



## Concept Note


*Stakeholder Meeting:*

# Youth on the Move


YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A TOOL FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

*A joint initiative of USA for IOM and YABT*

 **Thursday, February 29, 2024**

 9:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Washington, D.C.

 **Format: Roundtable  
In Person**

 **OAS Main Building**  
(17th Street and Constitution Ave.,  
N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006)



# Background

When youth have the necessary means and appropriate training, they can use their energy, creativity, and talent to transform an uncertain environment and contribute positively through meaningful participation. Through entrepreneurship, collective action is set in motion for young migrants to develop the skills, knowledge, and productive networks for their development.

A Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees, published by UNCTAD and IOM, highlights: "entrepreneurship can be an effective way to include migrants and refugees in local economies, sharing their knowledge and entrepreneurship and creating new market opportunities and cross-border networks. Entrepreneurship can also be part of the long-term solutions needed to address the consequences of large movements of forcibly displaced people, in addition to the important measures being implemented to address the immediate effects of humanitarian crises."<sup>1</sup>

The Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection recognizes the positive contributions of refugees and migrants to the socioeconomic development of their host communities<sup>2</sup>. To foster socioeconomic integration, efforts must focus on creating alternatives that place migrants' rights and opportunities at the center of society, reducing inequality and promoting shared prosperity.

The voices of young migrants themselves also become the focus of the call to action from stakeholders, contributing to the improvement of the productive environment for the promotion of entrepreneurship in all its dimensions. During the Youth Dialogue: Migration, Development and Integration, participants highlighted "The need to create more active participatory spaces, which allows strengthening the channels of communication with local authorities in order to incorporate the demands of migrants and refugees in the generation of public policies at the local level..."<sup>3</sup>

This emphasis on active participation aims to fortify communication channels between young migrants and key stakeholders. The dialogue and this Roundtable serve as a platform for these vital discussions, recognizing that an inclusive and participatory approach is key to addressing the unique challenges and aspirations of the youth migrant population.

<sup>1</sup><https://publications.iom.int/books/policy-guide-entrepreneurship-migrants-and-refugees>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/10/los-angeles-declaration-on-migration-and-protection/>

<sup>3</sup> Report Available for download: <https://bit.ly/47uOsKJ>



## Objectives

The objectives of this stakeholder meeting are to:

- To expose decision makers and representatives of the international development community on how investing in youth entrepreneurship becomes an effective tool in the multi-sectoral effort to accelerate the socio-economic integration of migrants and refugees in their host communities.
- Receive input and exchange information among stakeholders, to take a step forward in the consolidation of strategic partnerships aimed at the regional expansion of such projects and initiatives that promote the creation of economic opportunities for migrant populations, with special emphasis on youth and vulnerable groups.
- To learn about the opportunities and benefits of partnering with USA for IOM and YABT, in supporting entrepreneurship and youth participation of the migrant population in the lead up to the X Summit of the Americas, through the Young Americas Forum process.

## Audience Objective

A collaborative forum where participants are invited to actively contribute, provide valuable feedback, and share information of interest. This inclusive space aims to assist convening organizations in crafting a comprehensive proposal or strategy that reflects their priorities and new components in favor of the socioeconomic integration of the migrant population throughout the region, with a specific consideration for youth.

Particular emphasis will be placed on reinforcing the technical capacities and soft skills of migrants, recognizing the critical role these competencies play in their successful integration. The discussions within this open space will also focus on fostering stronger linkages between the migrant community and the upcoming Summit of the Americas. This alignment is facilitated through the concerted support of both the public and private sectors, with a dedicated focus on promoting the objectives of the Young Americas Forum process.

The meeting is convened by direct invitation to representatives of Permanent Missions to the OAS, cooperation agencies and multilateral banks, corporate foundations/private sector, academics and other actors of the development community linked to the objectives of the meeting.



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## Methodology

The stakeholder meeting will be moderated by specialists from the convening organizations, and will have a timeline of three hours, having a round table format preceded by introductory interventions that will provide background content for open discussion with relevant stakeholders. During the discussion, the aim is to integrate the contributions and knowledge of the interested parties, exchanging their perspectives and relevant information that will contribute to the design of a proposal for the consolidation of new partnerships for development. Participants will be provided with background material and documentation on the objectives of the meeting, the programs, and profiles of the convening organizations.

## Themes for Discussion

- **Youth Entrepreneurship as a Catalyst:** Explore how investing in youth entrepreneurship can be a driving force in accelerating the socio-economic integration of migrants and refugees.
- **Building Strategic Partnerships:** Discuss the potential for regional expansion through strategic collaborations, focusing on projects that promote economic opportunities for migrant populations, with an emphasis on youth and vulnerable groups.
- **Aligning with Young Americas Forum Goals:** Connect the initiatives discussed with the broader objectives of the upcoming Young Americas Forum, an official side event of the Summit of the Americas, emphasizing the role of the VII Young Americas Forum in this alignment.



## Agenda

### 9:00 Registration and Coffee

### 9:30 Welcoming Remarks

- **Nestor Mendez**, Assistant Secretary General of The Organization of American States (OAS)

### 9:35 Opening Remarks

- **Luis A. Viguria**, CEO, Young Americas Business Trust
- **María Moreno**, CEO, USA for IOM

### 9:50 Summit of the Americas Process and Mainstreaming of Youth Innovation

- **María Celina Conte**, Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, Organization of American States

### 10:00 Roundtable

Moderator: [Francisco Martínez, Economic Reintegration Officer, IOM](#)

### General Questions aligned with Themes

#### ***Understanding Impact/ Barriers and Solutions:***

How have youth entrepreneurship initiatives demonstrated positive impacts on the socio-economic integration of migrants and refugees in host communities?

#### **TIC Americas and Youth Innovation Challenge: Entrepreneurship, Youth, and Community Development**

- YABT Representative

What are the key challenges faced by youth entrepreneurs in migrant and refugee communities, and how can these challenges be effectively addressed?

#### **The Voice of Migrant Youth Entrepreneurship: Cases of Entrepreneurship in Mobility**

- Intervention of two young entrepreneurs

#### ***Identifying Synergies:***

How can stakeholders identify and leverage synergies to enhance the regional expansion of projects that promote economic opportunities for migrant populations?

What are the key factors that contribute to successful strategic collaborations in the context of youth entrepreneurship and migration?

### 12:25 Final Comments, commitments and next steps (Wrap-up)

- **Luis Niño**, Chair, YABT Board of Director

### 12:30 Networking

- Networking Lounge: A space for participants to network, exchange contact information, and explore potential collaborations.
- Cross-Sector Collaboration: Representatives from various sectors will be encouraged to connect and explore collaborative opportunities.



## About Young Americas Business Trust

The Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) is a non-profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia and recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3. YABT promotes the social and economic development of young people in the Western Hemisphere and around the world by developing programs that aim to improve the quality of life of youth, especially those living in poverty. YABT works in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS) in support of the mandates of the Summit of the Americas and the OAS General Assembly, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by empowering youth through entrepreneurship, innovation, leadership and knowledge.

For more information, please visit: [www.yabt.net](http://www.yabt.net)

## About USA for IOM

USA for IOM is the nonprofit partner of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the United States. It has a mission to raise awareness about our global priorities, including climate change and disasters, poverty and conflict, and anti-trafficking. To achieve this mission, it stimulates action and investment for migration initiatives by fostering partnerships with academia, philanthropy and the private sector, and by mobilizing the support of the American people.

Source: Retrieved from USA for IOM website: <https://usaforiom.org>

**For more information about the meeting and convening organizations, please contact:**

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### **Young Americas Business Trust**





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**“YABT and USA for IOM: A Partnership to accelerate long-term solutions for the migrant population”.**