



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

Final Agenda

Day 1	
10:00-10:15	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks by António Vitorino, Director General, IOM
10:15 – 11:15	<p>Panel 1: Safe, coordinated and inclusive human mobility is key to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>Human mobility can be part of the solution to the economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic if the movement of people takes place in a safe, coordinated and inclusive manner. As noted in the United Nations Secretary-General’s policy brief on COVID-19 and People on the Move, the COVID-19 crisis presents the international community with an opportunity to rethink human mobility for the benefit of all and to recover better through the socioeconomic inclusion of people on the move, making use of their skills and positive contributions to societies. According to the Secretary-General, there are four principles to advancing safe and inclusive human mobility during and after the pandemic: a) exclusion is costly in the long run whereas inclusion pays off for everyone; b) responding to the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the human rights of people on the move are not mutually exclusive; c) no-one is safe until everyone is safe; and d) people on the move are part of the solution. This session will provide an opportunity to exchange views on the implications for and the future of migrants and human mobility during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>Moderator: Aissata Kane, Senior Regional Adviser for Sub-Saharan Africa, IOM</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malek Deng Dau Deng, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, South Sudan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cláudia Pereira, Secretary of State for Integration and Migration, Portugal • Stefano Sannino, Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Issues at the European External Action Service of the European Union • Ahmed M Saleheen, Secretary of the Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment, Bangladesh
<p>11:15 – 13:00</p>	<p>Panel 2: Protection of vulnerable migrants during and beyond the COVID-19 crisis</p> <p>Overcoming the current global health crisis requires migrants and other people on the move to be included in the overall COVID-19 responses, with a special attention to those populations that are marginalized or in situations of vulnerability and exploitation. The direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic appear to be exacerbated for migrants, especially for women, young girls and children, and further amplified in contexts of fragility, conflict and emergencies¹. Migrant children may find themselves in a situation of double vulnerability during the pandemic, as children and migrants. The situation of vulnerability is further exacerbated in the case of migrant children who are unaccompanied and/or separated from their parents and relatives and thus lack protection.² Previous sessions of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) have highlighted the need to protect and empower vulnerable migrant populations, particularly women, children and victims of trafficking and smuggling, and highlighted the disadvantages and multiple forms of marginalization that these categories of migrants may face, calling for specific actions to ensure their protection. Gender differences need to be factored into emergency responses. A discussion on this topic will also give due emphasis to the situation of stranded migrants around the world and displaced persons in need of assistance who are in often precarious situations. The impact of the pandemic has demonstrated that no one can be safe until we are all safe. Only through an inclusive approach – truly leaving no-one behind – can the safety and well-being of all be achieved.</p> <p>Moderator: Yitna Getachew, Head, Migrant Protection and Assistance, IOM</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Arriola, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs, the Philippines • Jean Ayoub, CEO and Secretary General, International Social Service - General Secretariat • Nick Grono, CEO Freedom Fund, UK • André Silva, Coordinator Migrant Smuggling Unit, INTERPOL • Isabela Atanasiu, Legal Officer, DG Migration and Home Affairs, Asylum, European Commission • Trang Hong Vu, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, Co-founder of STEPFORWARD education, Vietnam

¹ IOM, Migrants and the COVID-19 pandemic: An initial analysis. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs-60.pdf>

² IOM, COVID-19 Analytical Snapshot #17: Impacts on migrant children and youth. Available at: https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19_analytical_snapshot_17_impacts_on_migrant_children_and_youth_0.pdf

13:00 – 15:00	Break
15:00 – 17:00	<p>Panel 3: Enhancing migrants’ agency and contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>The pandemic not only endangers the prospects of advancing implementation of the objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but also threatens to reverse the progress achieved so far and further exacerbate existing challenges and vulnerabilities across every area. 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 reiterate their commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and use their implementation as a means to create more resilient societies and to ensure that they can better respond to future crises. In keeping with previous IDM discussions on the follow-up and review of the migration related Sustainable Development Goals, this session aims to foster greater cooperation and develop networks for future action on migration governance and achievement of Goals in the post-pandemic era. Ministers’ recommendations at the IDM 2013 highlighted the potential of diasporas to help reinvigorate and fuel social and economic development in the post-crisis environment and called for greater engagement with and empowerment of diasporas. Similarly, the IDM 2017 underlined the positive impact of remittances for countries of origin, with contributions of migrants going well beyond remittances, also including knowledge and skills transfer, entrepreneurship and innovation, trade and investment, as well as important social, cultural and other contributions. During the recovery from the impacts of the pandemic, migrants’ contributions will be essential for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, it is important to also look at how the economic contributions of migrants and diasporas are affected by the pandemic and at how they could be safeguarded in the future. This session will address, among others, remittance costs, safer remittances, financial literacy, alternative work and entrepreneurship opportunities, reskilling, and transnational elements of migrant workers.</p> <p>Moderator: Bettina Etter, Senior Advisor on Global Migration Governance, Switzerland</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viorica Dumbraveanu, Minister of Health, Labor, and Social Protection, Moldova • Pauline Tamesis, UN Resident Coordinator in Cambodia • Felipe Munoz, Chief of the Migration Unit, Social Sector, Interamerican Development Bank • Boubou Camara, Support Pillar Manager- COVID-19, WHO

Day 2	
10:00 – 12:00	<p>Panel 4: The role of women in the COVID-19 response and recovery</p> <p>Building on previous discussions on empowering women and girls, this panel discussion will explore the challenges faced by girls and women due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the increase in domestic violence and situations of risk for domestic workers³, and will aim to identify measures for both immediate responses and longer-term recovery efforts. In addition, women are not only vulnerable, but have also been the driving force behind the health efforts worldwide, as many of the health workers and other personnel taking care of sick people are migrant women. Now more than ever, the important role that women are playing in the response and recovery – not only as front-line health-care workers, but also other essential workers, such as those working at home, in grocery stores, as cleaners and teachers, et cetera – needs to be emphasized. This panel will also be an occasion to present the conclusions and recommendations of a side event organized ahead of the IDM by IOM, United Nations partners and Member States on the importance of ensuring universal health coverage for all migrant women and girls.</p> <p>Moderator: Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, IOM</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maya Morsy, President of National Council for Women in Egypt • Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director General, WHO • Christine Loew, Director UN Women Liaison Office in Geneva • María Corina Muskus Toro, UN Major Group for Children and Youth, Co-founder, and Director of Venezolanas Globales
12:00-13:00	<p>Migrants' Stories</p> <p><i>Communication response to COVID-19: Tackling misinformation, xenophobia and building network of trusted messengers</i></p> <p>Speaker: Chylian Azuh, Writer and public speaker, Founder of 'Female Returnee Forum', Nigeria</p> <p><i>Innovation, digital development and youth leadership in COVID-19 response</i></p> <p>Speakers: Beyleh Daher, Manager of Creative Spaces, Djibouti Houssein Mohammed, Senior Project Assistant, IOM Djibouti</p>
13:00-15:00	Break

³ IOM, COVID-19 and women migrant workers: Impacts and Implications. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/the-gender-dimensions-of-the-labour-migration.pdf>

15:00 – 16:15	<p>Panel 5: Social cohesion and community resilience: countering discrimination and xenophobia against migrants</p>
	<p>Participants at previous IDM discussions recommended that the migration narrative should be reframed in positive terms, in order to curtail racism and xenophobia and to champion the merits of migration. In the context of COVID-19 outbreak, racist and xenophobic incidents have been widespread⁴ and it is feared that – against a background of social tensions created by economic downturn – cases of xenophobia will further increase. It is therefore important that the fight against xenophobia continue and that it is included in economic and social recovery efforts, recognizing the rich contributions of migrants the world over, which will also be essential in the post-pandemic phase. Moreover, as also highlighted at the IDM 2015 High-level Conference on Migrants and Cities, the particular needs and vulnerabilities of migrants in times of crisis need to be specifically addressed in urban emergency planning and responses. This session will respond to participants’ calls for IOM to use its convening power through the IDM to hold future conferences with local officials to discuss the different situations faced by low- and high-income cities and cities with more or less experience in managing migration, including in crisis situations. Furthermore, given IOM’s membership of the Mayors Mechanism, and its engagement with authorities at local level and partners, the panel will also consider the need for migrant-sensitive local health systems.</p>
	<p>Moderator: Leonard Doyle, Spokesperson, Head, Media and Communication, IOM</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Linder, Director General, International and Intergovernmental Affairs, Canada • Ulvi Aliyev, Chief of International Cooperation Department of the State Migration Service, Azerbaijan • Robinson Sathekge, Head of Migration Unit, City of Johannesburg, South Africa • Monica Trigos Padilla, North America Regional Focal Point and Shaping Narratives Lead of the Migration Group, UN Major Group for Children and Youth
16:15 – 17:45	<p>Panel 6: Applying the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts</p>
	<p>The 23 objectives, commitments and subsequent actions – considered by Member States to be relevant policy instruments and best practices – outlined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration provide governments and other actors with a practical framework to help craft inclusive COVID-19 preparedness, prevention, response and recovery measures that protect migrants’ rights and leverage migrants’ positive contributions to sustainable development. This panel discussion aims to provide Member States and other stakeholders with an opportunity to share their experiences and proposals in drawing on the Global Compact in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. The United Nations Network on Migration policy brief, entitled The Global Compact for Migration (GCM): Well Governed Migration as an Essential Element of Effective COVID-19 Response, will also be presented during this panel discussion. This policy brief analyses the impact of COVID-19 on human mobility and suggests how the Global Compact can be</p>

⁴ IOM, Migrants and the COVID-19 pandemic: An initial analysis. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs-60.pdf>

	<p>leveraged for effective COVID-19 response and recovery by offering policy recommendations. It also showcases concrete examples of positive COVID-19 initiatives and responses enacted by Member States around the globe.</p> <p>Moderator: Maurizio Busatti, Head, Multilateral Processes Division, IOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Cécile Riallant, Head, Migration and Sustainable Development, IOM and David Khoudour, Human Mobility Advisor, UNDP <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honourable Mohammed Adjei Sowah, Mayor of Accra • The Honourable Mohamed Sadiki, Mayor of Rabat • Flores Liera Socorro, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva • Rui Macieira, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations in Geneva • Christian Wolff, Programme Manager, Migration and Displacement, ACT Alliance
<p>17:45– 18:00</p>	<p>Closing session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks by Eugenio Ambrosi, Chief of Staff, IOM