



PRESS RELEASE

IOM and Tunisia Strengthen Partnership to Harness Diaspora Engagement

Tunis, 6 May 2025 – Today, the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration, and Tunisians Abroad, in coordination with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), successfully concluded a Thematic Workshop on Diaspora Engagement in the context of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) - under Colombian chairmanship this year.

The event was officially opened by IOM's Director General, Ms. Amy Pope, the Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration, and Tunisians Abroad, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Nafti, and H.E. Mr. Gustavo Adolfo Gallón Giraldo, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva.

"The Tunisian diaspora continues to impress with its unwavering commitment to the country's economic development. Today, it stands as Tunisia's foremost contributor and a vital source of support for our nation. Where the heart remains, dedication follows — and the Tunisian diaspora is a living testament to this truth. Though dispersed across the globe, it remains deeply connected to Tunisia's destiny, standing as one of its most steadfast pillars," highlighted H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Nafti.

Over 340 participants joined in person and online, representing various governments and United Nations (UN) agencies.

The workshop concluded with key strategic recommendations, paving the way for the GFMD 15th Summit which will take place in Colombia later this year.

- Looking beyond traditional remittances, emerging sectors — such as the green economy, digital transformation, and infrastructure — offer exciting opportunities for diaspora-led investment and entrepreneurship.
- The full potential of diaspora engagement can only be realized through inclusive, multi-stakeholder cooperation, data-driven approaches, innovative financial mechanisms, and enabling environments at both national and local levels.
- The youth and second- and third-generation diasporas are crucial actors in building lasting bridges for innovation and development. We must continue to involve them meaningfully.

These recommendations are a direct contribution to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), and the Dublin Declaration of the Global Diaspora Summit (GDS).

"We aim to leverage the Tunisian diaspora's expertise and networks in high-potential sectors to empower young Tunisian and African talent. When combined with government efforts and investment from partner countries, Tunisia can be a leading example of diaspora engagement for national and regional sustainable development, particularly, economic growth", shared Mr. Ahmed El Fadhel, President of the Tunisian Space Association (TUNSA) and co-founder & CTO of Climate Innov.

Overall, the workshop was a strategic opportunity to reflect the strong contribution of migration to the social and economic development of Tunisia with 15% of its nationals residing abroad and 5% of its GDP linked to remittances. It also coincides with the launch of the process supported by the UN system to design Tunisia's next development plan (2026 – 2030).

"IOM is looking forward to working with the Tunisian government and all our partners to turn our shared goals into tangible successes, unlocking the transformative force of diaspora engagement to achieve sustained impact and meaningful change.," said DG Pope.

This event was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Italian Cooperation.

For more information, please contact iomtunispublicinfo@iom.int