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International Organization for Migration Messages on Youth, Human Mobility, Climate Change - COY 18 | COP 28

#YouthForClimateMigration

The youth of today are the policymakers of tomorrow

IOM understands the links between [migration, environment, climate change and disasters](#) through the lens of human security and is committed to put vulnerable people at the centre of its responses. When well managed migration becomes a **safe and accessible choice**, it can help people, **including youth**, adapt to environmental and climate change. Youth need to have the choice of decision if migrating or staying in dignity and safety in their areas of origin. Migration can offer young people new opportunities and the chance to use it **as a strategy to adapt** to the changing climate.

IOM acknowledges youth as key partners. Connected to each other like never before, [young people today](#) live in a world of unlimited potential, where they constitute a tremendous and essential asset worth investing in, opening the door to an unparalleled multiplier effect. When young people are empowered and prepared, they can use their boundless energy, unwavering optimism, innovative solutions and talent to turn an uncertain landscape into a world of opportunities.

At the occasion of **COY18 and the COP28 Youth Day**, IOM calls on Parties, stakeholders and youth representatives to:

1. Acknowledge, promote and enable **the role of youth in climate action**, as the generation which will bear the brunt of climate impacts, by integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in school curricula vocational training, including emergency preparedness, early warning measures and evacuation protocols; and by **building on the indigenous youth knowledge and practices** to guide local responses that are adapted to cultural needs.
2. Enhance **meaningful youth engagement** (including young women, indigenous youth, young people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ community, marginalized youth and youth from affected communities, ethnic minorities, young migrants, displaced persons, refugees and diaspora) **as an integral part of the response to human mobility in the context of climate change**. To achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, commitments should go beyond youth participation and ensure an inclusive mobilization of the whole society in decision making processes and proactive engagement in advocacy and policy-making efforts, equally from local to global level, related to climate change and human mobility.

3. **Facilitate youth green employment and entrepreneurship** opportunities, **support youth engagement** through innovation, technology, ideation, creativity and **foster skills mobility partnership for youth** by addressing the changes related to skills as a way to respond to future labour market needs and to accelerate efforts towards greener economies and just transition. This includes integrating young people and indigenous youth community groups considerations in **urban development planning processes and policies**, for young people migrating from rural climate affected areas to fast growing cities to be considered for employment, access to housing and basic services.
4. Fully recognize, consider and explore **the specific vulnerabilities of young migrants** in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, both in policy-making and in operational response. There is no one size fits all approach. Young migrants face specific and disproportionate challenges, such as physical harm, exposure to violence, abuse, risk of trafficking, disruptions in food supply or access to education and basic services, during their migration or displacement experience, and in the context of a disaster. Upholding the rights of migrants will reduce the risks they face that prevent them from enjoying their human rights. Their needs must be considered across the humanitarian-development-peace-climate nexus and youth engagement needs to be scaled up from local to global level.
5. **For Young People**, to **act locally** and **scale up globally** in addressing their needs in the context of migration, environment, climate change and disasters. For **youth diaspora**, to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on human mobility, build support through intercultural communication and cooperation, and get involved in sustainable development and assistance in countries of origin to advance climate action.