

IOM COP29 Youth Delegates on Climate Migration Selection Process



Introduction

The **Conference of the Parties (COP)** is the decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). COP is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Convention and provides a platform for civil society, including youth, to engage with the Parties and to advocate for their interests and concerns. COP29, as the [29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC](#), is hosted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, from **11 to 22 November 2024**, in the capital of the country, Baku.

Climate change impacts millions of people globally every year and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable ones, including significant numbers of young and marginalized communities. In 2023, there were [over 26 million internal displacements](#), and without concrete action today, climate change could compel [216 million to migrate internally by 2050](#). Among these staggering numbers, there is yet no clear picture of how many children and young people are on the move in the context of climate change. Children and young people are often invisible in the data and policies on climate change and migration, despite being disproportionately impacted.

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, as the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, recognizes the [linkages between migration and climate change](#), and advocates for the protection and empowerment of migrants and displaced persons affected by environmental and climatic factors. When well managed migration becomes a safe and accessible choice, it can help people adapt to environmental and climate change pressures.

In this context, **IOM** is launching the **IOM COP29 Youth Delegates on Climate Migration initiative**. The initiative aims to provide an opportunity for young people to learn from and contribute to the global discussions and negotiations on climate change and migration, and to foster their capacities and networks as agents of change. The initiative invites young people to apply and participate as an integral part of IOM's engagement in COP29 that will take place in person for the duration of COP29.

Young people interested in being part of IOM COP29 Youth Delegates on Climate Migration initiative are invited to submit their application form available [at this link](#) by **20 August 2024**.

IOM is committed to promoting the participation and leadership of young people in addressing the challenges and opportunities of migration and climate change. IOM believes that youth have a vital role to play in shaping the global agenda and in implementing innovative and sustainable solutions at the local, national, and international levels. IOM also acknowledges the diversity and intersectionality of youth and strives to ensure that the voices and perspectives of young people from different backgrounds, regions, and experiences are heard and respected.

Criteria and Process for Selection

The criteria and process for selecting the youth participants for the COP are based on the following principles:

- **Transparency:** The selection criteria and process are clearly defined and communicated to all potential applicants and stakeholders;
- **Inclusivity:** The selection process aims to ensure a balanced and diverse representation of youth from different regions, countries, genders, ages, backgrounds, and experiences, with a special focus on young people from developing countries and those affected by climate changes impacts;
- **Value:** The selection process is based on the assessment of the applicants' motivation, story, professional background and potential to contribute to and benefit from the UNFCCC COP;

The selection criteria and process are as follows:

Eligibility: To be eligible to apply, the applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be between 18 and 30 years old at the time of COP29;
- Have a valid travel document and be able to travel to Azerbaijan and attend the COP29 in person;
- Have a demonstrated interest and experience in migration and climate change issues, preferably with a focus on one or more of the following themes: human mobility, disaster risk reduction, adaptation, mitigation, resilience, human rights, gender, youth empowerment, water scarcity, security and peace, urban-rural dynamics, or social inclusion;
- Have a proven record of leadership and engagement in their communities, organizations, or networks on migration and climate change issues / or have a story to share as a person who migrated or has been displaced in the context of climate change;
- Have the availability and commitment to participate fully in COP29 and in the pre-COP29 activities organized by IOM;

Application: The applicants must submit the following information to the link form provided by IOM by the specified deadline:

- A completed application form, which includes personal information, education, work and volunteer experience, motivation, social media accounts and expectations;
- Any other supporting links that demonstrate their interest and experience in migration and climate change issues, such as publications, reports, articles, videos, or any other content;

Assessment: The applications will be reviewed and assessed by a selection committee composed of IOM experts on migration, environment and climate change in HQ and Regional Offices. The committee will shortlist and rank the applicants based on their scores and the available slots.

The selection committee will use a scoring system to evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- Relevance and quality of the applicants' interest and experience in migration and climate change issues;
- Potential and motivation of the applicants to contribute to and benefit from COP29;
- Diversity and balance of the applicants' representation in terms of region, country, gender, age, background, and experience;
- Clarity and completeness of the application documents.

The programme aims to support and fully fund a total of **20 youth members** who will be divided into five categories, each with a specific role and focus:

1. **Young negotiators on climate migration:** They will participate in the UN climate negotiations and advocate for the inclusion of human mobility issues in the global climate agenda.
2. **Young people with human stories to share on migration, displacement and plan relocation in the context of climate change:** They will share their personal experiences and testimonies of how climate change has impacted their lives and livelihoods, and how they have adapted or coped with the challenges.
3. **Young people representing diverse groups and communities:** They will represent the perspectives and needs of different groups and communities that are vulnerable or marginalized in the context of climate change and human mobility, such as indigenous peoples, disabled people, LGBTQI+, among others.
4. **Young advocates and influencers on climate migration:** They will raise awareness and mobilize action on climate migration issues through various media and communication platforms, such as social media, podcasts, videos, media engagement, etc.
5. **Young researchers on climate migration:** They have conducted research on the nexus of climate change and migration and can provide evidence-based recommendations for policy.

Confirmation: The selected applicants will be required to confirm their acceptance of the offer and their availability to participate in COP29 and in the pre-COP29 activities organized by IOM. The selected applicants will also be required to sign a letter of invitation with IOM, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of both parties, as well as the terms and conditions of participation.

Contact details

For any related information, contact **IOM Climate Action Division** at mecrhq@iom.int.