



THEMATIC WORKSHOP

Engaging diasporas in climate action: practices, challenges and opportunities

23 October 2023 – 14:00-17:30 (CET) – In-person

International Environment House

Chemin des Anémones 11-13, CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva

CONCEPT NOTE

Background:

This thematic workshop is organized by the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) within the frame of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) France 2022-2023 Chair's program. The aim of this workshop is to inform the discussions of GFMD Roundtable 3 on "Diasporas as actors of economic, social and cultural development", focusing on how to unlock the full potential of diasporas to better contribute to sustainable climate action.

The GFMD Summit, which will take place in Geneva on the week of 22-26 January 2024, will focus on "the impact of climate change on human mobility" as the overarching topic. In line with the Chair's guideline to articulate links across all thematic priorities on the programme with the overarching topic of climate and human mobility, discussions within Roundtable 3, have focused on enhancing diaspora contributions to sustainable climate action. The background paper for this roundtable, for which UNDP is the penholder, shows that diaspora engagement in sustainable climate action does not reflect its full potential. Strategies to enhance diaspora support in promoting low-carbon transition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and nature-based solutions should become a bigger priority for countries committed to implementing the 2015 Paris Agreement. This includes engaging and strengthening the capacity of diaspora communities to contribute to sustainable climate action, drawing on the professional and technical skills within the diasporas, using innovative tools and financing mechanisms that leverage

diaspora resources to support climate change initiatives, and collecting data to better understand what is required to harness remittances for climate initiatives. The international community must also recognize and celebrate the contributions made by diasporas in efforts to adapt to and address climate change.

Objectives

This thematic workshop aims to:

1. Create a space for an in-depth exploration by multiple stakeholders of how diasporas can better contribute to climate action, enhance reflections initiated within the GFMD Roundtable 3 on “Diasporas as actors of economic, social and cultural development” and provide additional input for the GFMD consultations.
2. Identify practices and solutions to enhance diaspora contributions for sustainable climate action.
3. Strengthen synergies among actors and foster partnerships.

Expected results

Promote discussion and exchange of ideas to:

- Enhance exchange among a multiplicity of stakeholders to better understand the challenges and opportunities to create an enabling environment for diasporas to contribute to sustainable climate action.
- Identify innovative practices to facilitate diaspora contributions to sustainable climate action in countries of origin.
- Foster dialogue on solutions that unlock contributions of diasporas to sustainable climate action.
- Provide inputs for GFMD Roundtable 3 on diasporas as actors of economic, social and cultural development.

Format of the event

This event is organized within the framework of the French Chairmanship of the GFMD by UNDP, OECD and KNOMAD and is open to all GFMD stakeholders and observers, including Member States, local and regional governments, civil society, diaspora organizations, the private sector, youth, international organizations, as well as other institutional partners. The event will be in-person and held in English (Interpretation TBC).

Agenda	
14:00 - 14:20 (20 min)	Welcome and opening remarks The workshop is opened by remarks from representatives of the Chair of GFMD, France, and the organizations co-organizing this workshop (UNDP, OECD, KNOMAD/World Bank).
14:20 – 15:10 (50 min)	Session 1: Current initiatives to enhance diaspora contributions to sustainable climate action- Panel presentation and discussions

	A panel of experts shares examples of initiatives or projects led by/with diaspora communities related to climate action, after which the floor is opened for questions and discussion.
15:10 – 15:30 (20 min)	Networking coffee break
15:30 – 16:35 (65 min)	<p>Session 2: How can we further enhance the impact of diaspora contributions in addressing the climate crisis? – Break-out groups solution-building exercise</p> <p>Participants are divided into groups for an interactive exercise to explore solutions to unlock the full potential of diasporas to better contribute to sustainable climate action. After the thematic workshop, the results of this exercise will be distributed to participants and will be presented at the third Preparatory Meeting of the GFMD Roundtable 3.</p>
16:35 – 16:55 (20 min)	Networking coffee break
16:55 – 17:25 (30 min)	<p>Report back to plenary and discussion</p> <p>Participants report back from the breakout groups, after which the floor is opened for discussion.</p>
17:25 – 17:30 (5 min)	<p>Closing and next steps</p> <p>The event is closed through final remarks.</p>

Participants

This event will bring together participants in person, particularly diaspora organizations and actors engaged in diaspora engagement.

In accordance with the GFMD's spirit of inclusiveness, the organizers will endeavour to give voice to a wide range of stakeholders.

- Representatives from national, local and regional governments, civil society, diaspora organizations, the private sector and youth.
- Experts and professionals from international organizations.