

International Seminar

Migration and Demographic Dividend: Sub-Saharan Africans' mobility

May 23, 2018 - Sala Aldo Moro, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international Cooperation, Rome

8.30 – 9.00

Registration

The opportunity for African countries to harness the demographic dividend is opening up with the massive growth of youth population, male and female, whose potential contribute to overall development. Young people are a positive force for their country's future only if their governments invest adequately in them, if in the elaboration of policies a gender perspective is adopted and gender barriers are removed, and only if their country's economy can absorb the surge of their numbers into the workforce.¹

9.00 – 10.00

Welcome

Moderator: Luigi De Chiara, Head, Unit for Strategy, Global Processes and International Organizations, Directorate General for Development Cooperation – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Keynote Statements

- **Giorgio Marrapodi**, Director General for Development Cooperation – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- **Arthur Erken**, Director, Division of Communications and Strategic Partnerships - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- **Jayathma Wickramanayake**, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Setting the scene

- **Patrizia Farina**, Professor of Demography, Bicocca, University of Milan

10.00 – 10.05

The Demographic Dividend, video produced by UNFPA

10.10 – 11.05 Session 1: Employment and Education - Improvements in education in Africa will be critical to the continent's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend. For its importance, education requires strategic investments aiming at overcoming the current mismatch between what students learn and what labor market needs. Labor force needs to be increased by providing employment opportunities, especially for the youth; in the elaboration and implementation of related policies, the adoption of a gender approach is essential. The private sector should contribute to the emergence of a new generation of entrepreneurs in the continent and participate in financing sustainable development.

Chair: Paola Berbeglia, representative of Italian Association of NGOs (AOI), CReA Onlus

Speeches:

- **Federico Soda**, Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, International Organization for Migration (IOM),
- **Ji-Yeun Rim**, Co-ordinator, Youth Inclusion Project, Social Cohesion Unit, OECD Development Centre,
- **Cleophas Adrién Dioma**, representative of Diasporas coordinator of the

¹ Richard Cincota, director of the Global Political Demography Program at the Stimson Center

	<p>working group on “Migration and development” of the development Cooperation National Council</p> <p>Open Discussion</p>
<p>11.05 – 11.15 Coffee Break</p>	
<p>11.15– 12.10 Session 2: Health and Wellbeing – Most young boys and girls today are vulnerable targets with respect to severe diseases in Africa. The importance of ensuring good health is key to reducing youth vulnerability, maximizing human capital investment and achieve universal health coverage, pursuing SDG 3. Across Africa, barriers limiting young people’s access to sexual and reproductive health information and services particularly for young girls persist. This situation calls for urgent, systematic and strategic investments in health in order to capitalise the demographic dividend. It also requires a change in socio-cultural norms, including roles and responsibilities of women and men, boys and girls. The potential for a demographic dividend cannot be realized in the context of persistent gender discrimination and inequality, that leaves many women and girls disempowered and disenfranchised.</p>	
	<p>Chair: Maria José Caldés Pinilla, Director, Global Health Center (GHC), Tuscany Region</p> <p>Speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mabingue Ngom, Regional Director for the West Africa region and Central (WCARO - UNFPA) • Maura Misiti, Senior Researcher, National Research Council, Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies • Maria Grazia Panunzi, President, AIDOS Italian Association for Women in Development <p>Open Discussion</p>
<p>12.10 – 13.00 Session 3: Youth Empowerment – Poor participation of youth in the political processes and the insufficient enjoyment of their rights remain a challenge yet. Harnessing the demographic dividend requires investments in ensuring participatory, representative and inclusive decision-making as well as responsive institutions at all levels. It demands the promotion, protection and respect for fundamental civil, political and socio-economic rights of young people, including young women. The meaningful empowerment of young people, including the provision of safe spaces for inter-generational mutual learning and collaboration in decision and policy making process, is conducive to an effective youth empowerment.</p>	
	<p>Chair: Clara Caldera, AIDOS Italian Association for Women in Development</p> <p>Speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massimo Tommasoli, PhD in Anthropology - School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations • Luisa Enria, PhD in International Development - University of Oxford, Research Associate at the Oxford School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography • Modou Gueye, President of the Association “SUNUGAL” <p>Open Discussion</p>

Closing Statements:

Emilio Ciarlo, Head of Institutional Relations and Communications, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation