

LATINMUN 2026

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

**Addressing Human Rights Violations in
Migrant Detention Facilities / The Protection of
Refugees and Migrants from Arbitrary
Detention and Systematic Abuse**



Director: Mateo Cuellar

Moderator: Miranda Herrera

Welcoming message from the chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to LATINMUN 2026. It is a great honor to be part of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), where we will be discussing migrant detention facilities and the protection of refugees.

As delegates, you have the responsibility of addressing these topics in a respectful and collaborative environment. The chair encourages you to give your best effort, think critically, and work with others in a constructive and diplomatic manner.

The chair wishes you good luck and success.

Sincerely,

Mateo Cuellar and Miranda Herrera

Committee's Background:

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was founded in 1951. It stands as the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. With 174 members, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all, by

providing support to immigrants across the world. It was originally known as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME); the organization has undergone several changes regarding name and structure to meet the demands of global mobility. In September 2016, IOM was officially a related organization of the United Nations. This transition solidified its role as the leading global authority on migration, ensuring that migration issues are integrated into the broader international security and development agendas.

The IOM operates on the fundamental principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society at large. The organization acts as a primary service provider and policy advisor with a presence in over 100 countries. Its mandate is built upon four pillars of migration management: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and addressing forced migration. The IOM is highly operational, maintains a massive presence to provide direct humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other vulnerable populations.

The IOM's modern strategy is leadership in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), adopted in 2018. The IOM works to ensure that the 23 objectives of the GCM are met by signatory states. This framework allows the IOM to bridge the gap between national sovereignty and international cooperation, helping states manage their borders while simultaneously protecting the fundamental human rights of all migrants, regardless of their legal status.

The International Organization for Migration is also becoming more focused on the links between human migration and changes in the climate. With environmental degradation and extreme weather conditions causing this level of human displacement, the IOM is working on the development of "migration as adaptations" strategies. Through the Displacement Tracking Matrix, the IOM is able to give the international community vital

information on the movement of people, which is essential in the effective allocation of resources to these crises. This is important in addressing the needs of “environmental migrants,” as this demographic currently has no formal legal definition under the refugee convention.

The IOM is the vital platform for intergovernmental dialogue and the testing ground for innovative solutions in the field of migration. By encouraging cooperation between countries of origin, in transit, and of destination, the IOM is able to mitigate the risks of irregular migration, which include human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants. This way, the IOM is able to make sure that migration is a choice rather than a necessity, and this contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) globally.

Topic Background:

Migration is a global phenomenon that has increased significantly in recent years due to armed conflict, economic instability, and climate change. Today, it is more complex than ever, with millions of people moving across multiple countries under difficult conditions. According to recent data, more than 117 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide, and this number could rise to around 139 million by 2025, showing the rapid growth of the issue.

To manage migration flows, many countries have implemented stricter policies, including migrant detention, where individuals are held while their legal status is determined. However, international standards supported by organizations like the IOM establish that detention should only be used as a **last resort**. Despite this, it is often applied broadly and without sufficient justification, even to asylum seekers.

This is especially concerning because migrants and refugees are among the most vulnerable populations. Many face poor living conditions, limited access to healthcare,

and lack of legal protection. Additionally, most refugees are hosted by low- and middle-income countries, which often lack the resources to provide adequate support.

Although international agreements such as the Global Compact for Migration aim to protect migrants' rights, there is still a gap between these commitments and reality. This makes migrant detention and refugee protection a major global challenge that requires stronger cooperation and better enforcement of human rights.

Current Situation:

Right now, the global situation regarding migrant detention and human rights is becoming more serious every year. The number of people forced to leave their homes has reached extremely high levels, with over 129 million people displaced worldwide. This has created a lot of pressure on countries, especially those receiving large numbers of migrants and refugees. In response, many governments have started using stricter migration policies, including detaining people while their legal status is being decided.

In many parts of the world, detention is not always used fairly or as a last option. Instead, it is often applied automatically, even to people who are simply seeking asylum. Reports show that dozens of countries detain migrants, including minors, without giving them proper legal support or a clear explanation of their situation. This raises serious concerns because it goes against basic human rights principles, especially the idea that people should not be detained without a valid reason.

Another major issue is the conditions inside these detention centers. Many organizations have reported cases where migrants are held in overcrowded spaces with poor hygiene and limited access to healthcare. In some situations, people have experienced physical or emotional abuse, which can leave long-term psychological effects. These conditions make an already difficult situation even worse for vulnerable populations who are already escaping conflict, poverty, or violence.

The problem is also connected to certain international policies. Some countries have started transferring migrants to other nations as a way to manage migration more easily. However, these third countries often do not have strong systems to protect human rights, which increases the risk of abuse. As a result, migrants may end up in even more dangerous situations, without proper legal protection or oversight.

Even though there are international laws that are supposed to protect migrants and refugees, they are not always followed in practice. Weak enforcement, lack of transparency, and limited accountability allow these issues to continue. Overall, the current situation shows a global system that is struggling to balance border control with human rights, making it clear that stronger and more consistent action is needed.

Chair/Moderator Conclusion:

In recent years, the global migration crisis has exploded due to wars, economic hardship, and climate disasters, leaving more than 129 million people out of their homes and putting huge pressure on countries everywhere. Strict policies like routine detention, make things worse. Trapping vulnerable people in overcrowded, dirty centers with little healthcare, legal help, or kindness, especially in poorer nations hosting most of them.

In conclusion, we need to turn promises from agreements like the Global Compact for Migration into everyday reality with better enforcement, openness, and teamwork. By focusing on human rights alongside border security, and sharing resources more fairly, we can build a system that treats displaced people with the dignity they deserve.

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