

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM: POLICY DEBATE

Wednesday, 18 May 2022, 15:00 to 18:00  
Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters

### INFORMATION NOTE AND PROGRAMME

#### Introduction

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/326<sup>1</sup> and based on consultations with Member States and stakeholders<sup>2</sup>, the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration (Network) will facilitate a policy debate focusing on challenges in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), including links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the capacity-building mechanism and contemporary and emerging issues related to migration.

The policy debate will consider issues relating to the future of migration, and the opportunities and key challenges that governments and stakeholders will need to address in the years ahead, including in the context of inequalities and the threat of pandemics, food scarcity and challenges presented by climate change. The discussion will build on the lessons learned in facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup>

The policy debate will be for the duration of three hours and consist of a panel discussion followed by an interactive discussion. The co-chairs of the round tables will present the technical summaries of the four round tables at the start of the policy debate.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/a\\_res\\_73\\_326\\_e.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/a_res_73_326_e.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/migration-dialogues>

<sup>3</sup> The concept note for the policy debate is available at: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/wp-content/uploads/sites/101/2022/05/IMRF-Policy-Debate-Concept-Note-Final.pdf>

## PROGRAMME

<b>15:00</b>	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <p>Welcome remarks by Mr. António Vitorino, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration and Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration.</p>
<b>15:05</b>	<p><b>Presentation of the technical summaries of the round tables of the IMRF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roundtable 1: Egypt and Germany</li> <li>• Roundtable 2: Ecuador and Tajikistan</li> <li>• Roundtable 3: Thailand and Portugal</li> <li>• Roundtable 4: Azerbaijan and Morocco</li> </ul>
<b>15:35</b>	<p><b>Context Setting</b></p> <p>Mr. António Vitorino, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration and Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration.</p>
<b>15:45</b>	<p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professor Dr. Ronald Skeldon, University of Sussex</li> <li>2. Ms. Yvonne Aki-Sawyers, Mayor of Freetown</li> <li>3. Mr Florencio Venté, Latin America Focal Point, Migration Youth &amp; Children Platform</li> </ol> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. António Vitorino, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration and Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration.</p>
<b>16:20</b>	<p><b>Interactive discussion</b></p>
<b>17:50</b>	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <p>Remarks by Ms. Catherine M. Russell, Executive Director, UNICEF</p>

## Profiles of Panellists

### **Mr. António Vitorino, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration and Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration**



António Vitorino was elected as the tenth Director General of the International Organization for Migration by its Member States, taking office on 1 October 2018. He served as European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, from 1999 to 2004. Prior to joining the European Commission, António Vitorino served as Deputy Prime Minister of Portugal, from 1995 to 1997. His career also includes tenures as Portugal's State Secretary for Parliamentary Affairs (from 1983 to 1985), member of the Government of Macau in charge of Administration and Justice (from 1986 to 1987), member of the Portuguese Parliament (from 1980 to 2007), and member of the European Parliament (from 1994 to 1995), where he chaired the Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs Committee in charge of Migration, Asylum, Justice and Fundamental Rights. He served as Judge of the Portuguese Constitutional Court from 1989 to 1994. For more than 25 years he served as Assistant Professor and Professor of Constitutional Law, International Human Rights Law, European Union Law on Justice and Home Affairs at the Lisbon Law School and Lisbon Nova University.

### **Ronald Skeldon, University of Sussex**



Ronald Skeldon is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Geography, University of Sussex and Professor of Human Geography in the Graduate School of Governance, Maastricht University in the Netherlands. He lives in Nairn, Scotland. After taking a B.Sc. (Hons) in Geography at the University of Glasgow in 1967, he completed an M.A. and a Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, with a dissertation on Migration in a Peasant Society: the Example of Cuzco, Peru. He became a Research Fellow at the New Guinea Research Unit of the Australian National University, later the Papua New Guinea Institute for Applied Social and Economic Research, in Port Moresby and Goroka, 1974-77. He then joined the United Nations, initially as a census adviser in Papua New Guinea, 1977-79, and later as a population expert based in Bangkok, 1979-82. In 1982, he joined the faculty of the University of Hong Kong, where he remained until 1996, leaving as a Professor of Geography. After four years as an independent consultant based in Bangkok working mainly for international organizations, he joined the University of Sussex in October 2000. His other activities post 2000, have included a secondment to the Department for International Development (DfID) as a Senior Research Fellow and acting as a consultant to many international organizations, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Population Division, the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre in Hong Kong and, and the

Social Science Research Council of New York. He continues to work as an occasional consultant to the International Centre for Migration and Policy Development (ICMPD) in Azerbaijan and Georgia and the Joint Research Centre of the EU in Brussels.

**Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor, Freetown City Council, Sierra Leone; Founding Member, Mayors Migration Council Leadership Board.**



Mayor Aki-Sawyerr was sworn in as Mayor of Freetown in May 2018 with a vision to #TranformFreetown and improve the lives of Freetown's residents. A finance professional with over 25 years of experience in strategic planning, risk management and project management in the private sector, Mayor Aki-Sawyerr has previously held senior management roles providing consulting services to blue chip clients in the UK financial services industry and raising finance for property developments in the UK and Sierra Leone. She campaigned against the trade in 'blood diamonds' during the civil war and in 1999, she co-founded the Sierra Leone War Trust (SLWT) which continues to support disadvantaged children and young people in

Sierra Leone. She served as Director of Planning at the National Ebola Response Centre and in collaboration with others, she was instrumental in developing and implementing the strategy to end the 2014/2015 Ebola outbreak. Mayor Aki-Sawyerr was featured by Time Magazine in the Time100 Next 2021 List and by the BBC in the BBC 100 Women 2020 List. She is a Vice Chairperson of C40 Cities Global Group Steering Committee and a Founding Member of the Mayors Migration Council Leadership Board. Mayor Aki-Sawyerr is a Chartered Accountant with an MSc in Politics of the World Economy from the London School of Economics and a BSc Hons in Economics from Fourah Bay College. She is married with two children.

**Florencio Venté: Latin America Focal Point, Migration Youth & Children Platform**



Florencio is a Colombian migrant and social impact entrepreneur residing in Brazil, currently serving as one of the Migration Youth and Children Platform's Latin America Focal points. He is the founder of the Travalenguas project, connecting migrants living in Brazil with local people through cultural and social exchange, in order to combat xenophobia and discrimination. He is also the migrant representative of the local youth council of his city, and a member of the local council of Afro-Colombians, as well as a member of the AfroAmigos movement, raising awareness of anti-discrimination laws in Colombia. He is a part of the sustainable leadership programme by United People Global, and currently works in efforts to provide affordable water and renewable

energy for the South America and Africa regions. Within MYCP, he has been a key contributor to the GCM National Youth Consultations in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

**Ms. Catherine M. Russell, Executive Director, UNICEF**



Ms. Russell brings to the role decades of experience in developing innovative policy that empowers underserved communities around the world, including high-impact programmes that protect women and girls, including in humanitarian crises. She has extensive experience building, elevating and managing diverse workforces and mobilizing resources and political support for a broad range of initiatives. From 2020 to 2022, Ms. Russell served in the US government as Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. She previously served from 2013 to 2017 as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues at the U.S. Department of State. Before re-entering government service in 2020, she taught at the Harvard Kennedy School as an Institute of Politics Fellow. Ms. Russell holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, magna cum laude, from Boston College and a Juris Doctor degree from the George Washington University Law School.