



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

International Dialogue on Migration 2020

COVID-19 crisis: reimagining the role of migrants and human mobility for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

15 and 16 October 2020, Geneva

This year, the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) will host its 20th edition. Since 2001, IDM has provided a multitude of stakeholders worldwide with a platform for timely debates on a full range of migration issues, while retaining strong linkages with other overlapping policy domains.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought enormous challenges to the global health, social, political and economic systems and will have immediate consequences on the attainment of many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Cognizant of the need for strengthened international commitment and cooperation to respond to these pressing challenges, the IDM will convene whole societies, public, private and civic sectors to promote discussions on the implications of the pandemic for migrants, migration and mobility as well as migrants' role in COVID-19 response and recovery. The discussions will support global efforts to address the immediate challenges and expected longer-term impacts of the pandemic on the society, migrants and vulnerable populations worldwide, and identify opportunities to shape our responses in line with the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

The 20th edition of the IDM coincides with the launch of the UN Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs as well as with the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In working together to identify measures to respond to the pandemic, it is important that governments and the wider international community seize this crisis as an opportunity to continue their commitment to achieve the SDGs and use their implementation as a means to create more resilient societies and to better respond to future crises. In keeping consistent with previous IDM discussions on the follow-up and review of the migration related SDGs, the IDM 2020 will advance greater cooperation and achievement of SDGs in the post-pandemic era.

The session aims to explore and provide a platform for an exchange on topics identified to be of relevance for Member States as well as priority areas in IOM's response in the context of the COVID-19.

The following themes are proposed to guide the discussion:

- The role of safe, coordinated and inclusive human mobility in COVID-19 recovery;

- Protection of vulnerable migrants during and beyond COVID-19;
- The role of women in COVID-19 response and recovery;
- Enhancing migrants' agency and contribution to the achievement of the SDGs; and
- Social cohesion and community resilience: countering discrimination and xenophobia towards migrants.

Moreover, participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences and proposals on the applicability of the GCM in the COVID-19 response and recovery, as well as to formulate recommendations regarding GCM implementation, in light of the ongoing regional and global review processes. The discussion will also represent a follow-up to -- and will build upon -- IDM sessions in 2017 and 2018 dedicated to supporting States' efforts in developing the GCM.

On the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the IDM aims to continue fostering greater cooperation, partnerships, and networks for future action among all relevant actors. The expected outcome of this session will consist of good practices, lessons learned and recommendations that governments and other stakeholders can employ in designing coordinated and migrants and human mobility inclusive policies in planning the response to the pandemic and socio-economic recovery efforts. The results and recommendations will be published in the IDM Red Book¹, which will be made available to all contributors and participants, Member States and partners, but also be fed into ongoing processes and discussions held across the UN system.

For a selection of resources related to the topic, please consult the list below:

<https://publications.iom.int/books/covid-19-and-transformation-migration-and-mobility-globally-time-re-set-implications-child>

<https://publications.iom.int/books/covid-19-and-women-migrant-workers-impacts-and-implications>

<https://publications.iom.int/books/covid-19-impacts-labour-migration-and-mobility-young-women-and-girls-south-east-asia-and>

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19_analytical_snapshot_25_-_gender.pdf

<https://publications.iom.int/books/covid-19-and-transformation-migration-and-mobility-globally-covid-19-and-women-migrant-workers>

<https://www.iom.int/migration-research/covid-19-analytical-snapshot>

<https://publications.iom.int/books/mrs-no-60-migrants-and-covid-19-pandemic-initial-analysis>

<https://publications.iom.int/books/mrs-no-63-repatriating-filipino-migrant-workers-time-pandemic>

<https://publications.iom.int/books/mrs-no-64-immobility-ultimate-migration-disrupter>

¹ You can consult the IDM Red Book series at: https://publications.iom.int/search-books?keyword=&category=473&subject=All&book_lang=1&country=All&year=All