

Break-out Session 6: Diversity, multiple identities and social inclusion. Best practices in integration

Panelists:

Michael Girardi, (on behalf of State Secretary Sebastian Kurz), Federal Ministry for the Interior
Austria

Christian Strohal, Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN Office at Geneva

Loren B. Landau, Director of Forced Migration Studies at the University of Witwatersrand

Hass Dellal, Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation

Howard Duncan, Executive Head Metropolis Project

Ibrahim Kalin, Deputy Undersecretary of Turkey

Moderator:

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Journalist and Author

Session Summary

The enlightening debate focused on the definition of the term integration and the role of the institutional framework facing questions of diverse societies and identity. The participants of the panel discussion tried to define the difference between immigration and migration within borders, as well as pointing out that the majority of migration is taking part in the southern hemisphere. They underlined the paradox, that western standards in integration politics adopted the assumption that the vast of migration takes part to Europe and North America out of developing countries. The various perspectives of dealing with topics of inclusion and exclusion were shared and discussed. Diversity and identity are important, but it does need work to bridge the gap between social groups to evolve and build innovation. The perception of citizenship reached from its use as a reward for achievements to a precondition of successful integrative way. Parts of the panel group suggested to reformulate the concept of integration towards a more comprehensive way of creating healthy society without labeling people and limiting people to their origin.

In terms of responsible leadership it was addressed by the whole panel group that the government needs to set a political framework and ensuring participation in politic processes or in public life. The comments from the audience raised the question about the youth agendas which often seem to be unheard in public decisions and in high level conference. It was underlined that youth is not only the

future but it is the presence of a society and it needs representation and a basis to negotiate within political decisions. Summarized it could be said that integration within responsible leadership isn't about "Top-Down" decisions, it is about the ethics of coexistence, networked collaboration between various stakeholders of the society and furthermore the inclusion of groups who don't have a voice in the political process to cover the dynamic aspect of a globalized world within the borders of nations.