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**Oceans Conference**

**Partnership Dialogue 3: Minimizing and Addressing Ocean Acidification**

**Tuesday, 06 June 2017 – 15h00 to 18h00**

**Conference Room 4, UNHQ**

- 1) Co-facilitators, distinguished panelists, ladies and gentlemen,
  - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is pleased to contribute to this **Partnership Dialogue 3 on Minimizing and Addressing Ocean Acidification**.

This is indeed a topic of growing interest to us, especially **the link between migration, climate change and oceans**.

- A) As such, **it represents a challenge** as far as population and displacement is concerned.

**According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), since 2008, an average of 22.5 million people have been displaced by climate- or weather-related disasters each year.** Last year, 24 million people were displaced due to natural disasters.

**Most of the affected populations live in:**

- Ocean coastal areas
- Small Island States
- Climate change front lines across the world.

In addition, we know that at least 40 million people are **at risk of future displacement due to climate change impacts on the oceans.**

**B) It also represents an opportunity for migration to not be a survival strategy but an adaption to climate change.**

In some countries, best practices in context of climate change already exist, For example:

- a) We see policy efforts in **Kiribati** to purchase new land in Fiji to ensure food security in anticipation of the risk of submersion; or in **Alaska** to plan for the relocation of whole communities affected by climate-changed induced coastal erosion. Some states such as Tuvalu are looking into bilateral cooperation with neighboring countries to facilitate migration abroad.
- b) The Indigenous knowledge in **Papua New Guinea** is helping to strengthen disaster risk reduction responses and avoid forced displacement of the people
- c) We can also think about **Senegalese diaspora** communities in Italy who are investing in land rehabilitation in coastal areas in order to help their people have the choice to stay where their ancestral homes are.

**The Ocean Conference should harness the benefits of the discussion on oceans, climate change and migration nexus as one of the “Frontier Issues” confronting**

our world, and we can no longer afford to deny or treat it “as business as usual”. We require a more innovative, evidence-based and whole of government approach to address the complexities involved and build better and more resilient communities.

IOM’s vision is for a world in which **migrants move as a matter of genuine choice rather than desperate necessity**, and in which migration is well governed and migrant’s rights and dignity are respected.