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Social Development
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VIRTUAL NATIONAL POLICY CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION AND URBANISATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa | 26 – 30 July 2021

Deadline for Submissions: [June 15, 2021](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Migration and urbanisation have been described as major issues on the economic, political and social landscape worldwide. Migration has emerged as a dominant theme in the global political discourse and international relations; and it has become an urgent concern for governance, policy-making and administration at all levels of governance. South Africa has long been both a sending and receiving country, as well as a country of transit for migrants; hence the impacts of migration cannot be ignored. The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a profound impact worldwide. The pandemic reached South Africa later than most of the world, but despite the delay, it has still had a wide-reaching impact on all South Africans. Migration and migrants at large were affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Population Unit (Department of Social Development), in collaboration with Statistics South Africa are pleased to invite paper proposals for the upcoming Virtual National Conference on Migration and Urbanisation in South Africa. Convening the conference will allow Government officials, migration researchers at national and international levels, policy makers, Non-Governmental Organisations, International Bodies, and other stakeholders working on migration and urbanisation matters, to share experiences and best practices towards addressing key migration policy and data related challenges in the country.

AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference aims to engage a range of users and producers of migration data, and migration scholars to showcase, consolidate knowledge and build capacity around migration and urbanisation in South Africa. The conference will bring to light gaps in knowledge and data needs, with the aim of establishing a Migration Forum for South Africa that will include a range of stakeholders

THEMES

The Conference will comprise of five themes:

1. Data and methods

The study of migration seems to be restricted by a lack of adequate data, and, perhaps, an overreliance on traditional data sources such as the census, civil registration, population registers, and general surveys. Although data from demographic surveillance sites are increasingly used to answer pertinent questions, many other secondary data sources, as well as administrative sources remain underutilised. Sources such as big data lying in the private sector and data collaboration need to be considered as part of the mix of sources that inform us about the state of migration in the country. The aim of this session is to review the state of migration data and data collection, as well as measures and methods used in the analysis of migration data in South Africa;

2. Internal migration and urbanisation

This theme will focus on internal migration and urbanisation dynamics in South Africa. Contributions that address spatial settlement patterns within South Africa, the impact of internal migration on origin and destination areas, effects of urbanisation, and forced migration and internal displacement will be presented under this theme. The theme will incorporate research on gender and internal migration, service delivery and access in destination areas, and impacts of migration on families left behind;

3. International migration

International migration has become a prominent theme in the discourse of policy makers, academics and the public at large. South Africa receives a large numbers of immigrants mainly from the Sub-Saharan region and also experiences emigration of its citizens to the developed global west. This theme will focus mainly on patterns, drivers and scales of migration, international migration governance, rights of migrants and refugees; as well as ethical, research, services challenges (including access, vulnerability to trafficking, abuse, discrimination, integration and social cohesion) in the field of migration

4. Substantive issues

Substantive issues as related to migration is a crucial area in “leaving no one behind,” as per the SDGs. This theme will focus on migration issues as related to health, human rights, gender, education, service delivery, climate change, poverty, impact of COVID-19 on migrants and migration and sustainable development.

5. Policy issues

This theme will focus on planning for migration management, governance concerning service delivery and international legal frameworks related to migration. This theme will facilitate discussions on the South African policy position on migration and sustainable development.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 15 , 2021	Conference Website opens for submissions
June 15, 2021	Conference Website closes to submissions
June 16 - June 30, 2021	Authors are notified of papers accepted
July 26 - 30	Virtual Conference commences

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

There is no registration cost for the Conference. The conference will be held virtually.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For any further information on the Conference, kindly contact:

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