

UNU-CPR migration policy roundtable series

CASE STUDY



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INTRODUCTION

The Migration Policy Roundtable series was a collaboration between the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) and the MIDEQ Hub between October 2022 and March 2024. The roundtable series consisted of in person and online events, targeting policymakers, academics, activists and civil society organisations. Each webinar explored migration and inequalities using data driven evidence from research on South-South migration. Not only did the webinars introduce MIDEQ's findings to an international audience, they also centred the work of scholars from the Global South, creating the possibility of transforming discussions on mobility and feature Global South researchers who are often missing from UN policy discussions.

MIGRATION ROUNDTABLE AT UNU-CPR



Photo via MIDEQ

The series explored migration, inequalities and development through a range of issues such as climate change and children in migrant households. The first event featured a MIDEQ Showcase. Hosted in New York, it provided an opportunity for MIDEQ Co-Is from Haiti, Ethiopia, South Africa and Nepal to present the findings of their research to an invited audience of UN agencies and Member States.

In November, an event was held in Geneva on the [implementation of the Global Compact for Migration](#). Speakers included the Mexican Ambassador, the UN Network on Migration, OHCHR and MIDEQ Co-Director Louis Hennis Marcelin. To mark International Migrants Day, in December 2022, the webinar centred on the [contribution of migration to development in the MENA region](#) and included a speaker from the MIDEQ Jordan team.

In January 2023, a migration policy roundtable on [Decent work and migration: challenges for the Global South](#) included speakers from Dejusticia, a Colombia-based research and advocacy organisation, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and MIDEQ partner Migrant Justice Initiative. Further events focused on topics such as [climate-related mobility in contexts of urbanisation](#) (March 2023), [understanding the link between](#)

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[migration and social protection programmes](#) (June 2023) with OECD, [reconceptualising 'left behind children'](#) with UNICEF (July 2023), [gender responsive migration governance](#) (September 2023) with UN Women and understanding remittances, innovations in digital money transfers, and investment opportunities through a [gender lens](#) (March 2024).

ENGAGEMENT

In total, over 400 participants attended the Migration Policy Series from the UN Migration Network, UN Women, UNICEF, and UNHCR.

Expanding on discussions which emerged from the roundtables, MIDEQ researchers published their work through the UNU-CPR website. For example, the team in Haiti produced a blog on [structural inequalities and migrant vulnerability](#) in Haiti. Other outputs featured on UNU-CPR's website include discussion papers on [children in migrant households](#), the relationship between [social protection programmes and migration](#), [climate related mobility](#) and a policy brief on respecting and [centring migrants' human rights](#) in the Global Compact for Migration.

In addition, MIDEQ's partnership with UNU-CPR served as a platform to exchange knowledge and insights from MIDEQ's research in different geographical contexts. A [policy brief](#) from MIDEQ CO-I Dereje Feyissa focused on how to maximise the development potential of returnee migrants in Ethiopia. From Lebanon, policy discussions on refugees status and return shaped a discussion paper on [safe, voluntary repatriation](#) for Syrian refugees. With a global focus, MIDEQ researchers explored [access to justice](#) and its meaning for migrants in the Global South. From the MIDEQ website, collaborative outputs from MIDEQ researchers and UNU-CPR have 773 views and 242 downloads from countries ranging from the United States to Nepal and South Africa.

FACILITATING NETWORKS

Collaborating on the roundtable series with UNU-CPR presented opportunities to leverage the platform, expertise and network of UN agencies. In particular, the roundtables promoted a new narrative on migration, one that addresses inequalities in relation to migration, centred around mobility within and between countries in the Global South. Our series with UNU-CPR built upon MIDEQ's engagement with our international partners and policymakers. In October 2023, MIDEQ co-convened a flagship Policy Symposium at the Palais des Nations with our international partners. In September 2024, OECD hosted an [online policy symposium](#) in partnership with MIDEQ, the African migration Observatory, Stats Sweden and the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development.

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As importantly, the roundtable series increased the visibility of MIDEQ researchers and other scholars based in the Global South. Often they are excluded from international policy fora even though global migration policies affect them directly. The series enabled MIDEQ to engage directly with a UN policy audience in discussion on the design and implementation of policies and programmes. In addition, it helped support network building between MIDEQ Global South scholars and UN audiences.

RELATED CONTENT

Below is a list of the outputs produced through the UNU-CPR and MIDEQ partnership and roundtable series. The list also includes recordings of online roundtables that are available on YouTube.

Publications

- [Safe return and voluntary repatriation for Syrian refugees from Lebanon: What needs to happen next?](#)
- [Shrinking the justice gap: Rethinking access to justice for migrants in the Global South](#)
- [Enhancing the development potential of South-South migration](#)
- [From promises to practice: towards the effective implementation of the Global Compact for Migration](#)
- [From left behind to staying back: Changing how we think about children in migrant households](#)
- [Understanding the links between social protection and migration in low- and middle-income countries](#)
- [Migration and decent work: challenges for the Global South](#)
- [Complexity of choice in asylum seeker decision-making](#)
- [Understanding climate-related mobility in contexts of urbanization](#)

Recordings

- [Book Launch: Palgrave Handbook of South-South Migration and Inequality](#)
- [Towards Gender-Responsive Migration Governance](#)
- [From Left Behind to Staying Back Rethinking Policy Responses to Children in Migrant Households](#)
- [Understanding Climate related Mobility in Contexts of Urbanization](#)
- [Migration and Decent Work Challenges for the Global South](#)



Cover Image

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