



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

From Root Causes to Drivers

Breakout Discussion Theme: **Inclusive and rights-based migration governance amid geopolitical uncertainty**

Wednesday, May 14
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Participants will join a facilitated small group table discussion to exchange ideas from diverse perspectives and experiences (in-person only).

Goal: This discussion focuses on the opportunity to **mobilize a rights-based approach and other strategies** to serve as a foundational framework for strengthening inclusive migration governance amid geopolitical uncertainty.

Background

Inclusive migration governance refers to policies and practices that ensure migrants' access to rights, services and decision-making processes, regardless of their legal status or origin. Currently, migration governance is unfolding against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty, amid ongoing conflict, climate crises, rising nationalism, political polarization, and increasingly restrictive immigration policies. To combat the backlash against migration, a combination of strategic approaches to inclusive frameworks is required.

A **rights-based approach (RBA)** to migration governance offers a framework that prioritizes human dignity, equality, accountability, and participation, even amid geopolitical uncertainty. As political resistance to migrant rights intensifies globally, promoting a rights-based approach is both a challenge and opportunity. Deliberate efforts can be made to embed human rights principles into laws, policies, and everyday practices of migration governance. At the same time, it is important to recognize its limitations in volatile political environments. In such contexts, complementary strategies, such as community-led advocacy or regional cooperation, may be needed to support migrant protections.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What strategies can be employed to advance a rights-based approach to migration governance in the face of geopolitical uncertainty and anti-migrant backlash?
- 2. Considering the limitations of a rights-based approach, what are other strategies or approaches that can be mobilized to strengthen inclusive migration governance?