

## **INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY, 18.12.2021, 4pm-6pm, ZOOM**

On September 19, 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a set of commitments during its first ever summit on large movements of refugees and migrants to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants. These commitments are known as the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (NY Declaration). The NY Declaration reaffirms the importance of the international protection regime and represents a commitment by Member States to strengthen and enhance mechanisms to protect people on the move. It paves the way for the adoption of two new global compacts in 2018: the global compact on refugees and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

The total number of international migrants has increased from an estimated 175 million in 2000 to **244 million** persons in 2015. While the majority of refugees remain in the neighbouring countries across the borders, nearly two thirds of all international migrants live in Europe (76 million) or Asia (75 million). Migration is now more widely distributed across more countries. Today the top 10 countries of destination receive a smaller share of all migrants than in 2000.

In 2019, about 38% of the permanent resident population in Switzerland has a migration background (2,722,000). More than a third of this population (992,000) has Swiss nationality. Four-fifths of the persons with a migration background belong to the first generation (2,202,000).

One of every ten migrants is under the age of 15. The impact of remittance flows is also significant having reached **\$540 billion** in 2020 following the officially recorded remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries, just 1.6 percent below the 2019 total of \$548 billion, due to the effects of Covid-19, nevertheless surpassed the sum of Foreign Direct Investment, FDI (\$259 billion) and overseas development assistance, ODA (\$179 billion) in 2020, according to the latest Migration and Development Brief of the World Bank.

However, the path to migration is getting tougher and more dangerous. Since 1993, well over **44'000** people have lost their lives on migration routes to Europe. Today the Central Mediterranean Sea is the most deadly migration route in the world. This year alone, over 1'200 people lost their lives in the region between Libya and Italy. The mortality rate has exploded over the years and this migration route has become more and more dangerous. How has the humanitarian crises in the Central Mediterranean Sea evolved over the last years and how has this influenced the operations of civil rescue organizations? How are rescue operations organized and what are the challenges? What impact does Climate change exercise on Migration. This and more will be discussed as part of input to international migration dialogue and governance.

Many take these dangerous routes to arrive at destination countries where they seek for Asylum. Unfortunately, not all asylum seekers are admitted. Those whose asylum requests are rejected need to return home. However, some destination countries like Switzerland have return and reintegration assistance programmes to facilitate their return. How does this function in Switzerland is another topic of discussion in this year's Intl Migrants Day.

This conversation in English and French is open to diaspora communities as well as other major stakeholders in international migration governance such as the civil society, international organisations, media, academia, policy makers as well as the private sector for

<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/international-migrants-day-2021/>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/05/12/defying-predictions-remittance-flows-remain-strong-during-covid-19->

[crisis#:~:text=Officially%20recorded%20remittance%20flows%20to,latest%20Migration%20and%20Development%20Brief.](https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/population/migration-integration/by-migration-status.html)

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knowledge sharing and to strengthen our network Remember. 'No one is safe till everyone is safe'

## **THEME: DYNAMIC TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION DIALOGUE**

### **SPEAKERS:**

#### **1. Insight on the Rescue Operations to save the lives of migrants on the Mediterranean Sea**

##### **Eva Ostendarp**

Head Deutschschweiz

**SOS MEDITERRANEE Switzerland**

**Eva Ostendarp** has a background in International Relations and coordinates SOS MEDITERRANEE's activities in the German speaking part of Switzerland. Before joining SOS MEDITERRANEE over two years ago, she worked for different NGOs in refugee camps in Greece.

#### **2. Voluntary Return and Reintegration Assistance Programme: The Swiss perspective**

##### **Sonja Kyburz**

Program, Operations and Liaison Coordinator, IOM Switzerland

**Sonja Kyburz** is Program, Operations and Liaison Coordinator at the office of the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** in Bern, where she has managed different projects, amongst which the AVRR program to Nigeria, as well as its follow up project towards Facilitating Sustainable Reintegration of Voluntary Returnees Through Business Support. She is responsible for all AVRR related requests to Nigeria and to countries in the regions of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa.

She studied at the University of Basel (MA in African Studies, with focus on Social Anthropology & History). She holds a B.A in Social Anthropology, Sociology and Religious Sciences of the University of Bern.

#### **3. Exploring the nexus between Migration and Climate Change**

##### **Chantal Malu**

Member of MICIC as President of the High Council for Diversity

**Chantal Malu** works as an education agent for the Walloon region for the SME service. Previously, she worked as an employee in education and hospital, assistant in laboratory and educator in European schools

She is trained as a Prevention Advisor, SME manager, educator and digital marketing agent. Its commitment to Peoples Reconciliation missions (child soldier Rwanda, DRC, the situation of women, the situation of Companies, the non-profit situation, commitment to the fight against discrimination, the conditions of women, for education through reading, diversity through knowledge) is particularly noteworthy. She is administrative and founder of several NGOs.

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**INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY, 18.12.2021, SATURDAY, 4pm-6pm, ZOOM**  
**THEME: DYNAMIC TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION DIALOGUE**

**PROGRAMME: 4pm - 6pm / ZOOM ID :896 1485 6024, Password : 918359**

4.00pm-4:05pm	Introduction and welcome remark	<b>Celeste Ugochukwu</b> Moderator AFMD / African Diaspora Council of Switzerland
4:05pm-4:30pm	Insight on the Rescue Operations to save the lives of migrants on the Mediterranean Sea	<b>Eva Ostendarp</b> Head Deutschschweiz SOS MEDITERRANEE Switzerland
4:30pm-5:00pm	Voluntary Return and Reintegration Assistance Programme: The Swiss perspective	<b>Sonja Kyburz</b> Program, Operations and Liaison Coordinator, International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Bern
5:00pm-5:10pm	Break	
5:10pm-5:30pm	Exploring the nexus between Migration and Climate Change	<b>Chantal Malu</b> Member of MICIC as President of the High Council for Diversity
5:30pm-6:00pm	Q & A, contributions, observations, comments / End	<b>Participants</b>

**ORGANISERS:**

African Diaspora Council of Switzerland (ADCS)

African Foundation for Migration and Development (AFMD)

Ajere African Heritage

Jeunesse en Détresse,

Tunesische Vereinigung der Schweiz "Tawassol"

Africa Link

ADEPT / Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform

Les Amis du Monde Entier, AME

[www.africancouncil.ch](http://www.africancouncil.ch)

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