

# International Organization for Migration

## Institutional Strategy on Migration, Climate Change and the Environment

### Concept Note - Briefing with IOM Member States

*Geneva, Switzerland, 24 September 2020*

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#### **I. Context**

Climate change and environmental degradation are profoundly shifting contemporary migration patterns. In that context, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has to adapt and expand its expertise on the topic to anticipate and respond to the demands of its Member States and address the needs of migrants. This includes providing more and better evidence, supporting policy development at global, regional and national levels and developing adequate operational activities.

The development of an IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration, Climate Change and the Environment is an organisation-wide effort led by the Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division, as part of the IOM Director General's Strategic Vision 2019-2024 for the Organization.

The Strategy's development is complementary to other IOM's institutional strategies, including the IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development and the IOM Migration Data Strategy.

The Strategy will be rooted in the current institutional engagement and capacities of the Organization and aligned with United Nations' instruments, policies, processes and core values.

In particular, the Strategy will build upon three broad institutional objectives which were defined in 2007 at the IOM Council,<sup>1</sup> and in 2011 at the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM).<sup>2</sup> Progress report were provided at IOM's Governing Bodies<sup>3</sup> and in official publications.<sup>4</sup>

- 1) To minimize forced migration in the context of climate change and environmental degradation.

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<sup>1</sup> IOM Council Discussion note: Migration and the Environment, IOM Council (MC/INF/2289 2007)

<sup>2</sup> International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) - Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration, IDM 18, 2011, [Eng](#), [Fr](#), [Esp](#)

<sup>3</sup> [IOM and Migration, Environment and Climate Change \(MECC\)](#) c

<sup>4</sup> [IOM Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change](#), IOM, 2014, [IOM's Engagement in Migration Environment and Climate Change](#), 2018

- 2) Where forced migration does occur in the context of climate change and environmental degradation, to ensure assistance and protection for those affected and seek durable solutions.
- 3) To facilitate voluntary migration in the context of climate change and environmental degradation.

In parallel, the MECC Division is leading on the development of a complementary institutional Strategy entitled IOM's internal Environmental Sustainability Strategy, as part of IOM's Internal Governance Framework. The two strategies are complementary and will articulate points of synergies.

## **II. IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration, Climate Change and the Environment**

The development of the IOM Strategy on migration, climate change and the environment is based on an extensive internal and external consultative process.

Looking ahead to the next decade, the Strategy seeks to achieve the following goals, building on existing knowledge and collective IOM experience on migration, environmental degradation and climate change acquired over the last 20 years:

- Articulate IOM long-term vision and priorities on migration, climate change and the environment.
- Clarify IOM competitive advantage on migration, climate change and the environment and expected role among international actors.
- Coherently and systematically present the wealth of experience already acquired by the Organization and provide concrete examples of types of activities and initiatives that implement the migration, climate change and environment nexus across the research, policy, capacity building, operational and communication spectrum.
- Support greater internal coherence between IOM institutional entities.
- Support the development and strengthening of key external partnerships.
- Identify opportunities for future priority activity development.

The Strategy will define a roadmap for enhanced engagement in policy discussions and their follow-up and review processes where IOM is already actively involved, such as the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and its role in the United Nations Network on Migration; the climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its role in the UNFCCC Taskforce on Displacement (TFD); the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk reduction.

The Strategy will examine how global, regional, national and local migration policies and practices can better factor in climate change and environmental concerns; and how global, regional, national and local environment and climate policies and practices can better integrate the migration concerns.

The Strategy will assess how IOM's current development and humanitarian portfolios can better integrate long-term climate and environmental perspectives and be more mutually reinforcing. The Strategy will pay attention to the linkages with the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus.

Additionally, it will also examine the relevance of climate change and environmental issues to all forms of migration, including internally displaced people, as well as the importance of connecting the migration, health, gender and climate change global agendas.

To link policy and practice and operationalize the migration, climate change and environment nexus, the Strategy will be supported by an Implementation Plan, featuring a Fundraising and Funding component.

The Implementation Plan will articulate several targeted priority actions, as well as outline priority partnerships, to be championed by different IOM Offices.

The targeted priority actions cut across research, policy, communication, capacity building, advocacy and operational approaches and will focus on concrete and innovative initiatives addressing the multiple impacts of climate change on migration.

### **III. Guiding questions for the Briefing**

The following questions will guide the discussion during the Briefing:

1. In your experience what are the major current and future challenges that relate to migration, climate change and the environment?
2. What do you consider is IOM added value in that area?
3. What kind of technical support do you expect from IOM and at what level (policy, capacity building, research, communication, and operations)?
4. What priorities do you think IOM should pursue on migration, climate change and the environment?

IOM encourages States to **submit their inputs in writing** as a follow up to the Briefing.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

#### **IV. Organisational matters**

IOM Member States are invited to **provide written inputs by 05 October 2020** ([mecchq@iom.int](mailto:mecchq@iom.int))

IOM Member States also have the possibility to organize bilateral meetings with the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division ([mecchq@iom.int](mailto:mecchq@iom.int)).