

Summary, 1st virtual townhall meeting between the co-facilitators of the IMRF Progress Declaration and stakeholders and UN entities

7 March 2022

The average attendance throughout the duration of the meeting was over 250 participants, representing a diverse array of sectors (including civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, migrants, migrant and diaspora organizations, trade unions, the private sector, local authorities and communities, academia) and all regions.

40 participants took the floor during the meeting (8 UN entities and 32 stakeholders). Many interventions called for the consideration of the recommendations in the [Report of the Secretary-General](#).

Main key areas highlighted by participants included: the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants, the increased vulnerabilities they face and their inclusion in recovery plans; the adverse effects of climate change on migration; the creation and enhancement of regular pathways, including regularization plans; the existing human rights violations against migrants and the discrimination they face based on race, xenophobia, sex, gender, sexual orientation and, gender identity; the importance to protect and promote migrant workers' rights, their access to decent work, skills recognition and the vital role in sending remittances; the existing violence and abuse against migrants at the borders, the criminalization of migrants as well as of CSOs assisting them; the importance to assist victims of trafficking; the development of alternatives to immigration detention; the protection of child rights; access to services, social and health protection regardless of status.

Participants stressed the importance to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, migrant and grassroots organizations, in a meaningful way during the negotiations and at the upcoming IMRF. They welcomed the co-facilitator's initiative to organize additional townhall briefings (you can find the roadmap circulated by the co-facilitators for the consultations to agree on the IMRF Progress Declaration [here](#)).