

# Intersessional panel discussion on the human rights of migrants

16 February 2026, Palais des Nations, Room XII

10:00-13:00

15:00-18:00

## AGENDA

Time	Content
10:00 –10:15	<p><b>OPENING REMARKS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>H.E. Mrs. Francisca E. Méndez Escobar</b>, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office at Geneva</li><li>• <b>Mahamane Cisse-Gouro</b>, Director, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</li></ul>
10:15 – 13:00	<p><b>SESSION 1:</b></p> <p><b>PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING HARMFUL NARRATIVES ABOUT MIGRANTS AND MIGRATION</b></p> <p><b>Moderated by H.E. Mrs. Cecilia Kiku Ishitani</b>, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva</p> <p><b>Migrant voices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Pinar Aksu</b>, Research Associate, University of Glasgow</li><li>• <b>Small Wings, Big Impact</b>, children’s voices from an OHCHR-supported initiative</li></ul> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Pablo Ceriani Cernadas</b>, Former Independent Expert of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW)</li><li>• <b>Andrew Geddes</b>, Director, Migration Policy Centre</li><li>• <b>Elroi Yee</b>, Producer, Dari Dapur campaign</li><li>• <b>Andrea Marshall</b>, Program Director, Displacement and Dialogue Asia, Deutsche Welle (DW) Akademie</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amir Malik</b>, Managing Director EMEA Digital Transformation – Alvarez and Marsal</li> </ul> <p>Followed by <b>plenary discussion and Q&amp;As</b></p> <p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Gustavo Gallón</b>, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office in Geneva</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Xiaomei Li</b>, Minister, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office in Geneva</li> </ul>
15:00 – 18:00	<p><b>SESSION 2:</b></p> <p><b>STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING AND COMPLAINT MECHANISMS IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION</b></p> <p><b>Moderated by H.E. Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta</b>, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations Office in Geneva</p> <p><b>Migrant voices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Anjila Areezo</b>, Border Violence Monitoring Network's Global Strategic Advisory Board on Gender and Migration</li> <li>• <b>Testimony of a migrant woman</b> about her detention and deportation</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Laurel Townhead</b>, Director, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Geneva</li> <li>• <b>Gehad Madi</b>, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants</li> <li>• <b>Luca Lixi</b>, Second Secretary, Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office in Geneva</li> <li>• <b>Olivia Solari Yrigoyen</b>, Americas Program Coordinator, Franciscans International</li> <li>• <b>Darren Dick</b>, Senior Policy Executive, Australian Human Rights Commission</li> </ul> <p>Followed by <b>plenary discussion and Q&amp;As</b></p> <p><b>Closing remarks</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Alier Deng Ruai Deng</b>, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations Office in Geneva</li><li>• <b>Mr. Chernó Marenah</b>, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations Office in Geneva</li></ul>
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