ABOUT

Today, migration rates are higher than any other time in human history. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), nearly 35 million, or about 17 percent, of international migrants are between the ages of 10 and 24 years.

These young people, the majority of whom originate from developing countries, very often see migration as the only means to better education and employment prospects. They have, as a result, become powerful actors in the social, economic and political development not only in their countries, but also beyond national borders.

Against the backdrop of the recent surge in youth migration involving OAS member states, the topic of migration has once again become a political priority for the Americas, the OAS and our youth. The recent discussions have sparked a need to hear the voices of those most affected by these trends, in order to fully understand the elements of this situation, and to search for the most innovative solutions to support youth in their quest for a better life.

This year, the Organization of American States will host the 3rd Annual Youth Conference of the Americas on December 2, 2014, and will focus on the interrelationship between **Education & Migration,** and its influence on young people's decision to migrate**.** The objective is to underscore the need for cooperation among member states in order to manage migratory trends of our youth in a holistic and balanced manner. In 2007, the OAS member states initiated an important dialogue on human migration and agreed to prioritize the need to *"consider, analyze, and discuss human migration flows, their impact on the member states, and their relation to the human rights of migrant workers and their families, with the participation of all stakeholders."*

In addition to the main conference, there will also be a virtual dialogue in the weeks leading up to the conference, as well as an Expo, on the day of the conference, showcasing OAS programs and programs from some of the Organization's partners.