



United Nations
Network on Migration
Working Better Together



INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION
REVIEW FORUM '26



International Migration Review Forum '26

May 5-8, 2026

From May 5-8, 2026, the United Nations headquarters in New York hosted a week of global dialogue centred on Migration, Dignity & Action. The President of the General Assembly, Annalena Barbock, convened the Second International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) 2026. The gathering brought together governments, civil society groups, humanitarian agencies, labour unions, migrant leaders, and international organisations for a week focused on one shared reality: **migration shapes the world we live in today.**



A week of urgency, humanity, and global commitment at the UN

The forum featured four round tables, policy debates, and plenary sessions that brought forward statements from migration networks and representatives of civil society. Throughout conversations on labour rights, climate-related displacement, migrant women, mental health, reintegration, and ethical recruitment, one message stood out clearly: **Migration is not just about borders – it is about people, dignity, and human rights.**

The Secretary-General highlighted the many benefits of migration, explaining how it helps nations grow, economies expand, and societies evolve. He warned that migrants are increasingly being



UN Secretary General
- ANTONIO GUTERRES

blamed for political problems, dehumanized in public debate, and denied basic rights. However, he emphasized that the real challenge lies in the world's failure to manage migration through cooperation, shared responsibility, and stronger international efforts against smugglers and traffickers who exploit vulnerable people for profit. He also urged governments to create safer and more regular migration pathways, while investing in education and job opportunities for migrants.



UN President of the General
Assembly- ANNALENA
BARBOCK

He emphasized that migration can only be managed effectively through global cooperation, shared responsibility, respect for human dignity, and economic growth in countries of origin. These efforts can help reduce dangerous migration journeys and ensure that migration becomes a genuine choice rather than a desperate necessity.

He addressed and highlighted disturbing figures from a recent UN report, including more than 200,000

trafficking victims over four years and over 15,000 migrant deaths or disappearances along migration routes in just two years. The Secretary-General also called for urgent action to protect human rights, end the detention of migrant children and families, and improve rescue efforts for those in danger along migration routes.



International Organization
for Migration (IOM) Director
General- AMY POPE



<https://rscj-jpic.org/un-ngo-office/>



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SSH UN-NGO OFFICE NEW YORK

International Migration Forum, 2026

RALLY



Migrant Women & Care Economy

The situation of women migrants was brought to light.

- Millions of women sustain global healthcare and domestic systems
- Many face low wages, exploitation, and legal invisibility

There were Strong calls for:

- ethical migrant recruitment systems
- legal protection
- recognition of care work as essential labour

Labor Migration & Rights

Key demands included for migrant workers:

- ending recruitment fees and exploitation
- expanding safe and regular migration pathways
- recognising migrant skills and qualifications
- strengthening labor protections

Highlights on Climate and Displacement

There is a rising displacement from floods, droughts, and disasters worldwide

- Climate migration is now a present global reality, not a future risk

There was an urgent call for:

- safe migration pathways
- climate finance
- early warning systems
- community-based resilience



Parallel event outside UN premises

Protection and Humanitarian Response

- Migrants continue to face dangerous routes and insecurity
- Humanitarian organisations report growing needs and reduced funding
- Protection, healthcare, and dignity are not optional — they are rights

Reintegration & Return

- Reintegration must go beyond deportation or return
- It requires long-term support: housing, education, jobs, and mental health care
- Success is defined by rebuilding lives with dignity

Agreed on key priorities:

- Migration systems must be human-centred and rights-based
- Climate, labour, and migration policies must be better connected
- Local communities and migrants must be included as decision-makers
- Stronger financing is urgently needed to close implementation gaps
- Global frameworks must move from commitment to real action



International Migration Forum, 2026



Parallel events and side events held at the UN and outside the UN premises

Important lessons learned

The second International Migration Review Forum revealed that every migrant carries a different story – of survival, hope, or dignity. The forum further clarified that migration cannot be understood through fear or indifference, but through humanity.

From a faith perspective, this experience also reaffirmed a deeper truth: **every person is created with dignity and deserves compassion. The call to welcome and protect migrants is not only humanitarian – it is also moral and spiritual. Therefore, defending migrants means defending human dignity itself.**

CLOSING

From Commitment to Action

The Forum concluded with clear global understanding and agreement:

- Climate and displacement pressures are increasing
- Cooperation between states must be strengthened
- Human rights must remain at the centre
- Implementation gaps must be urgently closed
- Local communities must lead solutions
- Financing and practical tools are critical



Agreed key priorities:

- Migration systems must be human-centered and rights-based
- Climate, labor, and migration policies must be better connected
- Local communities and migrants must be included as decision-makers
- Stronger financing is urgently needed to close implementation gaps
- Global frameworks must move from commitment to real action



Attending the Migration General Assembly at the UN.

