



International Migrants Day

International Migrants Day aims to raise awareness about the challenges and difficulties of international migration. Observed every December 18, this day marks the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CRMW). The United Nations through the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) uses this day to highlight the contributions made by migrants and the challenges that they face. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), an international migrant is “any person who changes his or her country of usual residence”. People migrate in search of work or economic opportunities, to join families, or to study. Others move to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism, or human rights violations. Recently, the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters, and other environmental factors are reasons for migration. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs estimated that in 2019, the number of migrants globally reached an estimated 272 million, 51 million more than in 2010. While most migrants moved out of choice, about 26 percent of all migrants were forcibly displaced. Although there is no global understanding of how to manage migration, great strides have been achieved in negotiating a global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration. This is necessary as an intergovernmental process is paramount for socio-economic development and leaving no one behind.

International Migration and Sustainable Development

- Migration negatively impacts development if it is governed poorly. The inclusion of migrants into the economic, social, and cultural lives of the societies to which they migrate, can help improve the economic standards of migrants and reduce discrimination in protecting their fundamental human rights.
- Highly securitized borders and the increasing use of private migration management agencies at borders are leading to inhumane strategies of governing migration. States should recoup their responsibilities and protect human rights to support the 2030 Agenda.
- Initiatives by the United Nations such as "Making Migration Work" has refocused migration to highlight its contribution to global development and to poverty alleviation.
- Migration is inevitable and will work to everyone's benefit if a greater commitment is shown to eliminating all forms of exploitation and discrimination that migrants experience.
- Global collaborations and sharing of migration-related research can influence policymakers and civil society organizations to put migration at the heart of research and policy agendas.

Global Initiatives to Address all Dimensions of Migration:

- New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: [Learn more](#)
- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration: [Learn more](#)
- Protection and sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees along the Central Mediterranean route: [Learn more](#)