



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

International Dialogue on Migration 2019

Youth and migration: Engaging youth as key partners in migration governance

The International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) is IOM's multi-stakeholder forum for migration policy dialogue. During the IDM sessions held in 2018 in New York and Geneva, representatives of governments, cities, international organizations, and youth and diaspora called for building the capacity of youth and for greater engagement with youth in migration governance efforts. Today, there are more young people in the world than ever, 1.8 billion¹, the largest generation in history. Of the 258 million international migrants, approximately 11 percent of them were below 24 years of age in 2017². The propensity to migrate tends to be highest among young people³. Young people have also a key role in policy discussions, rising up worldwide for their rights and better opportunities and demanding a seat at the table in decision-making processes.

The United Nations Youth Strategy⁴ recognizes the potential of the youth to advance progress in many policy areas, considering young people's first-hand experience. IOM has been actively working with and on youth and migration issues, including through the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth and Development (IANYD).

While the role of youth has been discussed from various specific perspectives, the IDM will provide a global multi-stakeholder platform for a more holistic, inclusive and diverse discussion engaging youth with policy and decision-makers and relevant international, regional and national actors, as well as with businesses, scholars and diaspora groups.

The dialogue will be in line with ongoing global processes and will support the United Nations' overall efforts to amplify youth voices and promote their involvement in global migration debates. It will also inform national migration and youth strategies and promote the contribution youth can make to migration governance. The objective of IDM 2019 will be in line with the United Nations Youth Strategy, especially priority 1: Engagement, Participation and Advocacy. It will contribute to collective efforts on

¹Between ages 10 and 24 according to UNFPA, 2017.

² UN DESA, Population Division (2017). Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2017) , available at:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates17.shtml>

³ UN DESA, Population Division (2011). International Migration in a Globalizing World: The Role of Youth. Technical paper 2011/1, available at:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/technicalpapers/docs/TP2011-1.pdf>

⁴ Available at: https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf

enhancing migration governance, and policy frameworks and fostering greater cooperation and partnerships, and networks for future action.

The 2019 series of IDM discussions will foster exchanges on all areas relevant to youth and migration, including, but not limited to the following:

- Global strategies and partnerships on youth on the move
- Involvement of young people, especially youth migrants, in migration policy and decision-making processes at global, national and local level
- Adaptation and resilience among youth migrants
- Youth as agents of integration and social cohesion
- Youth as actors of development: promoting their contribution to empowering communities in countries of origin and destination
- Youth migration in the context of the new era of technology.

Two separate IDM sessions will be convened in 2019, one in New York on 28 February 2019 and one in Geneva on 15 and 16 October 2019. The February session is organized in consultation with the Office of the President of the United Nations General Assembly (PGA) and with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to complement the high-level event on international migration and development, convened by the President of the General Assembly for 27 February 2019, and the Symposium on international migration and development organized by DESA, on 26 February 2019.

In line with the practice for IDMs, IOM will invite all concerned parties including youth national delegates, migrant youth, high-level government representatives, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations, working on youth and migration issues, to contribute their views, best practices and recommendations on youth empowerment and engagement on migration aspects.

The expected outcome of the discussions will consist of good practices, lessons learned and recommendations that governments and other partners can employ in designing appropriate policies to manage youth migration and youth engagement in sustainable development strategies. The results and recommendations will be captured in the IDM Red Book which will be made available to all contributors and participants and beyond, to UN Member States, youth organizations, UN organizations, NGOs and other actors worldwide. The IDM discussions will equally convey the key learnings, best practices and challenges to the UN Envoy on Youth and contribute to the overall UN effort towards youth, migration and development issues.