

**“Honoring International Commitments to Unlock the Potential of all Migrants for Development”**

All GFMD 2018 Summit delegates are invited to attend the following side events, to be held at the Palmeraie Conference Center on 6 to 7 December 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco. These side events will be held upon the initiative of their respective organizers. While the topics to be discussed may be relevant to GFMD themes and roundtable discussions, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs and Taskforce, as well as the GFMD Support Unit, are not directly involved in the organization of these side events.

For registration and/or any question, please contact the organizers directly.

**Date and time** 07/12/2018, 08h30 to 09h45, Palmeraie Room, Palmeraie Conference Center in Marrakesh

<b>Title of side event</b>	<b>Making migration a shared concern – UNESCO’s Initiatives in bridging perspectives of local authorities, academia, CSOs networks, and youth.”</b>
<b>Organizers</b>	UNESCO
<b>Contact person(s) / email address(es)</b>	<a href="mailto:p.chanthalangsy@unesco.org">p.chanthalangsy@unesco.org</a>
<b>Background materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Conference on Migration Southern Perspectives on Migration, 05-07.09.2018, Johannesburg, <a href="https://migconf2018.wordpress.com/">https://migconf2018.wordpress.com/</a></i></li> <li>- <i>Concept note of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Forum of NGOs, 26-27.09.2018, Tunis</i></li> <li>- <i>Concept note of the Youth Space Initiative on Human Mobility and Migration in Africa</i></li> <li>- <i>Concept note of the Regional Initiative on African Cities on Migration</i></li> </ul>
<b>Logistical Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conference room for 50 persons (seated)</li> <li>- Space for interpretation booth</li> <li>- Sound systems and 5 fix microphones + 2 mobile microphones</li> <li>- Datashow and screen</li> </ul>

**Brief description**

The issue of social inclusion of people on the move is becoming a major political and ethical imperative, requiring expertise and coordination among various stakeholders in addressing multisectoral needs and obligations. UNESCO, within its fields of competences – Education, Sciences, Culture, and Communication and Information – puts a particular emphasis on the need to embrace the issue of rights and social inclusion of migrants in a holistic manner in order to ensure equitable participation of migrants in the social, political,

economic, and cultural spheres in the places they live. To this ends, UNESCO has developed important cooperation frameworks with key stakeholders internationally whose expertise, experience, networks, and engagement are instrumental to take up the challenges.

This Side-event will shed a particular light on the ways in which the *academia*, *CSOs*, *youth*, and *local governments* have been engaged in making migration a shared concern that calls upon polarization of expertise, notably on the Africa continent. Combining experts and practitioners from different fields of work, the Panel will present ongoing and upcoming initiatives.

First, the state of knowledge on migration continues to hold many gaps, especially from the Southern perspectives on migration. This requires that academia intensify its efforts on research that helps understand the complexity of the phenomenon, and address challenges related to knowledge production/divide, and research-policy nexus. In so doing, there is a need to engage into honest deliberations in order to go beyond assumptions and create political will. In this regard, the outcomes of the recent International Conference on Migration Southern Perspectives on Migration – Addressing Knowledge Production, Policies, and Cooperation (UNESCO, 5-7 September 2018, Johannesburg, South Africa) will be presented, focusing on the African continent. The conference contributed to **break from academic and policy silos to promote crosspollination** and critical consideration of how research on migration is generated and employed. It was concerned with the creation and mobilization of knowledge across Africa where agendas are largely determined by policy makers and donors. The Conference gathered more than 100 researchers, practitioners, research and human rights institutions from around 20 African countries, and key recommendations have been adopted to enhance research-policy linkages.

Second, the **work of CSOs to defend the rights of migrants**, to advocate for their social inclusion, or to rescue those in danger are of utmost importance. But today, questions arise as well as to CSOs' prerogatives, mandates and obligations in this domain, in particular in relation with the States' rules and regulations on migration. The NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in cooperation with UNESCO has a particular role to play in this regard, linking local civil actors, national institutions, and international organisations. The Panel will thus present the key recommendations that came out of the recent International NGO Conference on "Another Perspective on Migration" (26-27 September 2018, Tunis, Tunisia), gathering a network that counts more than 150 NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO. The Forum addressed human mobility, its dynamics and repercussions on building a sustainable development and a lasting peace, while focusing on CSOs' role and duty.

Thirdly, UNESCO is concerned with **youth voices on human mobility and migration in the African continent**. They are often missing on this matter, while in 2015, there were 244 million international migrants worldwide, of which 15% (37 million) were under 20 years of age. At 34%, Africa has the youngest international migrant population with a median age of 29 compared to the world average of 39 years<sup>1</sup>. In 2018, four out of five African migrants remain on the continent. Despite the many opportunities that may arise from departure, migrants in the region face an increased risk of exploitation, abuse, trafficking, exclusion, detention and deportation, as well as indecent jobs and enslavement. A great number of youth-led civil society organisations have developed tremendous expertise and practices in this domain in various countries. Be it through community related solidarity, sensitisation work, fight against racism, discrimination and xenophobia in the welcoming countries, or scientific research more generally, many youth-led organisations have been

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<sup>1</sup> UN DESA, International Migration Report, 2017

very active. However, they are lacking needed support and spaces for exchanges and sharing of experiences, as well as for a sustained dialogues between the various stakeholders in the different parts of the continent, but also in the countries of transit and destination. This is the reason why UNESCO will present a new “Youth Space Initiative (YSI) dedicated to Youth, Migration and Human Mobility in Africa. This YSI aims at convening youth stakeholders active on the continent and abroad around regular dialogues that are fit to feed the scientific and political communities with up-to-date data and knowledge. It will also foster North-South-South dialogue and exchanges of expertise and practices on migration and human mobility management, in order to make the African youth voices heard that the international level.

Fourthly, UNESCO and partners will present the **Regional Initiative on African Cities on Migration.**

When in 2050 the Africa continent will house 2.5 billion people - a quarter of the world's population - migration issues will have an utmost importance for sustainable development. In 2018, four out of five African migrants remain on the continent. Despite the many opportunities that may arise from departure, migrants in the region face an increased risk of exploitation, trafficking, exclusion, detention and deportation, as well as indecent jobs. Thus, the countries of the continent will play a significant role in terms of mobility management. Moreover, local authorities in general, and municipal authorities in particular, will have to take into account the factor of migration in their territorial development policies at all levels, political, social, cultural, economic, urbanistic, etc. The Initiative aims at supporting local authorities in the partner African countries to develop and enhance social inclusion in their development policies integrating people on the move, and abiding by human rights and gender equality approach and standards. South-South cooperation within the Africa continent will be key in the search of sustainable model of social inclusion. The Initiative will benefit from the expertise in the fields of competence of UNESCO, and the involvement of UNESCO’s international networks of cities in different fields, namely the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR), the International Network of Creative Cities, the Global Network of Learning Cities, and the World Heritage Cities Program.

### Provisional Program / Panelists

**Agenda** (Duration: 08h30 to 09h45)

Moderator: Phinith Chanthalangsy, UNESCO

8h40-8h50 – *UNESCO’s Perspectives on Migration, Youth, and Social Inclusion*, Ms Golda El-Khoury, UNESCO Representative for the Maghreb, Rabat Office

8h50-9h00 – *Migration and Discrimination – What research is needed today?* Ms Tendayi Achiume, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

9h00-9h10 – *Cities and Local Governments managing Migration – What can be done?* Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments-Africa (UCLG-Africa)

9h10-9h20 - *UNESCO and NGOs Networks on migration*, Abdelabasset Ben Hassen, President, Arab Institute for Human Rights

9h20-9h45 – Discussion