

The survey produced some inspiring results. The data suggests that participants found this type of event to be both useful and applicable to their work and that they are likely to share information gleaned from such a conference with their colleagues and partners. 93 per cent of respondents found that the Conference offered them the opportunity to learn from the experiences and practices of governments and other stakeholders and 95 per cent of respondents believed that the Conference contributed to advancing their understanding of diaspora policies. 95 per cent of respondents transmitted the information they learned to colleagues or other counterparts, and 84 per cent used the information they had acquired in their own work. 83 per cent of respondents found the Conference either “very useful and helpful” or “useful and helpful.” Finally, the significant percentage of respondents who indicated topics for future ministerial level IDM conferences suggests that delegates would like to attend such IDM meetings in the future.

Even though the survey produced, in numeric terms, a rather limited response rate of seven per cent, which may raise questions as to whether the responses supplied by the sample are indeed representative, the results are encouraging and suggest that the ministerial level-type of IDM meeting is of value to delegates. Respondents underscored the usefulness of the Conference and its relevance to their daily work, which is one of the main objectives of the IDM.

It must be remembered, nevertheless, that as the Conference attendees were invited to participate in the questionnaire on a voluntary basis, they were quite free to complete it or not, their choice being dependent on a number of reasons. These concerns are compounded

by the survey methodology, which utilized self-response and as a result is vulnerable to selection bias.

As has been done for the IDM regular intersessional workshops, IOM will continue evaluating the ministerial-type events in the form of feedback from attendees, in combination with monitoring mechanisms and other input, primarily through informal consultations on the IDM with the IOM membership in Geneva and via on-the-spot surveys distributed at the Conference itself. This would enable IOM to continue monitoring the relevance of the events and delegate satisfaction and to assess response trends over time. Future surveys will seek to encourage a more robust response rate to reinforce confidence in the results of IDM Ministerial Conferences. The limited number of responses received for the survey of the first ministerial-level IDM meeting suggests that additional measures may be required to elicit greater survey participation.