



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

28 February 2019, Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Provisional Agenda
(27/02/2019)

10:00 – 10:30 – Opening Session

- Keynote address by **Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**, President of the 73rd General Assembly
- Opening remarks by **Mr. António Vitorino**, Director General of IOM
- Keynote address by **Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake**, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

10:30 – 11:30 – Panel 1: Understanding youth migration: beyond facts and figures

This session will look at the global picture of youth mobility and take an analytical look at numbers and trends with a focus on their impact on international migration and demographics worldwide. It will discuss key issues affecting youth in countries of destination, transit and origin.

Moderator: **Ms. Roxanne Tajbakhsh**, Global Focal Point on migration, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth

Speakers:

- **Ms. Daniela Bas**, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN DESA
- **Mr. Ted Chaiban**, Director, Programmes, UNICEF
- **Ms. Iliana G Perez**, Director of Research and Entrepreneurship at Immigrant Rising

The following questions are proposed to guide the discussion in this panel:

- What is the situation of young migrants worldwide? What do we know about youth migration and what elements are we missing to have a comprehensive image of this trend and its implications for the demographics, society, and socio-economic development?
- Beyond the 11% of international migrants identified as youth, what distinguishes youth migrants from non-youth migrants?
- How can youth migrants benefit from youth-specific policies?
- The lack of timely and accurate gender and age-disaggregated data on young migrants is a serious impediment to effectively addressing the development challenges of young migrants. How can the availability and accuracy of this type of data be improved to develop and increase good

programming to fund projects that target youth? How can the participation of the targeted youth population be increased in the data collection and analysis exercise?

- What is the global perception of youth migration and its impact? Does the perception differ across gender?
- What are the key drivers of migration that particularly influence and shape migration of young persons? Do young people have sufficient information before making their migration choices?

11:30 – 13:00 – Panel 2: Addressing specific challenges and vulnerabilities of young people: what role, which partners?

Poverty, unemployment or precarious and informal work, conflict and complex humanitarian situations, human rights violations, migration status, political contexts in destination and origin countries, are all among the factors that can create significant challenges for young people. The session will shed light on aspects of youth migration that require attention from policy makers and will examine vulnerabilities that reduce the achievement of full potential of young migrants, as well as discuss solutions and strategies to address these.

Moderator: **Ms. Julia Blocher**, President of the International Youth Federation, Migration Researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Speakers:

- **Mr. Mohamed Bangura**, Minister of Youth Affairs, Sierra Leone
- **Mr. Shahidul Haque**, Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh
- **Mr. Felipe González Morales**, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants
- **Ms. Alexis Nadine Bautista**, Programme Officer at Migrant Forum in Asia

The following questions are proposed to guide the discussion in this panel:

- What mechanisms/frameworks are in place to assess and respond to the vulnerabilities specific to young migrants? For example, in the context of employment, what strategies are there to secure just work opportunities for marginalized youth including young women, young migrants, those living in humanitarian settings, youth with disabilities?
- What role should each stakeholder take in remedying the identified specific challenges and vulnerabilities of young people? What role can each stakeholder take in preventing discrimination against young migrants? Are there any specific steps that can be taken to reduce the vulnerability of young female migrants?
- Could you give examples of approaches and best practices that focus on supporting youth participation and youth aspirations in order to increase their resilience to challenges and vulnerabilities they face (before and during migration)?
- How can relevant stakeholders – governments of countries of destination and origin, civil society and international organizations – increase their understanding of young migrants' challenges and vulnerabilities and improve their response and targeted funding?
- Considering that challenges and vulnerabilities specific to young migrants require a comprehensive set of actions and actors, how can we work together across different stakeholders to best reach the most vulnerable populations in the most efficient manner?

13:00-15:00 – Break

**Side event: Youth Leadership in 21st Century Migration Governance
UN HQ conference room 12, 13:15-14:45**

15:00 – 16:30 – Panel 3: Empowering youth to become actors of change

This session will discuss Member States and other partners' efforts to create enabling environments for youth to unleash and harness the innovation, creativity and contribution they can bring to the society and policy processes. Discussion will focus on education, entrepreneurship, and skilled migration. This session could also include migration and technology, particularly as it relates to social media, education/critical thinking and the tech community. The engagement and participation of youth in policy processes, networks and partnerships involving youth at local, national, regional and global levels, examples of young people initiatives actively realizing opportunities for change, will be discussed as well.

Moderator: **Ms. Tolu O. Olubunmi**, Communications Advisor, Department of Global Communications, United Nations

Speakers:

- **Mr. Santiago Javier Chavez Pareja**, Vice Minister for Human Mobility of Ecuador, Chair of the GFMD 2019
- **Mr. Nathaniel Erskine-Smith**, Member of the Parliament, Canada
- **Ms. Aya Chebbi**, African Union Youth Envoy
- **Mr. Binod Khadria**, Professor of Economics and Education, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

The following questions are proposed to guide the discussion in this panel:

- What does it mean to meaningfully 'engage' youth?
- Which successful examples exist for involving young migrants' inclusion in the creation on national and regional policies?
- What are the areas that most require governments and partners' action to promote youth empowerment and civic engagement? What are some examples of successful practices that have led to increased youth empowerment?
- Considering that employment is one of the main ways to empower youth, what employment strategies are there to secure work that allows youth migrants to use their full potential?
- How does technology play a role in enabling young migrants, improving the narrative on migration, and what are also some of the challenges that technology could pose for young people?
- How can we facilitate the participation of young people in existing policy forums, partnerships and platforms in the UN system? Are there any pre-existing global and/or regional level initiative that can be built upon?
- How can we better build capacity in young people around the world and in Global South particularly? Can specific steps be taken for the capacity-building of young female migrants?

16:30 – 17:50 - Panel 4: Mainstreaming youth migration into development policies: recommendations for the way forward

The role of young migrants in engaging with the local and national government is critical for informing, designing and delivering equitable and inclusive policies and programmes that promote good migration management and advance sustainable development goals. Youth engagement in public-private partnerships is also equally relevant for the promotion of good migration management. The session will highlight the advantages of including youth, young diaspora groups and their perspectives and contributions in policy making processes, both in their countries of origin and host societies, at the national and local level.

Moderator: **Ms. Laura Thompson**, Deputy Director General of IOM

Speakers:

- **Mr. José Vicente Santini**, Deputy Chief, Chief of Staff's Office at the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil
- **Mr. Leo Johnson**, Executive Director, Empowerment Squared, Member of the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council, Canada
- **Ms. Alexandra Délano Alonso**, Associate Professor and Chair of Global Studies, New School
- **Ms. Chrisann Jarrett**, Founder of Let Us Learn, UK

The following questions are proposed to guide the discussion:

- What mechanisms exist at the local and national level that facilitate young migrants' inclusions in the design of policies and strategies?
- How to best integrate the needs of young migrants into policy consideration at the local, regional, national and international levels?
- How can youth contribute to development in both their countries of origin and destination? How can technology be better used to assist them in this endeavour?
- What are the key messages and guidance that should be prioritized from your side to address challenges regarding mainstreaming migration into development policies, especially focusing on youth?

17:50 – 18:00 – Closing Session

- Closing remarks by **Ms. Laura Thompson**, Deputy Director General of IOM

*For queries on the event please contact idsworkshop@iom.int and asamri@iom.int .