

## **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

### **Submission to the European Assembly of the Council of Europe on Migration, Environment and Climate Change**

***30 October 2020***

## Introduction

Pursuant to the call of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is pleased to submit the present document. Through this submission, IOM intends to support the ongoing work of the Committee to produce a report on Climate and Migration that analyses the interconnections between migration, environment and climate change, identify the challenges and propose solutions to address them.

IOM welcomes past and recent resolutions from the Parliamentary Assembly (Resolution 1655 in 2009, Resolution 2115 in 2016 and Resolution 2307 in 2019) highlighting the nexus between migration, environment and climate change, as well as the need to take further action to reduce communities' vulnerability, protect the rights of affected people, and increase their ability to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters. Ms. Dina Ionesco, Head of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division at IOM, was invited to participate to the debate of the Parliamentary Assembly on 3 October 2019 (34<sup>th</sup> Sitting) regarding the Resolution 2307 on "A legal status for 'climate refugees'" and to the more recent Assembly debate on 16 October 2020 about a new proposed resolution on Climate and Migration. IOM is pleased to be given this opportunity to contribute to the Parliamentary Assembly work on migration, environment and climate change.

This submission is based on the work of IOM to support governments in protecting the human rights of migrants, displaced persons and other populations affected by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and in addressing population movements induced by rapid and slow onset events and processes. After presenting IOM mandate and approach on this topic, the document will provide some key recommendations for the consideration of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly to support the drafting of the proposed report on climate change and migration. This submission also brings to the attention of the Committee some good practices and existing initiatives that aim to assist people moving in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and that can be supported by greater action at European level in the relevant fields.

## Key messages from IOM Submission

1. Environmental migration is a complex and multi-causal phenomenon that can result in different types of mobility and create both challenges and opportunities. There is therefore a need to develop **comprehensive approaches that encompass the broad spectrum of human mobility, including those linked to slow-onset events**. Such approaches could promote 1) solutions that help people stay in their communities of origin and avoid forced migration, 2) solutions to assist and protect people already on the move due to climate impacts; and 3) solutions to facilitate the mobility of people when adaptation in or return to communities of origin is not possible.
2. **Human rights and gender-based approaches** should be at the core of proposed responses and the vulnerability of specific groups such as indigenous people and migrants should be systematically taken into account.
3. **Promoting policy coherence** at global, regional and national levels is key to maximize efforts and avoid duplication. In particular, the Committee's effort should be aligned with principles agreed upon under the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
4. **Integrating migration considerations into the European Green Deal** could help support the European green transition and address climate drivers of migration by building resilience in communities of origin.

## IOM mandate and approach on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC)

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and has a long-standing and extensive experience supporting governments and other partners to prevent, prepare for and address displacement and facilitate migration in the context of disasters and environmental change. Since the 1990s, IOM has been at the forefront of operational, research, policy and advocacy efforts, and has developed a large portfolio of activities seeking to bring environmental migration to the heart of international, regional and national concerns, in collaboration with its Member States, observers and partners.



Since 2007, member states have requested IOM governing bodies to work on migration, environment and climate change. At the beginning of 2015, a dedicated Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division was created to address this nexus.<sup>1</sup> A set of core documents defines the modalities of IOM engagement on this topic. The IOM Strategic Vision 2019-2023 recognizes climate change and environmental events and processes as key drivers of increased internal, regional and international mobility and as one of the Organization's strategic priorities.<sup>2</sup> At the request of its Director General, IOM is also developing throughout 2020 a thematic strategy on migration, climate change and the environment, to support institution-wide approaches on this topic and that will build upon IOM engagement on the topic.<sup>3</sup>

IOM recognizes the necessity to step up national, regional and international efforts to address human mobility challenges associated with environmental and climate changes. IOM's vision is that contemporary migration governance, policy and practice must reflect the significance of environmental, disaster and climate change factors on human mobility. Those factors must be integrated across all areas of migration management, such as: prevention, preparedness and response to displacement, border management, labour migration and integration, and return and reintegration.<sup>4</sup>

Taking into account the complexity and diversity of migration dynamics, IOM pursues three broad objectives in managing environmental migration aiming at developing suitable and durable solutions:

- To **help people to stay** by minimizing forced and unmanaged migration
- To **help people on the move** by ensuring assistance and protection to those already displaced, and by seeking durable solutions for them
- To **help people to move** when migration is an adaptation strategy to climate change

Consistent with its vision and mandate on migration, environment and climate change, IOM is pleased to provide some reflections and recommendations for consideration of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and for the preparation of its report.

## Proposed approaches

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<sup>1</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/mecc-division>

<sup>2</sup> <https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/110/C-110-INF-1%20-%20IOM%20Strategic%20Vision.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/iom-strategy-migration-climate-change-and-environment>

<sup>4</sup> [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc\\_infosheet\\_2018\\_1.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc_infosheet_2018_1.pdf)



## **1. Addressing the complexity of human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters**

While “**climate refugee**” is a term frequently used on purpose in the media to draw attention on the situation and needs of those uprooted because of the adverse impacts of climate change, this term has no legal basis in international refugee law. There is a growing consensus among concerned agencies, including IOM and UNHCR, that its use should be avoided as it can be misleading. The term climate refugee also fails to recognize a number of key aspects that define population movements in the context of climate change, including that such migration is mainly internal and not necessarily forced.<sup>5</sup>

Mobility dynamics in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are indeed complex and diverse. IOM has put forward in 2007 a broad working definition of “environmental migration” which seeks to capture the complexity of the issues at stake: **Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad**”.<sup>6</sup>

This definition helps to account for the **diverse range of population movements** taking place in the context of climate and environmental changes: forced and voluntary migration, temporary and permanent, internal, regional or international, individual and collective, of proximity and of long distance. This definition also highlights the **diversity of environmental drivers** that can influence the decision to migrate and the type of migration. **Slow-onsets** events and processes, such as sea level rise, permafrost thawing or land degradation, and **rapid-onset** events and processes, such as floods, storms or cyclones, have different mobility impacts and do not imply the same protection, assistance and support needs for affected people.<sup>7</sup> It also depends to what extent environmental drivers interact with other socio-economic, cultural and political factors that influence the decision or necessity to move.

Because of this complexity and multicausality, **environmental migration should not be understood as a wholly negative or positive outcome** as migration can amplify existing vulnerabilities, but it can also allow people to build resilience. This complexity calls for the need for comprehensive and **all-of-mobility approaches** that do not exclusively focus on displacement but encompass the broad spectrum of human mobility and allow to effectively address conditions of vulnerability and promote resilience.

To comprehensively address these movements, IOM promotes 1) **solutions for people to stay**, 2) **solutions for people on the move** and 3) **solutions for people to move**. It requires a broad range of

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<sup>5</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/environmental-migration-1>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/about\\_iom/en/council/94/MC\\_INF\\_288.pdf](https://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/about_iom/en/council/94/MC_INF_288.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> IOM has submitted to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons on internal displacement in the context of the slow-onset adverse effects of climate change, [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IOM%20SR%20IPD%20slow%20onset%20full%20submissi on%20%28002%29.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IOM%20SR%20IPD%20slow%20onset%20full%20submission%20%28002%29.pdf)



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interventions in the fields of migration management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk management, development and urban planning. It is also essential to support **more research, data and evidence** work to better understand human mobility patterns in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and inform policy-making processes.

## **2. Supporting human rights and gender-based approaches on migration, environment and climate change**

IOM fully supports the **human rights perspective** adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly in its discussions on migration and climate change. IOM also welcomes recent actions and discussions of the Council of Europe on environment and human rights.<sup>8</sup>

The adverse impacts of climate change and associated risks or situations of displacement threaten all dimensions of the life of affected persons, including their enjoyment of essential rights such as the right to life and personal security, to food and water, to self-determination, to health, of free movement, to own property or to desirable work, education and adequate living standards.

**Specific groups** are more vulnerable to slow and rapid onset processes and events due to climate and environmental changes and require particular attention. People whose livelihoods are dependent on healthy ecosystems, such as **indigenous people**, are particularly affected and at risk of displacement because of the loss of sea ice and permafrost thawing in the Arctic, drought and loss of fertile land in Africa, or changes in temperature and rainfall patterns in the Amazon and in Asia.

**Age and gender** are also among the most important factors shaping the migration experience. Because of unequal gender distribution of roles, cultural norms and unequal access to resources, women and girls are likely to be disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters as they tend to have, in average, less access to education, information, health, natural resources or income.<sup>9</sup> They might have to walk longer distances to find water in areas affected by desertification and water stress or can be trapped in environmentally degraded areas and more exposed to disasters.<sup>10</sup> Women and girls who stay behind might also suffer more human rights violation, such as dropping out of school or being forced to marry.

Other groups, such as **elderly people, disabled persons, and minorities** also face additional challenges and forms of discrimination in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/programme-human-rights-for-the-planet>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/about-iom/gender/Gender-Approach-to-Environmental-Migration.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/gender-climate-and-security-en.pdf?la=en&vs=419>



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In order to put the interest and rights of people at the centre of all relevant effort, including migrants and host and sending communities, it is essential to adopt **people-centered, human rights-based and inclusive approaches**.

IOM emphasizes that human rights approaches are key at all stages of the migration process and for all types of migration. Human rights framework can effectively guide States in designing policies that prevent displacement, protect people during displacement and allow people to move safely and in dignity.

Some national and regional initiatives already follow a human right based approach and can be presented as good practices:

- The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Free Movement Protocol (2020) marks a significant step in addressing some protection gaps for people displaced by disasters across borders. It allows citizens of IGAD Members States to cross borders “in anticipation of, during or in the aftermath of disaster” and to stay in another country as long as return to the country of origin “is not possible or reasonable”.<sup>11</sup>
- Fiji Displacement Guidelines in the context of climate change and disasters (2019) cover interventions needed before, during and after displacement and are based on holistic, human-centered, human-rights based and inclusive approaches.<sup>12</sup> These guidelines are accompanied by another document focused on planned relocation.<sup>13</sup>
- The 2015 Bangladesh National Strategy on the management of disaster and climate induced internal displacement and its 2020 revised version are the result of a consultative process with all relevant stakeholders. The Strategy follows a rights-based approach spelling out programmatic interventions to protect people during disaster displacement, as well as adopting both preventive and adaptive measures to minimize its environmental drivers.

Another recent and important development took place in January 2020. The **UN Human Rights Committee** published its decision regarding the case of Mr. Ionane Teitiota, a Kiribati national seeking asylum in New Zealand by claiming that climate change and sea level rise prevented him from returning to his country. Although the claim of Mr. Teitiota was rejected by the national courts and the Committee, the Committee decision remains significant.<sup>14</sup> For the first time, the Committee recognized the application of the principle of non-refoulement to situations where the impacts of climate change are so severe that they risk infringing upon a person’s right to life with dignity, under article 6, or the prohibition of inhumane

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<sup>11</sup> <https://news.trust.org/item/20200228175003-4k8dq>

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<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/sites/default/files/documents/Displacement%20Guidelines.%20In%20the%20context%20of%20climate%20change%20and%20disasters..pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5c3c92204.html>

<sup>14</sup> <https://weblog.iom.int/position-human-rights-committee-opens-possibility-dignified-migration-context-climate-change>

and degrading treatment, under article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (para.9.11).

However, the Committee has not defined the specific immigration or protection status that these persons should be granted. Therefore, different options to protect people moving in the context of climate and environmental change have to be further explored.

### **3. Promoting policy coherence at global, regional and national levels**

To date, there are no international instruments dealing specifically with human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters. However, several policies, frameworks and instruments developed at international and regional levels in humanitarian and human rights laws, refugee law, migration management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, or disaster risk management, are relevant to addressing this issue and protecting environmental migrants.

In **humanitarian law**, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights state key rights that are relevant for environmental migrants, such as the right to life with dignity, to health or the freedom of movement.

In **migration management**, the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)** represents a milestone in international policy for recognizing and addressing the links between population movements and climate change. The GCM clearly identifies slow onset environmental degradation, natural disasters and climate change impacts as drivers of contemporary migration (objectives 2 and 5 of the GCM in particular). The GCM recognizes that climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in countries of origin need to be prioritized to minimize drivers of migration, but also states the need for States to design measures for **strengthening regular migration pathways**, such as visa options and planned relocation, in cases where adaptation is no longer possible.<sup>15</sup> This is also in accordance with target 10.7 of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** that calls on governments to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. The **Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)** also includes references to mobility and environment.

Acting as the coordinator and secretariat of the **UN Network on Migration**, IOM is supporting countries to implement GCM recommendations at regional and national levels, and to integrate climate and environmental considerations into their migration policies. Several countries already refer to climate and environmental considerations in their national laws, policies and strategies dealing with migration and

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<sup>15</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/10-key-takeaways-gcm-environmental-migration>



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displacement, such as Ghana<sup>16</sup>, Kenya<sup>17</sup>, Nigeria<sup>18</sup>, or have drafted specialized policies, such as Vanuatu<sup>19</sup> or Fiji<sup>20</sup>. But in many countries, the attention to environmental factors is not mainstreamed in migration policies and more efforts need to be done in this regard.

A recent scientific study has demonstrated that **restrictive border policy can increase exposure and vulnerability** to climate change, by trapping people in areas where they are more exposed and vulnerable than where they would otherwise migrate.<sup>21</sup> On the other hand, migration and remittances can positively contribute to climate change adaptation in countries of origin. It could therefore be of interest to explore the impacts of migration management policy decisions in the international climate negotiations.

The **UN Conventions on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) and **Desertification**<sup>22</sup> (UNCCD) are also extremely relevant to address human mobility in the context of climate change and important developments have taken place in these global frameworks over the last years especially within the UNFCCC. IOM has been actively engaged in the UNFCCC discussions since 2008 to advocate for the recognition of human mobility dimensions in climate negotiations, along with other partners.<sup>23</sup> In 2015, the Paris Agreement adopted during COP21 established the **Task Force on Displacement** (TFD) under the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (Excom), of which IOM is a member.<sup>24</sup> The TFD aimed to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change. The TFD recommendations were endorsed at COP24 in 2018, and its mandate extended for another 2 years until 2021. Those recommendations are consistent with the GCM objectives, as TFD invites Parties to the UNFCCC to facilitate safe and orderly migration and enhance opportunities for regular migration pathways in the context of climate change.

Since the adoption of the Cancun Adaptation Framework (2010) at COP16 that first recognized the growing importance of human mobility in relation to climate change, and the role migration can play as an adaptation strategy, several countries have integrated migration and displacement considerations into

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<sup>16</sup> Government of Ghana (2016), Ministry of Interior – National Migration Policy for Ghana

<sup>17</sup> Republic of Kenya (2017), Ministry of State for Immigration and Registration of Persons – Draft Kenya National Migration Policy

<sup>18</sup> [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/national\\_migration\\_policy\\_2015.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/national_migration_policy_2015.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/press\\_release/file/iom-vanuatu-policy-climate-change-disaster-induced-displacement-2018.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/press_release/file/iom-vanuatu-policy-climate-change-disaster-induced-displacement-2018.pdf)

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<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/sites/default/files/documents/Displacement%20Guidelines.%20In%20the%20context%20of%20climate%20change%20and%20disasters..pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Hélène Benveniste, Michael Oppenheimer, Marc Fleurbaey, “Effect of border policy on exposure and vulnerability to climate change”, *PNAS*, 117(43) 2020, <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/43/26692>

<sup>22</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/human-mobility-unccd>

<sup>23</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/human-mobility-unfccc>

<sup>24</sup> <https://unfccc.int/wim-excom/sub-groups/TFD#eq-3>

their **national adaptation policies** and **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** submitted to UNFCCC.<sup>25</sup>

The **Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)**, a state-led initiative established in 2016 to follow-up on the work initiated by the Nansen initiative, has also made positive strides to offer better protection for people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.<sup>26</sup> With IOM and UNHCR as key partners, the PDD has worked since its creation with interested States to implement the recommendations of the Nansen Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change. This Agenda offers States a toolbox to better prevent and prepare for displacement before a disaster strikes. The European Union is one of the most active members of the Steering Group of the PDD.

Relevant developments also exist in the field of **disaster management** and most of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies developed to implement the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**, refer to human mobility issues (displacement, migration, evacuation, relocation).<sup>27</sup> IOM has collaborated with several international partners to the development of the **Words into Action guidelines on Disaster Displacement**<sup>28</sup>, to help governments integrate disaster displacement and other related forms of human mobility into regional, national, sub-national and local DRR strategies, in accordance with the Sendai Framework.

Some **regional policy frameworks are also relevant** to human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters. This is the case of the Kampala Convention that includes climate change as a cause of displacement in the regional definition of an Internally Displaced Person (IDP), or the aforementioned IGAD 2020 Protocol on Free Movement. The South American Conference on Migration (SACM) and the Regional Conference on Migration have developed a non-binding regional instrument on the protection of people displaced across borders and on migrants in countries affected by disasters<sup>29</sup>. Important regional efforts are ongoing in the Pacific region to reduce the risk and impact of disaster on persons at risk of being displaced in developing small islands states<sup>30</sup>, empower communities affected by climate change

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<sup>25</sup> IOM, Mapping Human Mobility and Climate Change in Relevant National Policies and Institutional Frameworks, contribution to the Task Force on Displacement's workplan (Activity I.1), <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/20180917%20WIM%20TFD%20I.1%20Output%20final.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/platform-disaster-displacement>

<sup>27</sup> Michelle Yonetani, Mapping the baseline. To what extent are displacement and other forms of human mobility integrated in national and regional disaster risk reduction strategies?, October 2018, study carried out under the PDD workplan 2016-2019, [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/65230\\_07052019mappingthebaselineweb.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/65230_07052019mappingthebaselineweb.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/publication/words-action-guidelines-disaster-displacement-how-reduce-risk-address-impacts-and#:~:text=The%20development%20of%20this%20Words,as%20set%20out%20in%20the>

<sup>29</sup> [https://disasterdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CSM-Lineamientos-regionales-personas-desplazadas-por-desastres\\_compressed.pdf](https://disasterdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CSM-Lineamientos-regionales-personas-desplazadas-por-desastres_compressed.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> This is the objective of the Pacific Response to Disaster Displacement (PRDD) project, funded by the European Union and led by IDMC, with IOM and PDD as key partners, <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/pacific-response-disaster-displacement-prdd>

through training and skills development activities, and increase the capacity of governments to promote labour mobility in the context of climate change<sup>31</sup>.

IOM strongly encourages the Committee to support **efforts for more coherence and consistency** between these different global policy frameworks, in particular the Paris Agreement, the Global Compact for Migration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Committee should also ensure that its work is consistent with the relevant associated working processes, such as the work of the Task Force on Displacement under UNFCCC and the operationalization of the Words into Action Guidelines on Disaster Displacement. With slow-onset effects of environmental change expected to further drive global urbanization trends, IOM also encourages the development of **migrant-inclusive urban policies** to prevent the creation of future risk and build more sustainable societies.

#### **4. Integrating migration considerations into the European Green Deal**

IOM welcomes the focus of the Committee on **slow-onset events and processes** that already affect European territories (sea level rise, droughts, glacier melting, heatwaves), along with disasters (floods, forest fires, storms). The adverse effects of climate change impact mobility dynamics in every region of the world, including Europe. Melting of glaciers in Northern Europe, severe droughts in Southern Europe, sea level rise affecting the coasts of Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, France or Italy, but also changes in ecosystems affecting agricultural sector, already have an impact on migration and displacement within the region. Movement essentially occur within countries, although some cross-border mobility may be experienced.

**Migrants in Europe are also at a greater risk** of being exposed to environmental stressors, such as poor indoor air quality, heat and cold stress or air pollution, because they are usually socially disadvantaged and live in deprived neighbourhoods.<sup>32</sup>

**Migration, if properly managed, can play a positive role to support climate action in Europe**, notably through remittances and technical knowledge transfer. Well managed migration can also help address some of European future challenges, including sustaining its population size and economic growth.

While migration matters for European Climate Action in different ways, it does not feature significantly in the European Green Deal (EGD) documents released so far. Migrants are not recognized as potential stakeholders, beneficiaries or facilitators of the EGD achievements. Including migration in the EGD would

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<sup>31</sup> IOM is leading a multi-partner project funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security to enhance protection and empower migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region, <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/enhancing-protection-and-empowerment-migrants-and-communities-affected-climate-change-and>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/healthy-environment-healthy-lives>



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ensure consistency with global commitments made under the Paris Agreement, the Global Compact for Migration or the Sendai Framework.<sup>33</sup>

The work of the Committee could contribute to **facilitate the integration of migrants in the EGD** and thus ensure to **leave no one behind** in the transition. IOM has defined three areas in which migration could be more comprehensively integrated in the EGD:

- **Safe, orderly and regular migration could be a useful mechanism to support the green transition envisaged in the EGD and to address climate drivers of migration.** Remittances can support adaptation and build resilience in communities of origin. Circular or seasonal migration can be used as a risk management strategy for households exposed to climate change impacts but can also fill labour market gaps.
- **The Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) and Just Transition Fund (JTF) should acknowledge the role of migrants, their families and communities in the workforce and supply chain.** Migrants are an important part of the labour force in the extractive and fossil-fuel industries. The JTM should also ensure that migrants have access to adequate social protection and opportunities for reskilling.
- **The EU could promote the principles and practices of the EGD in its external action, including those pertaining to the nexus between migration, climate change and the green transition,** considering that the EGD will shape climate action, sustainable development and humanitarian operations in other parts of the world.

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<sup>33</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/blogs/migration-and-european-green-deal>