



108th Session of the Council

High-Level Panel Discussion

Opportunities to Address Migration and Climate Change in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Thursday, November 30th, 15:00-16:00
Conference Room XVII, Palais des Nations

Environmental and climate factors play an undeniable role in contemporary migration patterns. In the past ten years, environmental migration has been primarily acknowledged and addressed at an international level in climate change negotiations.

The global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration offers yet another unique opportunity, this time within the international migration governance policy realm, to recognize the importance of environmental and climate factors.

The High-level Panel organized at the 108th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) aims to show that the international community can no longer design migration policy without taking into account the environmental state of our planet. If forced migration is to be avoided and safe migration is to be facilitated, it is no longer possible to ignore the challenges posed by environmental and climate risks and their impacts on all policy areas.

The progress made in acknowledging environmental migration at the international level brings nevertheless another challenge: how to ensure coherence between the multiple policy areas at stake, such as the implementation of the Paris Agreement, of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and of the Global Pact for the Environment?

IOM has been engaged in pioneering environmental and climate migration work for more than 25 years, leading activities in research, dialogue and policy development, capacity building and operations in the field. This High-level Panel is part of this commitment of IOM and its Member States to this important subject.

The following questions will serve to guide the discussion:

Policy coherence between the multiple international agendas:

- How will the Global Pact for the Environment, launched by France, complement the Paris Agreement? How will it contribute to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while making the link between the fight against extreme poverty and the preservation of the planet? And how can migration be addressed within this context?
- What results have been achieved in addressing climate and environmental migration and displacement at COP 23 under the Fijian Presidency, particularly in terms of the progress of the Task Force on Displacement?
- What opportunities can be seized in the progress made by processes related to the Platform on Disaster Displacement, the Human Rights Council, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction?

Integrating environmental and climate issues in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration:

- Why and how to include environmental and climate factors in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which should lead to the creation of a framework for managing population movements based on a set of globally recognized principles, guidelines and values?
- How to highlight the importance of migration as a driver of economic growth and a measure of adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction? How to strengthen the links between migration management and international action for climate change and the environment?
- How can Member States put in practice the commitments made under different policy processes and connect policy with action on environmental migration? What are examples of best practices and tools that support the implementation of migration policies addressing the challenges of environmental degradation and climate change?

Programme of the Panel:

This panel will be moderated by the Director General of IOM.

- 1) Statement by the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition of France (10 min)
- 2) Statement by the Government of Fiji, in their capacity as President of COP23 (10 min)
- 3) Statement by the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC (10 min)
- 4) Statement by the Executive Director of UN Environment (3 minutes video)
- 5) Statement by the Co-President of the Japan Emergency NGO (7 minutes)

Remarks from the floor and exchange with the panelists (20 minutes).