

## SESSION DETAILS

IVCOs : International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations

### DAY 0 – WELCOME DAY

#### Welcome Reception

All conference participants are invited to join the IVCO 2018 hosts in this festive evening and networking opportunity. The welcome reception will include a cultural performance and a cocktail where finger food and beverages will be served.

### DAY 1 – FROM POLICIES TO PRACTICES

#### Welcome Breakfast and Opening Discussion

##### Women and Youth: Bridging the Gap

Using Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy as a case study, the place of women and youth in development policies will be discussed, as well as the importance of such policies, the meaning of feminism for global development, the policy imperatives of a feminist agenda and the impacts of such policies on volunteering for development.

#### Panel 1

##### Inclusion of Women and Youth: From policies to practices

Panelists will present a critical overview of global policies that facilitate or undermine the inclusion of women and youth in development. This panel will set the stage for the conference by providing a historical overview of the trends, key achievements, current policy environment and remaining challenges. Key questions will be raised: Has progress been made? Why are gender and youth policies still important? How do international and national policies intersect? How can IVCOs best address and prioritize development issues that are affecting women and youth?

#### Human Library

##### From Policies to Practice: A Reality Check

What is a Human Library? Every volunteer and partner has a story to tell. During a human library, volunteers and partners are invited to share their experience, therefore their story, to one or many readers. Just like at the library, during a human library, readers choose the books they would like to read with the help of book covers and summaries. Throughout the activity, each read lasts a certain amount of time (approximately 15 minutes) and a signal is given to instruct readers when to change books. Volunteers and partners are invited to illustrate their story with the help of photos

and objects. What interests us are success stories from the field, the good practices, the challenges, etc.

In early 2018, the 15 Canadian volunteer agencies organised two human libraries with returned Canadian volunteers. During IVCO 2018, we wish to 'read' volunteer and partner stories from all around the world.

In order to ensure diversity in the books available during this new edition of a human library, we need you! The participation of your volunteers and your partners will be the key to the success of this activity. This is a unique occasion to shine the light on your field achievements and ways of working and at the same time to allow other Forum members and conference participants to better understand how things are done elsewhere in the world.

During the IVCO 2018 human library we wish to learn more about how women and youth are included in volunteer mandates, projects and programs. Therefore the human books (volunteers and partners) will have to address some of the following questions, based on their personal experiences and expertise:

- What does success look like for women and youth?
- What are the challenges, how are they overcome, what are the lessons learned?
- How policies and political context help or compromise inclusion of women and youth?
- How change happens - from policies to practice or is it from practice to policies?
- What is the intersection between policies and practice, how do they support each other or enable positive outcomes?

To get a sense of what a human library may look like please view this short video filmed during the first edition of the Canadian cooperation agencies' human library in January 2018:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxlDxuffRC4&t=2s>.

## **Dialogue Session 1**

### Volunteers as Change Agents

This session will examine how international volunteers can facilitate systems change for the inclusion of women and youth. Speakers will discuss how volunteering in itself is a great enabler of engagement for social change.

## **Dialogue Session 2**

### Inclusive Development for Women and Youth: Where are we at?

This session is a discussion around IVCO 2018 Framing Paper. Speakers will offer a review of the state of play of inclusive development for women and youth, including: contexts, challenges, progress, and the importance of addressing intersectionality (how different social status –gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, etc.– do not exist separately but are rather complexly interwoven). The following questions will be discussed: how is the evolution of the context for women and youth in the South and the

North influencing the way IVCOs conceive development and implement volunteering for development? Given the development challenges that women and youth who are often left behind are facing, how can IVCOs make a difference through the contribution of volunteers?

### **Dialogue Session 3**

#### **Policy Environment and Citizen Participation Methods for Inclusive Development**

Speakers will discuss current policy environment as well as citizen participation methods for development practices that are more inclusive of women and youth. The session will investigate the gap between policy delivery and inclusive management to be followed by discussion on the role of IVCOs in addressing such gap. The session will also address the strengths and weaknesses of different forms of participation.

### **Dialogue Session 4**

#### **Development Practice for Women and Youth**

This session is centred on IVCO 2018 Discussion Papers “Inclusive Development Practice for Women” and “Inclusive Development Practice for Youth”. The speakers will invite the audience to deepen the issues raised by the papers.

### **Wrap-Up Session**

This session is the time to sum up the discussion highlights of the first four dialogue sessions. The facilitators will address what stood out from the sessions, challenges highlighted in every session, and what information and learning are needed to help the participants move forward in their practice.

## **DAY 2 – INNOVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Inspirational talk**

This speaker will offer a short, personal and inspiring story to provoke thoughts on how volunteering for development and innovation for inclusion interact.

### **Panel 2**

#### **Innovative Strategies and Methods for the Inclusion of Women and Youth in Development and Volunteering**

This panel will focus on innovative development strategies for advancing gender equality and empowering youth. Which innovative volunteering practices will best achieve this agenda? How can IVCOs redefine their volunteers as innovators as well as capacity builders? How can IVCOs best equip their volunteers and partners? Panelists from different regions/organizations will present different innovations engaging women and youth or lead by them.

### **Dialogue session 5**

#### **Innovative Collaborations - Strategic Angle**

This session will invite IVCOs to take a look at their work and ask themselves: are organizations and should organizations be engaging with women and youth global, national and local movements, social movements (such as #metoo, #thumbsup), formal and informal groups as well as online groups? The speakers will offer a strategic conversation, addressing the imperatives of making such a change, the assumptions behind the current reflection on this issue, and offering a new perspective of what inclusive and innovative partnerships might look like. Why and how can volunteer involving organizations better support inclusive spaces?

### **Dialogue session 6**

#### **Innovation in Safeguarding - Strategic Angle**

The 2018 events have highlighted the gaps in how organizations are addressing safety and security. As a result, the speakers will raise and discuss strategic questions: what are the most pressing issues volunteer involving organizations are faced with concerning safeguarding? What changes need to happen? What implications does this have for the international development sector and volunteer involving organizations?

### **Dialogue session 7**

#### **Innovation for the Inclusion of Diversity & Identities - Strategic Angle**

Talking from a high-level and strategic perspective on inclusion, the speakers will address the following questions: What are the assumptions behind the current thinking on inclusive development? What are the imperatives of a change towards a stronger inclusion of diverse identities? When speaking of inclusion of marginalized groups in development work (for example, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ+ community) are IVCOs achieving what they set out to achieve and is it what these groups need IVCOs to do? What are some innovative approaches and the benefits of inclusion? Speakers will offer new ideas and perspectives that challenge the status quo and create new possibilities in the volunteering for development sector.

### **Dialogue session 8**

#### **Innovation in Monitoring Evaluation and Learning - Strategic Angle**

What are IVCOs measuring, for and with whom? The measurements that matter to governments, funders, volunteers, and host communities differ. Do IVCO know what matters to their various stakeholders? Are IVCOs measuring what matters? How then can organizations ensure that they are measuring correctly? The speakers will explore the added value of volunteering for development that IVCOs should be capturing as a unique value proposition, versus other development actors, and offer new perspectives on inclusive monitoring and evaluation. They will explore the changes that need to take place: do IVCOs have a real horizontality with their partners? Do IVCOs have real accountability towards partners and volunteers? Are women and youth partners involved in design and evaluation processes? Finally, the speakers will outline what success would look like.

### **Dialogue session 9**

#### **Innovative Collaborations - Operational Angle**

This session is an opportunity to further address the issues raised in dialogue session 5 from a more operational and practical perspective, with different speakers. What does innovative collaborations with women and youth groups mean for IVCOs' work with the staff, volunteers, partners, and beneficiaries? How do IVCOs partner with women and youth groups to amplify their own work and messages? What are the most creative methods to engage with those groups (for instance, information and communication technologies, social art, etc.)? Speakers will share best practices and partnership models for innovative collaborations.

*Note: At the end of this session, participants will be asked to wrap up the discussions of Day 2, building on the Day 1 wrap-up session.*

### **Dialogue session 10**

#### **Innovation in Safeguarding - Operational Angle**

This session is an opportunity to further address the issues raised in dialogue session 6 from a more operational and practical perspective, with different speakers. This session will allow agencies to share their framework for security operations excellence as well as the work that is being done to ensure inclusive and responsible safety and security practices. Speakers will discuss the following questions: How can organizations make sure that challenges faced by women and youth are considered as an integral part of organizations' safety and security standards? What is being done to mitigate these potentially negative/harmful policies and practices and how are the approaches being monitored? How can IVCOs work more effectively together to share resources?

*Note: At the end of this session, participants will be asked to wrap up the discussions of Day 2, building on the Day 1 wrap-up session.*

### **Dialogue session 11**

#### **Innovation for the Inclusion of Diversity & Identities - Operational Angle**

This session is an opportunity to further address the issues raised in dialogue session 7 from a more operational and practical perspective, with different speakers. It will address the concrete ways, methods and management tools IVCOs could use to partner with women and youth groups in all their diversity. What are the best methods to ensure IVCOs acknowledge and engage with various entities? What are the different ways to engage with diversity: With the staff? With the volunteers? With the organizational partners? And how can organizations include diversity in all the steps of development, e.g. during project design as well as implementation and evaluation? The speakers will demonstrate how these issues are best addressed within their own organizations and partners' organizations (policies, programs, etc.).

## **Dialogue session 12**

### Innovation in Monitoring Evaluation and Learning - Operational Angle

This session is an opportunity to further address the issues raised in dialogue session 8 from an operational and practical perspective, with different speakers. Speakers will demonstrate how their own organizations or partner organization foster operational excellence. They will share inclusive monitoring and evaluation best practices, matrices and/or framework.

*Note: At the end of this session, participants will be asked to wrap-up the discussions of Day 2, building on the Day 1 wrap-up session.*

## **DAY 3 – COMMUNICATING IMPACTS STRATEGICALLY**

### **Inspirational talk**

This speaker will offer a short, personal and inspiring story to provoke thoughts on how to communicate inclusion.

### **Panel 3**

#### Communicating Impacts Strategically

This panel will discuss how organizations communicate the inclusion of women and youth in development, and what the best ways are to engage women and youth in communicating the impacts of volunteering for development. What are the stereotypes related to women and youth? To whom do IVCOs need to communicate the necessity and the impacts of including women and youth as key actors in development: volunteers, partners, staff and funders? What are the best ways to communicate it? Do IVCOs include women and youth in their communications? Is there enough political, social space outside the usual IVCOs' networks to communicate it? How do these communications live on after the end of volunteers' mandates?

## **Dialogue session 13**

### Communicating Impacts via Civic Engagement

How do IVCOs support volunteers to get involved in development efforts after their assignment? This session will present the experiences of volunteers who stayed involved after their mandate (why, how, etc.) and positive situations where organizations have helped/facilitated the engagement of volunteers after their mandate. The following questions will be addressed: Is the work of the volunteer transferable and/or valued after the mandate? What role should volunteers be playing after their mandate? How do they engage with women or youth organizations in their country on domestic issues? How can IVCOs harness former volunteers to advocate for more inclusive development policies, e.g. on the inclusion of women and youth?

### **Dialogue session 14**

#### **Communicating Impacts by the Multiplication of Inclusive Practices**

This session will look at how volunteers can be multipliers agents that can scale up practices that have demonstrated positive impacts for the inclusion of women and youth.

### **Dialogue session 15**

#### **Communicating Impacts Regionally and Nationally**

This session will look at the ways IVCOs' partners from the South communicate their experience with volunteers in terms of inclusion of women and youth at a community, local or national level in the countries and regions where they work. Do organizations communicate locally the impact of volunteers and of their work with women and youth? How? What are the most effective ways, and what are the benefits of doing so?

### **Dialogue session 16**

#### **Communicating Impacts to Funders**

This session will focus on the political perspectives and corporate challenges in funding IVCOs' work. What do governments and corporations as funders look for and want to see measured? Are IVCOs set up to deliver on political or corporate demands? How can these different stakeholders agree and align their outcomes for a more inclusive development?

### **Dialogue session 17**

#### **Recognition of Volunteering through an Alignment with Agenda 2030**

Facilitator: Forum's Volunteer Groups Alliance

Volunteerism is a universal phenomenon and an essential means to implement Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, in order to be effective, sustainable and relevant for the SDGs, it needs to be recognized and supported both by governments, multilateral institutions, nation states and communities at large. It also needs to be recognized and supported by a variety of stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society and public institutions.

Alignment with Agenda 2030 and specific SDG targets can be a powerful approach to the recognition of volunteering, both with respect to women and youth and other development efforts. The Volunteer Groups Alliance (VGA) is the instrument initiated by Forum to engage in the promotion and recognition of volunteering for Agenda 2030 at the global, regional and national levels.

This session will inform about the Alliance and its efforts, achievements and plans for the future. The session will also discuss how member organizations can get involved in promoting the recognition of volunteering for Agenda 2030 with support from the VGA and its membership network.



## **Dialogue Session 18**

### **Recognition of Volunteering through Volunteering Standards**

Facilitator: Forum's Leading Standards Working Group

Forum is creating a set of Global Volunteering for Development Standards which will be launched in October 2019. The global standards will be comprehensive and cover the entire program cycle from program development through operational delivery to evaluation and learning. An important focus will be on inclusion and safeguarding as well ensuring that the volunteering for development practices align with sustainable, responsible and impactful development principles.

The creation of these standards provides an opportunity for organizations to discuss and align good practices, draw from specific expertise, share learning and agree on what constitutes impactful and responsible volunteering. It is part of a process of recognizing the value and impacts of volunteering for development/Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Forum's Leading Standards Working Group is currently in the consultation phase to develop the standards. This session is an opportunity for attendees to help shape global standards going forward. The Leading Standards Working Group will be sharing outputs from the consultation to date and creating the space for attendees to reflect on those outputs and feed their views into the consultation process.

## **Dialogue Session 19**

### **Recognition of Volunteering through Impact Measurement**

Facilitator: Forum's Research, Practice, Policy and Learning Group

The Forum Research, Practice, Policy and Learning (RPPL) Group enables researchers and practitioners to share their work and strengthen the evidence base and organizational practice of volunteering for development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This participatory and interactive session, which uses a World Café approach, will present ways to measure the impacts, outcomes or contributions of volunteering for development for women and youth, as well as test the applicability of approaches proposed by RPPL members to measure the impacts for women and youth.

## **Wrap-Up and Concluding Remarks**

### **Lessons learned to bridge the gap**

This will be the time to highlight the main findings of the conference, and outline the commitments that emerged in the dialogue sessions. A preview of IVCO 2019 will be presented.

## **Closing cocktail**

### **Celebrating Halloween!**

All participants are invited to join the closing event and celebrate!