

# **Written Contribution to the Biden Administration in Response to the Executive Order on Climate Change and Migration (4 February 2021)<sup>1,2</sup>**



---

<sup>1</sup> *Submitted on 20 May 2021*

<sup>2</sup> *Prepared by the IOM Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division, in coordination IOM Washington and all relevant IOM entities*

## Table of Contents

<b>Highlights/Executive Summary</b> .....	4
<b>Background information</b> .....	6
<b>1. IOM mandate and approach on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC)</b> .....	7
<b>2. IOM institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change and Strategy on Environmental Sustainability</b> .....	8
<b>3. Insights on terminology use</b> .....	9
<b>4. International and regional policy developments</b> .....	9
<b>Suggested priority areas of engagement to enhance US internal and external action on migration, including displacement and climate change</b> .....	12
<b>1. Strengthening multilateral engagement through increased policy coherence and partnerships</b> .....	12
<b>1.1 Supporting global migration policy discussions and the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration</b> .....	12
<b>1.2 Supporting enhanced climate ambition ahead of COP26 and beyond</b> .....	13
<b>1.3 Supporting existing initiatives</b> .....	13
<b>2. Supporting policy and operational action at national and regional level on migration, including displacement in the context of climate change</b> .....	14
<b>2.1 Facilitating regional and sub-regional policy dialogues</b> .....	14
<b>2.2 Supporting the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) at regional level</b> .....	16
<b>2.3 Supporting evidence for policymaking and operational actions</b> .....	16
<b>3. Assisting countries vulnerable to climate change to build their resilience against climate change impacts</b> .....	17
<b>3.1 Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) efforts to address drivers of migration</b> .....	17
<b>4. Considering the development of innovative and regular migration policy and practices in the context of climate change and disasters</b> .....	18
<b>4.1 Considering options for protection and resettlement of individuals displaced by climate change and disasters domestically and abroad</b> .....	19
<b>4.2 Expanding labour mobility schemes</b> .....	19
<b>4.3 Supporting city-level action</b> .....	20
<b>5. Leveraging the positive contribution of migrants, diasporas and communities to climate action and sustainable development</b> .....	20

<b>6. Supporting environmental sustainability efforts, including the clean energy transition, in particular in displacement settings.</b>	22
<b>7. Supporting activities related to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) and promoting human-security based approaches to address migration in the context of climate change and disasters</b>	23
<b>Annex</b>	25
Glossary	25
List of Acronyms	28
<b>Relevant Resources</b>	30

## Highlights/Executive Summary

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes E.O. 14013, *Executive Order on Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration* issued on 4 February 2021. IOM takes note of the requirement to produce within 180 days a report on climate change and its impacts on migration, with concrete proposals to assist the US administration to respond to these challenges.

The present submission seeks to contribute to the preparation of the planned report by identifying potential priority areas of engagement and actions to address the immense challenges and seize the opportunities linked to migration (including displacement, forced and voluntary migration, and planned relocation), in the context of climate change. The submission builds on insights from IOM's thirty years of experience on the migration, environment and climate change nexus. Proposed priority action areas include:

### **1** Strengthening multilateral engagement, increased policy coherence, and enhanced partnerships including through:

- Support to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), in particular the elements related to migration, displacement and planned relocation in the context of climate and environmental change; enhancing US participation in the International Migration Review Forum in 2022; supporting the work of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)<sup>3</sup> and the Migration Network Hub<sup>4</sup>; and otherwise actively engaging in the work of the United Nations Network on Migration, coordinated by IOM.
- Support to enhance climate ambition ahead of COP26 and beyond: this includes supporting the inclusion of migration dimensions in discussions related to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and contributing to the work of the UNFCCC Taskforce on Displacement (TFD), supporting the implementation of its recommendations approved in COP24, building synergies between climate action and the GCM implementation, and scaling up technical support to vulnerable countries to implement climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives that directly address the consequences of adverse climate impacts on migration.

### **2** Supporting policy and operational action at the regional level on migration, including displacement, in the context of climate change: this includes contributing to and facilitating regional and sub-regional policy dialogues and supporting enhanced knowledge and evidence to inform

---

<sup>3</sup>The Migration MPTF, established by the UN Network of Migration (UNNM) in May 2019, is the only UN financing mechanism fully dedicated to supporting joint initiatives of Member States, the UN system and other stakeholders in the national implementation of the GCM.

<sup>4</sup> The Migration Network Hub, launched in March 2021 by the UNNM, is the first knowledge platform and connection hub that supports UN Member States in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM.

regional policymaking – especially on slow-onset processes and migration; and assisting governments to collect and analyse data to facilitate the identification of communities at risk of displacement by disasters resulting from natural hazards and climate change – and consequently, supporting informed public policy decision making through a strong evidence base.

**3**

**Assisting countries vulnerable to climate change to build their resilience to climate impacts:** this includes developing capacities and supporting disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts to address adverse climate and environmental drivers of migration; building the evidence base through research, data collection and analysis; and combining immediate, humanitarian response with recovery and transitional programming.

**4**

**Examining options for innovative migration policy measures** in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters: this includes analyzing options for protection and resettlement of individuals displaced by climate and environmental change and disasters, the expansion of labour mobility schemes and support to city-level action.

**5**

**Leveraging the positive contribution of migrants, diasporas and communities:** this includes facilitating and supporting the contributions of migrants to climate action, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development in places of origin and destination including through efforts to promote and develop migrants' skills and reskilling in green sectors such as clean energy, circular economy, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable construction, and through the representation and civic engagement of migrants in global forums such as the COP26.

**6**

**Supporting environmental sustainability efforts:** this includes supporting the environmental sustainability and clean energy transition in migration management and humanitarian operations, including in projects and programs, facility management and operations, and policies and strategies.

**7**

**Supporting the operationalization of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus:** this includes supporting research efforts to better understand and address the linkages between migration, environment, climate change, human security and conflict, encouraging a more comprehensive UN response to climate-related security risks, and promoting human-rights based approaches on migration in the context of environmental degradation and climate change.

This submission briefly presents IOM's overall operational framework and highlights several good practices that can inform the development of future activities. IOM fully commits to support its Member States to address all the facets of the migration, environment and climate change nexus. IOM is developing a new institution-wide Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change that defines its strategic priorities for the next decade. The implementation of this Strategy represents an excellent opportunity to strengthen IOM engagement with the United States Administration.

## Background information

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes the opportunity to provide inputs to the Biden Administration and to support its efforts to address the impacts of climate change on migration, including displacement and planned relocation.

2021 is a crucial year for global climate action with the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a key political moment for states to reaffirm their ambition to fully operationalize the 2015 Paris Agreement. The US-hosted Leaders' Summit on Climate on 22-23 April was an important opportunity to gather momentum ahead of COP26.

The United States has a critical leadership role in fostering international efforts to fight climate change and address its impacts on migration. Recent developments proposed by the Administration represent a key opportunity to bring visibility to the migration and climate change nexus and encourage global efforts in response to this pressing issue.

In this respect, IOM welcomes the release of Executive Order 14008 on 27 January 2021, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, that puts climate issues at the center of US foreign policy and national security. IOM also welcomes the US re-entry into the Paris Agreement and the efforts deployed through its Nationally Determined Contributions. The appointment of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate is another positive development.

IOM also welcomes E.O. 14013, *Executive Order on Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration* and the requirement to produce **a report on climate change and its impacts on migration, including forced migration, internal displacement and planned relocation**, outlining concrete proposals. In an era characterized by unprecedented levels of human mobility, it offers an historic opportunity for the US to lead international efforts to address the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on migration. Addressing the climate and environmental drivers of migration and enhancing the protection, well-being and security of people moving in the context of climate change, are challenges that can be addressed through enhancing climate action, strengthening regular migration pathways, increasing adaptation and livelihoods options, considering public health in disaster preparedness and response, and fostering international cooperation.

Major current disruptors, particularly those related to climate change and environmental degradation, health, security and sustainable development, can only be addressed through such integrated approaches. The COVID-19 pandemic has served as a stark reminder that, whenever mobility is constrained, migrants and other community members in places of origin, transit and destination become more likely to suffer from unemployment, impoverishment, insecurity and exposure to risks, including health threats. Restricted mobility can also result in more people living in hazardous locations, and in conditions of higher vulnerability to crises, of both man-made and environmental origin.

IOM stands ready to assist the Biden Administration on migration and displacement in the context of climate change and environmental degradation. This written contribution outlines potential priority action areas that might be of relevance to the development of the expected **report on climate change and its impacts on migration including forced migration, internal displacement and planned relocation**.

## 1. 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. The **Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division** was established in 2015. This institutional change formalized IOM's engagement in the thematic area of migration, environment and climate change, making IOM the first international organization to establish an institutional unit fully devoted to this topic. The MECC Division engages in five key areas: (i.) policy development and advocacy for a better inclusion and recognition of environmental migration in relevant policies and frameworks, (ii.) capacity building for policymakers and practitioners, (iii.) strengthening data and evidence to inform policy making process, (iv.) operational activities, and (v.) mainstreaming environmental sustainability through IOM's global Environmental Sustainability Programme hosted in the Division.

IOM recognizes the necessity to step up national, regional and international efforts to address human mobility challenges associated with environmental factors and climate change. **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. Environmental 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. It also requires including other sectors such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk management, development and urban planning. In addition, it is 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. **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, as well as women, girls and people of all genders, who experience intersecting forms of discrimination<sup>5</sup>, should be systematically taken into account as they shape every stage of the migration experience.

**IOM pursues three broad objectives<sup>6</sup>** concerning migration, environment and climate change:

1

To manage migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters due to natural hazards: Facilitate orderly, safe, responsible and regular migration policies and practice,

---

<sup>5</sup> Gender intersects with class, race and ethnicity, religion, language, sexual orientation, ability and other significant axes of identity to shape the drivers and impacts of migration in the context of climate change.

<sup>6</sup> IOM its three Strategic objectives in 2007 (IOM Council 94th Session, 2007; Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (2008) - Migration and the Environment). These objectives have guided the institutional work since then. They were revised as per the above formulation, through the process of developing a new institutional Strategy for migration, Environment and climate change, looking at the new decade, to be released in June 2021.

in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters due to natural hazards, leverage the positive dimensions of migration in the context of climate change adaptation and enhance the contributions of migrants and communities to climate action.

2

*To assist and protect migrants and disaster displaced persons: Address the needs of migrants and disaster displaced persons in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters due to natural hazards and support inclusive, human rights-based approaches to ensure durable solutions.*

3

*To make migration a choice and build resilience: Avert migration out of necessity by reducing risk, enhancing adaptive capacities, building resilience and accelerating climate action so people are not compelled to move due to climate change and environmental drivers; and protect trapped and other immobile populations.*

As disasters, environmental degradation and climate change are profoundly shifting contemporary migration patterns, IOM must continuously adapt and expand its expertise on the topic to anticipate and respond to the requests of its Member States and address the needs of migrants.

## 2. IOM institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change and Strategy on Environmental Sustainability

In that context, IOM has committed to develop in 2020-2021 an **institutional Strategy on Migration, Climate Change and the Environment**, as part of the IOM Director General's Strategic Vision 2019-2024 for the Organization. The Strategy aims to take stock of existing knowledge and establish institution-wide priorities and processes, in line with the three pillars articulated in the Director General's strategic vision: resilience, mobility and governance. The Strategy is rooted in the current institutional engagement and capacities of the Organization and aligned with United Nations' instruments, policies, processes and core values.

The Strategy defines 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), the climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also seeks to respond to the increasing expectations placed on IOM to efficiently lead and support global coordination on migration issues, including in terms of environmental and climate dimensions, especially since IOM took on additional responsibilities when joining the United Nations system in 2016 and assuming the role of Coordinator and Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration (UNNM).

The Strategy also examines how IOM's current development and humanitarian portfolios can better integrate long-term climate and environmental perspectives and be more mutually reinforcing. It will guide the development of IOM orientations over the next decade, in partnership with the United Nations' system, IOM Member States, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to enhance the predictability, effectiveness and timeliness of IOM interventions.

In addition, IOM is developing its **Institutional Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS)** in line with the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations system 2020–2030. IOM recognizes that a healthy environment is inherently linked to the safety, security and well-being of migrants and societies. IOM is committed to mainstream environmental sustainability in its strategies and policies, projects and programs, and facility management and operations.

### 3. Insights on terminology use

IOM’s work on internal and international migration, environment, climate change and disasters, encompasses all forms of migration such as rural to urban migration, pastoralism, seasonal migration, labour migration and displacement. IOM uses migration as an umbrella term to refer to these different forms of mobility, on a continuum from forced to voluntary. Key definitions are provided in Annex 1.

### 4. International and regional policy developments

To date, there are no global and legal international instruments dealing specifically with migration 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.

The **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration<sup>7</sup> (GCM)** represents a milestone in international policy and the governance of international migration to address the links between population movements and climate change. This non-binding cooperation framework, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, articulates a common set of commitments for states to respond to the challenges and opportunities of contemporary international migration, on the basis of 23 objectives.

The GCM clearly identifies slow onset environmental degradation, natural hazards and climate change impacts as drivers of contemporary migration.<sup>8</sup> The GCM recognizes that climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in countries of origin need to be prioritized to minimize drivers of migration. However, it acknowledges that adaptation in situ or return of migrants might not be possible in some cases and that the strengthening of regular migration pathways such as planned relocation, visa options and granting temporary protection status (TPS) need to be part of migration management tools. 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 GCM

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/environment-and-climate-change-gcm>

<sup>8</sup> Most of the references related to environmental migration are under “Objective 2: Minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin” which contains a section specifically dedicated to the subject and entitled “Natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation”. Other important references can be found under “Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration”.

also mentions developing coherent approaches to address the challenges of migration movements in the context of sudden-onset and slow-onset disasters.

The **UN Network on Migration (UNNM)**, comprised of 39 UN entities, was established to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to UN Member States in the context of the GCM implementation, follow up and review. Acting as the coordinator and secretariat of the UNNM, IOM fosters collaboration and consensus-building between Network members. IOM is also supporting countries to implement GCM recommendations at regional and national levels, and to integrate climate and environmental considerations into their migration policies.<sup>9</sup>

The **UN Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** and **Desertification<sup>10</sup> (UNCCD)** are also extremely relevant to address migration 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>11</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 (WIM ExCom), of which IOM is a member and leads several activities of the workplan.<sup>12</sup> The Task Force produced in 2018 “Recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change” (Decision 10/CP.24.).<sup>13</sup> The recommendations went beyond a narrow understanding of displacement and addressed all forms of migration linked to climate change, from facilitating regular migration to planned relocation. 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<sup>14</sup> have integrated migration and displacement considerations into their **National Adaptation Policies (NAPs)** and **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** submitted to UNFCCC.<sup>15</sup> But out of 18 countries and territories having submitted new NDCs, only Uruguay’s refers to migration, to relocation in particular, which demonstrates that policy coherence is still lacking and efforts for mainstreaming human mobility considerations in the NDCs is still needed.

---

<sup>9</sup> Countries such as Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria refer to climate and environmental considerations in their national laws, policies and strategies dealing with migration and displacement, and some others such as Vanuatu and Fiji have drafted specialized policies. Other countries, such as Honduras and Peru, have launched processes for the development of specific plans of action to address human mobility in the context of climate change through their climate change policy instruments. However, environmental factors are not mainstreamed in many countries’ migration policies and more efforts need to be done in this regard.

<sup>10</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/human-mobility-unccd>

<sup>11</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/human-mobility-unfccc>

<sup>12</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/TFD#eq-3>

<sup>13</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24\\_auv\\_1cp24\\_final.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24_auv_1cp24_final.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> For instance, Brazil, Honduras Colombia and Togo have integrated migration considerations into their NDCs and NAPs, with Brazil identifying environmental processes as a cause of potential internal and cross-border movements, and Honduras considering relocation of buildings in risk areas as a possible adaptation measure.

<sup>15</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), August 2018  
<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/20180917%20WIM%20TFD%20I.1%20Output%20final.pdf>

Relevant evolutions have also been recorded in the field of **disaster risk management (DRM)** 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>16</sup> IOM has collaborated with several international partners to issue and roll out the **Words into Action guidelines on Disaster Displacement**<sup>17</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 Target (E) of the Sendai Framework. The Guidelines provide basic background information and highlights the various roles DRR and DRM can play in reducing, preparing for and responding to disaster displacement.

The **Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)**, a state-led initiative established in 2016 to follow-up on the work initiated by the Nansen initiative (2012-2015), has also made positive strides to offer better protection for people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.<sup>18</sup> The PDD supports the implementation of the Nansen Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, which offers States a toolbox to better prevent and prepare for displacement before a disaster strikes.<sup>19</sup> IOM is a key partner and Standing Invitee to the PDD's Steering Group, together with UNHCR, and takes the lead on several areas of the PDD 2019-2022 Workplan, including capacity building of policymakers, conducting research and supporting policy development both at the global and regional levels.<sup>20</sup>

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.<sup>21</sup>

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 IGAD 2020 Protocol on Free Movement.<sup>22</sup> In the Pacific, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (2017-2030) (FRDP) lists priority actions for a range of stakeholders to address human mobility. These actions call on national governments, regional and civil society organizations, and other partners to strengthen their capacity to protect individuals and communities migrating in the context of climate change. Efforts are currently underway to develop a Pacific regional framework addressing climate change related migration, displacement and planned relocation through the Pacific Resilience Partnership Technical Working Group on Human Mobility. Regional efforts in the Americas involve the **Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)** and the **South American Conference on Migration (SACM)** that have developed non-binding regional instruments on the protection of people displaced across borders and on migrants in countries affected by disasters using already existing law, policies and practices.<sup>23</sup> IOM and the Central American Integration System (SICA) published a study which assesses evidence on the relation between human mobility, disasters and climate change in Central America,

---

<sup>16</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>17</sup> [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/58821\\_wiadisasterdisplacement190511webeng.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/58821_wiadisasterdisplacement190511webeng.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> <https://disasterdisplacement.org/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://nanseninitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/PROTECTION-AGENDA-VOLUME-1.pdf>

<sup>20</sup>

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

<sup>21</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/human-rights-based-approaches-mecc>

<sup>22</sup> <https://news.trust.org/item/20200228175003-4k8dq>

<sup>23</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)

responding to the priorities identified in the Regional Strategy on Climate Change of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Plan for the Comprehensive Attention of Migration <sup>24</sup>.

## **Suggested priority areas of engagement to enhance US internal and external action on migration, including displacement and climate change**

The following section highlights seven priority areas of engagement where the US could enhance its leadership and support to ensure that migration, including displacement and planned relocation in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are considered throughout US internal and external action. For each area, priority actions are suggested to strengthen US engagement and enhance its partnership with IOM and other stakeholders.

### **1. Strengthening multilateral engagement through increased policy coherence and partnerships**

E.O. 14013, *Executive Order on Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration* prompts US senior officials to explore “opportunities to work collaboratively with other countries, international organizations and bodies, non-governmental organizations, and localities to respond to migration resulting directly or indirectly from climate change”. In the current policy context described above, the US can play a key leading role in enhancing policy coherence and multi-lateral cooperation to address migration linked to climate impacts. The US Administration could consider the following actions:

#### **1.1 Supporting global migration policy discussions and the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration**

This year, climate change has been placed on different high-level agendas related to migration issues and the GCM process, and there are several opportunities for the US to engage in these high-level events and processes if of interest. While IOM recognizes that the Biden administration has not yet made a formal determination on full US participation in all aspects of the GCM, in the interim the Administration could consider the following actions:

- **Contributing to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)** that will take place in 2022 represents an important step in the GCM process. The IMRF is the primary intergovernmental global platform for UN Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the GCM, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will convene every four years, with the first meeting in 2022.

---

<sup>24</sup> <https://publications.iom.int/books/la-movilidad-humana-derivada-de-desastres-y-el-cambio-climatico-en-centroamerica>

- **Supporting the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF):** The MPTF is the first pooled funding instrument focusing on migration, established by the UN Network on Migration in May 2019 to support the GCM implementation. It represents a concrete demonstration of a multilateral commitment to strengthen international cooperation in the pursuit of principled and better governed international migration.
- **Contributing to the work of the UN Network on Migration (UNMN):** The Network is currently developing a work stream on migration and climate change and established a Migration Network Hub<sup>25</sup> as an interactive virtual space for governments and other stakeholders to exchange information and engage in peer-to-peer learning as part of the Capacity Building Mechanism of the GCM.
- **Contributing to the upcoming session of IOM International Dialogue on Migration (IDM)** that will take place virtually on 25-27 May 2021. Organized by IOM, the IDM is the oldest policy dialogue on migration open to States and a wide range of migration stakeholders worldwide. This session will focus on the interconnections between migration, environment and climate change and aims to build political momentum towards COP26.

## 1.2 Supporting enhanced climate ambition ahead of COP26 and beyond

- **Enhancing visibility and building consensus with UNFCCC parties and climate science on migration issues:** As in previous years, COP26 represents the opportunity to bring visibility to the climate migration nexus and advance discussions on the topic within the biggest intergovernmental forum dedicated to climate change policy and action.
- **Building support for the operationalization of the Recommendations of the UNFCCC Taskforce on Displacement (TFD):** Climate vulnerable countries have highlighted that the operationalization of the Recommendations at the national level should be a priority.
- **Including migration dimensions in the US Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC),** currently under development.

## 1.3 Supporting existing initiatives

Recent progress and achievements to bring environmental migration and disaster displacement to the heart of international, regional and national concerns are the result of joint efforts and active collaboration between UN entities, non-governmental organizations, academia, governments, and other stakeholders involved on this topic. The US Administration could consider the following actions:

- **Playing a leadership role in the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative:** the MICIC Initiative has benefitted immensely from American co-chairmanship until 2016, and has been supported by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.<sup>26</sup>
- **Supporting the implementation of the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda** that seeks to address displacement in the context of climate change and disasters. IOM has developed a close partnership with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to operationalize the Nansen Agenda.

<sup>25</sup> <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/hub>

<sup>26</sup> <https://micicinitiative.iom.int/about-micic>

- **Supporting the roll out of IOM institutional strategies on climate change and human mobility:** The IOM's Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change seeks to enhance the agencies' support to their Member States on the migration, environment and climate change nexus. IOM closely collaborates with UNHCR, in particular to ensure synergies with the UNHCR new Strategic Framework for Climate Action<sup>27</sup>.

## 2. Supporting policy and operational action at national and regional level on migration, including displacement in the context of climate change

The regional level is key to addressing issues of climate change and migration, including displacement. States can come together around issues of mutual interest and develop integrated approaches that tackle the multiple dimensions of the migration, climate change and environment nexus. Regional organisations and initiatives, in particular Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) and other Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration (ISCMs), have included issues of migration, climate change, environmental degradation and disasters in their work programmes. The US Administration could consider the following actions:

### 2.1 Facilitating regional and sub-regional policy dialogues<sup>28</sup>

- **Supporting the UN's Issue-based Coalitions.** As an example, the **UN's Issue-based Coalition on Human Mobility** co-led by IOM with the Economic Commission for Central America (ECLAC), UNHCR and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF): IOM encourages the implementation of the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and southern-eastern Mexico, notably Pillar 4 of the Plan on comprehensive management of the migratory cycle and pillar 3 on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction. Specific actions on the climate change and environment nexus are included in the Plan. Support to this dialogue would strengthen the relationship between the United States, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean and the capacity to create long-lasting changes on climate change and migration issues.
- **Supporting the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM):** As a co-founder of the RCM, the United States could facilitate regional and sub-regional policy dialogues through the RCM, the Central American Integration System (SICA) - including the Comprehensive Plan to Address Migration and Displacement in the eight countries of the Central American Integration System (PAIM-SICA) - and the UN Network on Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, including national-level networks. Initiatives on climate change and migration have emerged within the work of the RCM and SICA and it would be important to continue the work in order to enhance regional coordination considering the vulnerability and exposure of Central American countries.

---

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/604a26d84/strategic-framework-for-climate-action>

<sup>28</sup> For all Regional projects and initiatives please refer to: <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects> and <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/iom-and-migration-environment-and-climate-change-mecc> for regional pages

- **Supporting the Caribbean Migration Consultations:** Regional entities in the Caribbean have also supported action on climate change and migration, including through the **Caribbean Migration Consultations** (set up with the support of the US funded Western Hemisphere Program) and with the engagement of Caribbean entities such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). IOM has partnered with these bodies to develop a Plan of Action on Human Mobility in Contexts of Disasters and Climate Change and has advanced policymaking and capacity building initiatives in the region. Given Caribbean SIDS exposure to climate change and disasters, US support to further capacity building efforts aimed at strengthening disaster risk reduction and climate resilience and building systems and mechanisms to address various forms of environmental migration in the area would be invaluable.
- **Supporting the Pacific Resilience Partnership Technical Working Group (TWG) on Human Mobility and its sub-group to develop a regional framework:** Established in July 2019 as part of the Pacific Islands Forum's resilience partnership and chaired by IOM, the TWG brings together stakeholders from governments, regional organizations, private sector, civil society groups, academia and development partners with a view to enhance coordination of related initiatives and voluntary actions related to human mobility; serve as a Regional Expert Platform for networking and representation with the capacity to support governments and partners on specific issues; and to promote and strengthen efforts at the regional and national levels to address climate change and disaster driven migration, displacement and planned relocation. A sub-group of the technical working group is currently in the process of drafting a regional framework to address climate related mobility. As next steps, the TWG will be seeking support to implement the regional framework at the regional and national levels.
- **Supporting a regional Ministerial meeting on migration, environment and climate change in the East and Horn of Africa, including the member states under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC):** Addressing climate change and disaster driven migration and displacement are high on government agendas in the East and Horn of Africa region, but reaching consensus on priority actions and mobilizing collective action to move the agenda forward is a challenge, when countries in this region are also suffering from conflict and urgencies. IOM will be convening a regional ministerial meeting in 2021 to initiate and stimulate a discussion on climate and environmental migration with the view to establishing priority actions for the region.
- **Supporting regional consultative processes on migration, environment and climate change nexus in the Western Balkans and Central Asia in collaboration with the Regional Cooperation Council and Almaty Process.** The Western Balkans and Central Asia are prone to rapid-onset and slow-onset natural hazards. Also, these regions have several vulnerable ecosystems (e.g. Aral Sea). Mainstreaming of migration in policies and programmes on climate change at the regional, national and sub-national levels remains a work in progress. In 2022, IOM will be organising regional consultative processes in collaboration with the Regional Cooperation Council and Almaty Process to help develop a shared vision and foster better coordination among countries.

## 2.2 Supporting the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) at regional level

- **Supporting implementation of the GCM Regional Review in Latin America and the Caribbean:** the regional review for the members of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in April 2021 showcased progress made to address the environmental drivers of migration (objective 2 of the GCM) and defined regular migration pathways for persons affected by disasters and climate change (objective 5).
- **Encouraging cross-regional exchanges of good practices and lessons learned:** while several projects and initiatives aim to support States to implement GCM at regional level<sup>29</sup>, and regional review processes across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas are occasions to exchange **information with regions, encouraging cross-regional collaboration and cross-regional sharing of lessons learnt and good practices will be particularly beneficial to inform the 2022 International Migration Review Forum.**
- **Supporting the replication of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) regional joint programme convened by IOM.** This joint programme contributes to facilitating pathways for regular migration in the IGAD region and minimizing displacement risk in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters in line with the vision and guiding principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). It is implemented through Four Pillars of action, which address data and knowledge; national and regional policy frameworks; disaster displacement and preparedness and; regular migration pathways. The Joint Programme will be implemented in 2-3 IGAD member states, and there remains a significant opportunity to maximise its impact by replicating the outcomes to additional member states.

## 2.3 Supporting evidence for policymaking and operational actions

- **Supporting evidence and knowledge production** Accurate data and analysis of the connections between migration, climate change and environmental concerns is critical to the development of appropriate policies and operational actions. Data gaps have been identified in terms of the impacts of slow-onset events on migration among other critical issues. As evidenced by the latest IOM-SICA report on migration, environment and climate change in Central America, working on data collection is crucial for the development of adequate policies and strategies. IOM has also published a recent report with ECLAC which identifies the need for accurate information and a stronger approach to addressing disaster displacement and environmental migration from a gender perspective in the Caribbean<sup>30</sup>. Regions such as South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia need to increase research and evidence sharing in these thematic areas.

---

<sup>29</sup> See for instance IOM's project "Implementing Global Policies on Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement in West Africa" (2020-2022), in partnership with PDD, ECOWAS and UNHCR, <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/implementing-global-policies-environmental-migration-and-disaster-displacement-west-africa>

<sup>30</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/advancing-gender-equality-environmental-migration-and-disaster-displacement-caribbean>.

- **Supporting governments to collect and analyse data** to support identify communities at risk of displacement, by disasters resulting from natural hazards and climate change, is critical in enabling governments to make informed policies and operational actions (e.g. planned relocations, disaster risk reduction etc)<sup>31</sup>.
- **Supporting knowledge and data sharing** via the Migration Network Hub established recently<sup>32</sup>.

### 3. Assisting countries vulnerable to climate change to build their resilience against climate change impacts

Developing countries are the most vulnerable to climate change as they face intricate and multiple structural, political and socio-economic challenges, combined with a particular geographical exposure to natural hazards and environmental stress. The least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) particularly experience heightened vulnerability to climate change, which contributes to undermine their efforts to achieve sustainable development and maintain peace and stability in certain situations. The US Administration could play a significant role in supporting vulnerable developing countries to build internal capacities to respond to climate change and migration challenges, and consider the following actions:

#### 3.1 Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) efforts to address drivers of migration<sup>33</sup>

- **Supporting vulnerable countries to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change:** Investing in risk reduction and climate adaptation in countries most vulnerable to climate impacts and experiencing high levels of migration is critical to address drivers of migration in countries highly exposed to hazards. Building resilience in those countries will benefit vulnerable populations and support the prevention of forced migration out of fragile areas. In the North Pacific, since the establishment of its presence in 2008, IOM has been supporting the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in preparing,

---

<sup>31</sup> Please see for instance the European Union funded project for the Pacific region “Pacific Response to Disaster Displacement” implemented by the International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the Platform for Disaster Displacement and IOM. This three-year project aims to reduce the risk and impact of disaster displacement on persons at risk of being displaced in developing small islands states in the Pacific, so that targeted populations would not be displaced at all, less affected or better assisted and protected when compelled to move”.

<sup>32</sup> <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/hub>

<sup>33</sup> Over the last two decades, IOM has been at the forefront of integrating human mobility considerations in risk reduction work, through a comprehensive approach looking at hazard prevention and mitigation, preparedness for population movements in the context of disasters, humanitarian responses to address the needs of people on the move, and pursuing durable solutions as part of disaster recovery efforts. The organisation’s extensive experience on the topic builds on hundreds of projects in all regions and operational environments and is fully coordinated as part of UN-wide efforts to build disaster resilience. IOM’s DRR work also leverages its field presence and role as the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster lead for disaster situations, and its key role within the international humanitarian coordination system through its work on data (i.e. with its Displacement Tracking Matrix), preparedness, protection and shelter – among other areas of work.

responding and recovering from the impact of natural hazards, with the strong contribution of the USG, under the Operational Blueprint, and with ad hoc emergency support and resilience building.

- **Supporting the work of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF):** the CVF offers an active global platform for the most vulnerable countries to the adverse effects of climate change. With Bangladesh as the current Chair of the CVF, the visit of the US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Change John Kerry in Dhaka on 9 April 2021 has shown the significant role the US can take to address climate vulnerabilities and offer support for sustainable solutions at global levels.

### 3.2 Leveraging climate financing instruments to address drivers of migration

- **Facilitating SIDS and LDCs access to climate financing instruments for migration-related activities:** to date, only few migration-focused activities are financed by global climate and environmental financing instruments. This is a significant gap as access to these financial instruments could significantly accelerate action on the ground. Most vulnerable countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), have insufficient access to climate finance instruments.

## 4. Considering the development of innovative and regular migration policy and practices in the context of climate change and disasters

Both the GCM and the UNFCCC Taskforce on Displacement Recommendations acknowledge that the **strengthening of regular migration pathways** needs to be part of a comprehensive migration management strategy in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters. Temporary and circular migration could support climate change adaptation. Migrants and their families need to be enabled to contribute to and benefit from climate change adaptation in the destination and sending communities. When adaptation in situ or return of environmental migrants is not possible facilitating migration, when necessary, by adapting or developing migration management tools, is needed to preserve the dignity and human rights of migrants.

Climate changes are likely to intensify in the coming years, particularly in the Caribbean and parts of Central America.<sup>34</sup> While disaster displacement is already occurring and will continue in future, it is expected that increased water scarcity in drought-prone farming areas of Central America and Mexico will have serious impacts on agricultural production and food security. Combined rapid and slow-onset environmental changes have the potential to drive significant displacements as well as longer-term mobility in the region and to the United States. In that context, the US Administration could consider the following actions:

---

<sup>34</sup> The 2021 Global Climate Risk Index included seven Central American and Caribbean countries and territories in the top 30 most affected globally in the period from 2000-2019, notably Porto Rico (1er), Haiti (3rd), the Bahamas (6th), Dominica (11th), Guatemala (16th), Grenada (24th) and El Salvador (28th).

## 4.1 Considering options for protection and resettlement of individuals displaced by climate change and disasters domestically and abroad

- **Adapting existing Temporary Protected Status (TPS)<sup>35</sup>:** TPS offers some protection to people already in the United States who are affected by “environmental disasters” in their countries of origin.<sup>36</sup> The safe return of TPS holders to their countries of origin may become more challenging or even impossible due to adverse and serious climate impacts that will impede recovery efforts in the Country of Origin. The US Administration could consider exploring options to adapt or expand the criteria and conditions for granting TPS, creating pathways to allow TPS holders to apply for permanent residency when a safe return to the country of origin is impossible due to dangerous climate conditions.<sup>37</sup>
- **Supporting domestic planned relocation efforts:** Longer-term and durable solutions also need to be considered in the face of irreversible changes in particular due to slow-onset events and processes, such as sea-level rise, desertification or ocean acidification, including on American territory. Planned relocations can be a measure to reduce the exposure of vulnerable population to the impacts of environmental change in areas either exposed to recurrent and intense hazards and/or facing irreversible ecosystem degradation such as sea level rise. It is recognized as a tool for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA). However, planned relocation can also undermine socio-economic prosperity, cultural practices and human security and is thus considered as a measure of last resort.<sup>38</sup> At the same time, internal migration flows within the United States may also be increasingly determined by climate and environmental factors, which requires the development of forward-looking and innovative urban planning solutions.

## 4.2 Expanding labour mobility schemes

- **Considering circular migration schemes and skill mobility partnerships:** such schemes can contribute to enhancing the protection and the resilience of communities vulnerable to

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/temporary-protected-status-overview?\\_cf\\_chl\\_jschl\\_tk\\_\\_=a9ea5046b2c445fcdad3fe21e62a92430374b512-1617790696-0-AVga\\_qn9zkDXzgp5v8x0RCkmFzFp2mmYpDMp3o9Lxu3Dr8xtmWr-YOM9I8-HsE\\_l4uOshf3O5PyhjgS-th4HfhKj0zJuW-d0rI0kFSyyG4ItzHkXVxXz6V78IzuStSTNrYefPbJSkbnZJm-hgg3NI8\\_gg6uXJ7rRTL31Zl9G-31iAnnDLtBvKtqEs0QgyFXf9INJf9\\_ufdwHHEFukrP84c-HkusFyD5ucVVBbkuj\\_9ZAMnQioaH8Z5pq7i7SBq5PcwKcelfeEKzBylGou0\\_TfM2AgFkxKJM0Ki\\_eD56\\_otnuEVvRI7tAmAbXkk\\_dZhv2lmqoCN7boSH8uStZV-npEUMEpuYR2Edf68VDd-C5t9\\_H72EVBCERpnou9pVfOEUh3D\\_rpbpmO3n8oiUANrectTrKmlYyLQS8DuEsR\\_bSq-DPHBdp4gRObIELmPLK70\\_iyPqboAjnzVe1PIfPxsANjgnSqA19\\_TfubBORNFNEOVNs0reQyLcMV4O67faGypNug](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/temporary-protected-status-overview?_cf_chl_jschl_tk__=a9ea5046b2c445fcdad3fe21e62a92430374b512-1617790696-0-AVga_qn9zkDXzgp5v8x0RCkmFzFp2mmYpDMp3o9Lxu3Dr8xtmWr-YOM9I8-HsE_l4uOshf3O5PyhjgS-th4HfhKj0zJuW-d0rI0kFSyyG4ItzHkXVxXz6V78IzuStSTNrYefPbJSkbnZJm-hgg3NI8_gg6uXJ7rRTL31Zl9G-31iAnnDLtBvKtqEs0QgyFXf9INJf9_ufdwHHEFukrP84c-HkusFyD5ucVVBbkuj_9ZAMnQioaH8Z5pq7i7SBq5PcwKcelfeEKzBylGou0_TfM2AgFkxKJM0Ki_eD56_otnuEVvRI7tAmAbXkk_dZhv2lmqoCN7boSH8uStZV-npEUMEpuYR2Edf68VDd-C5t9_H72EVBCERpnou9pVfOEUh3D_rpbpmO3n8oiUANrectTrKmlYyLQS8DuEsR_bSq-DPHBdp4gRObIELmPLK70_iyPqboAjnzVe1PIfPxsANjgnSqA19_TfubBORNFNEOVNs0reQyLcMV4O67faGypNug)

<sup>36</sup> TPS have been for instance granted in 1999 to people displaced after Hurricane Mitch hit Nicaragua and Honduras as well as in the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti earthquake. As of today, ten nationalities are eligible for TPS: El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. All these countries are vulnerable to climate change impacts, and many of them are confronted to political instability, violence or even conflicts, resulting in compounded risks for communities, protracted displacement and increased humanitarian needs.

<sup>37</sup> This IOM recommendation is aligned with the Refugees International’s recommendation to explore adjustments to Temporary Protected Status: <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2021/2/10/at-a-climate-change-crossroads-how-a-biden-harris-administration-can-support-and-protect-communities-displaced-by-climate-change>

<sup>38</sup> Erica Bower, Sanjula Weerasinghe, *Leaving Place, Restoring Home. Enhancing the evidence base on planned relocation cases in the context of hazards, disasters and climate change*, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and Andrew and Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, March 2021.

climate change, by providing regular migration pathways.<sup>39</sup> The Task Force on Displacement under the UNFCCC recommends for instance enhancing opportunities for regular migration pathways including through labour mobility.<sup>40</sup> In the upcoming report on climate change and migration requested by the Executive Order of 4 February 2021, the Administration could consider including an analysis of the benefits of expanding labour mobility channels and training opportunities for people affected by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

### 4.3 Supporting city-level action

- **Supporting the development of migrant-inclusive urban policies:** slow-onset effects of environmental change are expected to further drive global urbanization trends. In this regard, the United States could consider supporting initiatives aiming at empowering and enabling cities to engage in migration diplomacy and policymaking and to connect this with inclusive climate action strategies and policies. IOM partners with the Mayors Migration Council (MMC)<sup>41</sup>, a mayor-led initiative exploring how mayors can translate international migration and refugee frameworks into urban public policies, with C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group supporting on the intersection with climate change issues.<sup>42</sup>

## 5. Leveraging the positive contribution of migrants, diasporas and communities to climate action and sustainable development

IOM's vision is that migration should be a choice and not a necessity. Well managed migration contributes positively to all aspects of economic, environmental and social development and is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Migrants, diasporas, sending and host communities are essential actors who can help address current and future challenges.

For decades, IOM has invested in diaspora members and communities through its 3Es approach; to enable, engage and empower transnational communities in capacity-building, policy and programming interventions among governments and stakeholders. IOM Washington with funding from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) continuously engages US-based diaspora communities on alternative ways to promote disaster risk reduction, through activities of capacity building and awareness raising on safer shelter, leveraging diaspora's network and contributions to increase affected communities' capacities, knowledge and self-reliance.<sup>43</sup>

---

<sup>39</sup> See for instance the programme "Enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region" implemented by IOM, ESCAP, ILO, OHCHR, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and PDD, <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/pccmhs> This program aims to empower communities affected by climate change through training and skills development activities that increase labour mobility schemes and build capacities of State to promote labour mobility that is safe, regular and inclusive.

<sup>40</sup> Decision 10/CP.24 recommendations of the Task Force on Displacement para 1(j)(vi).

<sup>41</sup> The US local governments called for an equitable and inclusive action on climate migration in an open letter: <https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/biden-climate-eo>

<sup>42</sup> US cities in the C40 Network include Innovator Cities such as Austin, New Orleans and Portland and Megacities such as Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington (<https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/>).

<sup>43</sup> Other countries where this diaspora's engagement has been piloted so far are Haiti, the Philippines, Bangladesh.

In addition to promoting knowledge transfer and capacity building, the engagement to diaspora actors can also contribute to increase the access to safer shelter practices, including gender-responsive planning and management, and solutions to increase communities' capacity to withstand the impact of crises by providing access to financing and technical assistance. To increase effectiveness of these interventions, closer coordination between diasporas and other actors, both national and international is also necessary and has been promoted by IOM over the past few years. Migrants can contribute to making communities and societies in places of origin and destination more resilient to the negative impacts of environmental and climate change, while migration options can support vulnerable communities to move out of harm's way, when well-managed and informed by existing evidence and the participation of affected populations. The US Administration could consider the following actions:

- **Support efforts to promote and develop skills in green sectors of returning migrants** through the development of reintegration initiatives that contribute to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and reduce forced out-migration resulting from the negative impacts of climate change. This is particularly key in locations where communities' livelihoods are dependent on natural resources, but which are adversely affected by climate change. Without environmental restoration and climate change adaptation, these communities are known to re-migrate multiple times, making them vulnerable to trafficking and other security risks.
- **Empower migrants, diasporas and communities to contribute to climate action** in areas of origin and destination: The US Administration could consider supporting relevant stakeholders to develop activities that enable migrants, diasporas and communities to contribute meaningfully to climate action, with a focus on resilience building in communities of origin and destination, green jobs, agroecology, reforestation, renewable energy, water, land and waste management. These approaches will support the achievement of the SDGs

---

<sup>44</sup> IOM implements different projects linking reintegration programmes with climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts. See for example: IOM projects "Mainstreaming environmental dimensions into reintegration support to reduce the effects of climate change on migration in West Africa" (2018-2019), <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/mainstreaming-environmental-dimensions-reintegration-support-reduce-effects-climate-0> and "Implementing global policies on environmental migration and disaster displacement in West Africa" (2020-2022), in partnership with PDD, ECOWAS and UNHCR, <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/implementing-global-policies-environmental-migration-and-disaster-displacement-west-africa>

<sup>45</sup> IOM launched the Environmental Annex of the IOM Reintegration Handbook that aims to encourage reflection and initiatives to better understand opportunities and challenges associated with the inclusion of environmental dimensions into reintegration programmes. Read more here: <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/annex-11.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> IOM develops projects seeking to support the involvement of diaspora and migrant communities in climate and environmental action in their countries of origin. See for instance: IOM project "Engaging Migrants and Diaspora Communities for an Inclusive and Climate Resilient Blue Economy" (2019-2020), funded by IOM Development Fund and IOM Project "Diaspora Engagement in Agroecology Development" (2018-2020), funded by the Government of France, the IOM Development Fund and organized in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

<sup>47</sup> These activities specifically address the following SDGs: [Goal 1.5](#) (By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters); [Goal 4](#) (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all); [Goal 6](#) (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all); [Goal 7](#) (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all ); [Goal 8](#) (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all); [Goal 11.6](#) (By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management); [Goal 13](#) (Climate Action); and [Goal 15](#) (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss).

and contribute to more balanced and objective narratives on migration and migrants' contributions.

- **Engage US-based diaspora communities to contribute to resiliency efforts in countries of origin**<sup>48</sup> to address affected communities' needs. Increasing diaspora engagement in disaster risk reduction through resilience building and disaster preparedness activities is key to adapting to a shifting humanitarian context, in which institutional actors are looking to involve different stakeholders to address funding and operational gaps, and for a more effective and coordinated response.

## 6. Supporting environmental sustainability efforts, including the clean energy transition, in particular in displacement settings.

IOM recognizes that a healthy environment is inherently linked to the safety, security and well-being of migrants and societies. In line with the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, IOM also acknowledges that environmental sustainability is intrinsically related to IOM's development and humanitarian commitments as sound environmental management practices provide a foundation for long-term resilience of migrants and societies.<sup>49</sup> The US Administration could consider the following actions:

- **Promote the inclusion of systematic environmental management in humanitarian operations and migration management** both in projects and programs and facilities and operations; with a special attention to sustainable natural resource management, climate action, sustainable water management, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, circular economy<sup>50</sup> and environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste.
- **Support the sustainability and clean energy transition in displacement settings and migration management.** Access to clean energy increases the well-being of displaced people, enables essential activities<sup>51</sup> in displacement situations including powering humanitarian operations, and reduces the environmental impacts of large-scale displacement. Energy interventions form a bridge between humanitarian and development action. Deploying clean energy can also enable the climate neutral transition of other migration management activities, including, for example, renewable energy technologies to run border management systems.

---

<sup>48</sup> Particularly for the countries included in the Compact of Free Associations, a stronger diaspora engagement and mobilization could be key in supporting resilience efforts. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) reports that by mid-year 2020, Micronesia (FSM), Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau had a total number of emigrant population accounting for 21% (24.900 total emigrants), 18% (10.900 total emigrants) and 15% (2.700 total emigrants) of their total population respectively. In 2020, RMI and FSM had respectively 14,4% and 5,9% as share of GDP in remittances.

<sup>49</sup> In 2017, IOM made an institutional commitment to mainstream environmental sustainability in its strategies, projects and programs, and facility management and operations. Since then, IOM has been building its environmental governance and management system. Recognizing that sector-wide and systematic change is necessary to achieve the UN system's and IOM's sustainability mission, IOM has been leading on and contributing to environmental sustainability efforts and initiatives related to the clean energy transition and circular economy with a special focus on migration contexts including displacement settings.

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.innovasjon Norge.no/no/subsites/hipnorway/innovation-projects2/tackling-the-issue-of-solar-waste-in-refugee-settings/>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.routledge.com/Energy-Access-and-Forced-Migration-1st-Edition/Grafham/p/book/9781138543386>

- **Promote circular economy principles and lifecycle considerations** in humanitarian and migration management-related operations and facilities, for example, through sector-wide action plans to reduce packaging waste in line with the objectives of the *Joint Initiative On Sustainable Humanitarian Packaging Waste Management*.<sup>52</sup>

Access to clean energy should also be considered in other migrant focused programmes, targeting vulnerable communities, programmes supporting remittance recipients and returning migrants.

## **7. Supporting activities related to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) and promoting human-security based approaches to address migration in the context of climate change and disasters**

The increasing number of protracted crises linked to both conflicts and climate change continues to displace considerable numbers of people in places such as the Sahel, the Lake Chad region, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Afghanistan, resulting in increased humanitarian needs. Humanitarian tools alone are insufficient to solve protracted crises. It is therefore necessary to adopt humanitarian, development and peace instruments simultaneously to foster national and local institutions' capacity for sustainable responses.<sup>53</sup> The US Administration could consider the following actions:

- **Support research and evidence on the linkages between migration, environment, climate change, human security and conflict**<sup>54</sup>. Policymakers and researchers have increasingly acknowledged the adverse effects of climate change on human security dimensions such as on food and water security, health, sustainable livelihoods, social cohesion and right to a safe environment. The US military and civilian officials were the first to recognize and address the security risks related to climate change and the issue has been put on the US foreign and security policy agenda for almost two decades. But the interlinkages are still not well-understood, nor are solutions well-documented.
- **Support the inclusion of climate and migration dimensions in the UN Security Council:** the US has a significant opportunity to shape global discussions on climate security and support resolutions aiming at preventing climate-related security risks which, combined with other

---

<sup>52</sup><https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/documents/fact-sheet-joint-initiative-sustainable-humanitarian-packaging-waste-management>

<sup>53</sup> IOM has significant experience in working across the spectrum from humanitarian protection and assistance and transition and stabilization initiatives to development and peacebuilding programming. Having conducted case studies in five countries (Colombia, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, Turkey) where environmental and security threats often overlap, IOM supports interventions aiming to improve institutional capacity at all levels to analyse, plan for and respond to the needs emerging from such crises. Building national and local resilience of national authorities is key to prevent and respond to protracted crises and lessen vulnerability to displacement in contexts where climate change, disasters and conflict intersect. IOM recommends using HDPN funding pragmatically through a people-centred approach focusing on participatory decision-making and engagement with people's experiences and practices of safety. Another recommendation is to scale up Multi-Partner Trust Funds (MPTFs) to fund response at various levels, including logistical support and institutional strengthening.

<sup>54</sup> In the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), IOM is the leading agency of a joint program with the UNDP funded by the Peace Building Fund and focusing on Climate Security. The project supports inclusive national consultations, climate risk assessments and pilot initiatives in RMI, Tuvalu and Kiribati, as well as supporting to regional coordination mechanisms.

sources of instability, can result in compounded risks for communities and lead to displacement.

- **Supporting the UN Climate Security Mechanism** established in 2018 to help the United Nations devising prevention and management strategies to address climate-related security risks in a more systematic manner.

## Annex

### Glossary

The following definitions are extracted from the IOM's Glossary on Migration (2019)<sup>55</sup> and aligned with the Glossary of terms on human mobility in the context of environmental and climate change (2014).<sup>56</sup> Other key concepts are highlighted in Chapter 9 of the 2020 World Migration Report.<sup>57</sup>

- 1. Human mobility:** A generic term covering all the different forms of movements of persons. Note: The term human mobility reflects a wider range of movements of persons than the term "migration". The term is usually understood as also encompassing tourists that are generally considered as not engaging in migration. For example, the international organizations member of the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility are using the term human mobility to refer to the broad range of types of movements that can take place in the context of climate change. Source: Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility, Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change UNFCCC - Paris COP21 (2015).
- 2. Environmental migrant:** A person or group(s) of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are forced to leave their places of habitual residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move within or outside their country of origin or habitual residence. There is no international agreement on a term to be used to describe persons or groups of persons that move for environment related reasons. This definition of environmental migrant is not meant to create any new legal categories. It is a working definition aimed at describing all the various situations in which people move in the context of environmental factors. Sources: Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Discussion Note: Migration and the Environment (November 2007) MC/INF/288*; IOM, *International Dialogue on Migration (no. 18) Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration (2012)*; IOM, *Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (2014)*.
- 3. Climate migration:** The movement of a person or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment due to climate change, are obliged to leave their habitual place of residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, within a State or across an international border. This is a working definition of the International Organization for Migration with an analytic and advocacy purpose which does not have any specific legal value. Climate migration is a subcategory of environmental migration; it defines a singular type of environmental migration, where the change in the

---

<sup>55</sup> IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019, <https://publications.iom.int/books/international-migration-law-ndeg34-glossary-migration>

<sup>56</sup> IOM, Glossary, Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP), July 2014, [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/meclep\\_glossary\\_en.pdf?language=en](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/meclep_glossary_en.pdf?language=en)

<sup>57</sup> <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/world-migration-report-2020-chapter-9-human-mobility-and-adaptation-environmental-change>

environment is due to climate change impacts. Migration in this context can be associated with greater vulnerability of affected people, particularly if it is forced. Yet, migration can also be a form of adaptation to environmental stressors, helping to build resilience of affected individuals and communities. *Source: Warsaw International Mechanism, Executive Committee, Action Area 6: Migration, Displacement and Human Mobility - Submission from the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2016);*

4. **Diaspora** Migrants or descendants of migrants whose identity and sense of belonging, either real or symbolic, have been shaped by their migration experience and background. They maintain links with their homelands, and to each other, based on a shared sense of history, identity, or mutual experiences in the destination country.
  
5. **Displacement** The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters. *Source: Adapted from Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, annexed to United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Francis M. Deng, Submitted Pursuant to Commission Resolution 1997/39, Addendum (11 February 1998) UN Doc. E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, para. 2 of the introduction. Note: Unlike the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the above definition is meant to cover both internal and cross-border displacement.*
  
6. **Disaster displacement:** The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of a disaster or in order to avoid the impact of an immediate and foreseeable natural hazard (...) (*Source: Adapted from The Nansen Initiative, Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change (Vol. 1, December 2015) p. 16.*). Disaster displacement may take the form of spontaneous flight, an evacuation ordered or enforced by authorities or an involuntary planned relocation process. Such displacement can occur within a country (internal displacement), or across international borders (cross-border disaster displacement) (ibid.).
  
7. **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border. *Source: Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, annexed to United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Francis M. Deng, Submitted Pursuant to Commission Resolution 1997/39, Addendum (11 February 1998) UN Doc E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, 6.*

- 8. Planned relocation:** Planned process in which persons or groups of persons move or are assisted to move away from their homes or places of temporary residence, are settled in a new location, and provided with the conditions for rebuilding their lives. Planned relocation can be voluntary or involuntary, and usually takes place within the country, but may, in very exceptional cases, also occur across State borders. *Sources: Nansen Initiative, Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change (2015).*

## List of Acronyms

BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCAD	Central American Commission on Environment and Development
CCCM	Coordination and Camp Management
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
COP26	26th Conference of the Parties
CVF	Climate Vulnerable Forum
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAC	East African Community
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Central America
EO	Executive Order
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
HDPN	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDM	International Dialogue on Migration
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IMPACS	Implementation Agency for Crime and Security
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
ISCM	Inter-State Consultation Mechanism on Migration
LCD	Least Developed Countries

MECC	Migration, Environment, Climate Change
MICIC	Migrants in Countries in Crisis
MMC	Mayors Migration Council
MPTF	Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NAP	National Adaptation Policy
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PAIM	Plan to Address Migration and Displacement
PDD	Platform on Disaster Displacement
RCM	Regional Conference on Migration
RCP	Regional Consultative Process
SACM	South American Conference on Migration
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SICA	Central American Integration System
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
TFD	Task Force on Displacement
TPS	Temporary Protection Status
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNNM	UN Network on Migration
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
US	United States of America
WIM ExCom	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

## Relevant Resources

### International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2021 Advancing gender equality in environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/advancing-gender-equality-environmental-migration-and-disaster-displacement-caribbean>

2021 Assessing the Evidence: Climate Change and Migration in Peru. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/assessing-evidence-climate-change-and-migration-peru>

2020 Human Mobility in the Context of Environmental and Climate Change - Assessing current and recommended practices for analysis within DTM. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/human-mobility-context-environmental-and-climate-change-assessing-current-and-recommended-practices>

Chesnier Piña A-G

2020 Migration and Agroecology in West Africa. <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migration-and-agroecology-in-west-africa.pdf>.

2020 IOM and the Sendai Framework: A Global Review of IOM's Contributions to Strengthening Disaster Resilience. <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/drr-2019-ar.pdf>.

Ionesco D and Traore Chazalnoël M

2020 More than a health crisis? Assessing the impacts of COVID-19 on climate migration <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/blogs/more-health-crisis-assessing-impacts-covid-19-climate-migration>

Guadagno L

2020 Migrants and the COVID-19 pandemic: An initial analysis. <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs-60.pdf>.

2019 Operationalizing the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus: Lessons from Colombia, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia and Turkey. <https://publications.iom.int/books/operationalizing-humanitarian-development-peace-nexus-lessons-colombia-mali-nigeria-somalia>.

2019 La movilidad humana en la agenda climática de las Américas. <https://publications.iom.int/books/la-movilidad-humana-en-la-agenda-climatica-de-las-americas-necesidades-y-oportunidades>.

IOM and UNCCD  
2019 Addressing the Land Degradation – Migration Nexus: The Role of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/addressing-land-degradation-%E2%80%93-migration-nexus-role-united-nations-convention-combat-desertification>.

- IOM and OHRLLS  
2019 Climate Change and Migration in Vulnerable Countries: A snapshot of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/climate-change-and-migration-vulnerable-countries-snapshot-least-developed-countries-landlocked>.
- 2019 From the Climate Action Summit to UNFCCC COP25 through UNCCD COP14: An Analysis. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/blogs/climate-action-summit-unfccc-cop25-through-unccd-cop14-analysis>.
- Oakes R, Banerjee S and Warner K  
2019 Chapter 9: Human Mobility and Adaptation to Environmental Change. In *World Migration Report 2020*. <https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2020-chapter-9>.
- Traore Chazalnoël M, and Ionesco D  
2018 10 Key Takeaways from the COP24 Recommendations on Integrated Approaches to Address Displacement and Climate Change. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/blogs/iom-perspectives-climate-change-and-migration>.
- Ionesco D and Traore Chazalnoël M  
2018 10 Key Takeaways from the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) on Environmental Migration. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/10-key-takeaways-gcm-environmental-migration>.
- 2018 Mapping Human Mobility and Climate Change in Relevant National Policies and Institutional Frameworks. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/20180917%20WIM%20TFD%20I.1%20Output%20final.pdf>.
- 2018 Mapping Human Mobility (Migration, Displacement and Planned Relocation) and Climate Change in International Processes, Policies and Legal Frameworks. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/WIM%20TFD%20II.2%20Output.pdf>.
- 2018 Taking Sendai Forward: IOM Progress Report on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience 2018. [https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our\\_work/DOE/humanitarian\\_emergencies/transition-recovery/drr/drr-report-2017-2018-1221.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DOE/humanitarian_emergencies/transition-recovery/drr/drr-report-2017-2018-1221.pdf).
- 2018 Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners. [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/sdg\\_en.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/sdg_en.pdf).
- Mosler Vidal E and Tjaden JD, with Laczko F  
2018 The Global Migration Indicators 2018. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/global-migration-indicators-2018>.

Ionesco D, Mokhnacheva D and Gemenne F  
2017 The Atlas of Environmental Migration. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/atlas-environmental-migration>.

2017 Migration in the 2030 Agenda. [https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/default/files/migration\\_in\\_the\\_2030\\_agenda.pdf](https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/default/files/migration_in_the_2030_agenda.pdf).

2014 IOM Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/iom-outlook-migration-environment-and-climate-change-1>.

2013 Compendium of IOM Activities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience. <https://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/IOM-DRR-Compendium-2013.pdf>.

2009 Compendium of IOM's Activities in Migration, Climate Change and the Environment. [https://publications.iom.int/es/system/files/pdf/compendium\\_of\\_ioms\\_activities.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/es/system/files/pdf/compendium_of_ioms_activities.pdf).

### **IOM Info Sheets**

2017 Extreme Heat and Migration. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/extreme-heat-and-migration>.

2016 Ocean, Environment, Climate Change and Human Mobility. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/ocean-environment-climate-change-and-human-mobility>.

2015 Contributions to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/contributions-united-nations-convention-combat-desertification-unccd>.

### **IOM Policy Briefs**

Bergmann, J, Vinke K, Fernandez Palomino C, Gornott C, Gleixner S, Laudien R, Lobanova A, Ludescher J & Schellnhuber HJ

2021 *Too Much, Too Little Water*. Policy Brief Series, Issue 1, Vol. 6. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/migration-environment-and-climate-change-policy-brief-series-issue-1-vol-6-january-2021>.

Ghenis A  
2016 *Making migration accessible: Inclusive relocation for people with disabilities*. Policy Brief Series, Issue 6, Vol. 2. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy-brief-series-issue-6-vol-2>.

Tangermann JS and Traore Chazalnoel M  
2016 *Environmental migration in Morocco: Stocktaking, challenges and opportunities*.

Policy Brief Series, Issue 3, Vol. 2. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy-brief-series-issue-3-vol-2>.

Pires Ramos E, Lyra Jubilut L, de Salles Cavedon-Capdeville F, de Abreu Batista Claro C 2016 *Environmental migration in Brazil: Current context and systemic challenges*. Policy Brief Series, Issue 5, Vol. 2. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy-brief-series-issue-5-vol-2>.

Schade J 2016 *Land matters: The role of land policies and laws for environmental migration in Kenya*. Policy Brief Series, Issue 1, Vol. 2. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy-brief-series-issue-1-vol-2>.

Entzinger H and Scholten P 2015 *Relocation as an adaptation strategy to environmental stress*. Policy Brief Series, Issue 6. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy-brief-series-issue-6-relocation-adaptation-strategy-environmental-stress>.

## Webpages

IOM's Engagement and Action in the GCM on Environment and Climate Change: <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/environment-and-climate-change-gcm>.

IOM's series on COVID-19, migration and the environment: <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/covid-19-pandemic-migration-and-environm>

IOM's partnership with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD): <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/platform-disaster-displacement>

Health and Migration, Environment and Climate Change: <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/mecc-and-health>.

Human Rights-Based Approaches to MECC: <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/human-rights-based-approaches-mecc>.

Human Mobility in the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change: <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/human-mobility-unfccc>.

Human Mobility in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification: <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/human-mobility-unccd>.

Migration Network Hub: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/hub>

Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI): <https://www.cadri.net/en/who-we-are/cadri-partners/iom>.

MICIC Initiative <https://micicinitiative.iom.int/about-micic>.

## Guidance Tools

IOM

2020 Environmental Annex to the Reintegration Handbook, Annex 11: Guidance for mainstreaming environmental and climate considerations into reintegration programming. <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/annex-11.pdf>

NRC, PDD, IOM, IDMC, UNHCR, the German Federal Foreign Office  
2019 Words into Action guidelines - Disaster displacement: How to reduce risk, address impacts and strengthen resilience. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/words-action-guidelines-disaster-displacement-how-reduce-risk-address-impacts-and-strengthen>.

Government of Fiji  
2018 Planned Relocation Guideline: A framework to undertake climate change related relocation. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/planned-relocation-guidelines-framework-undertake-climate-change-related-relocation>.

IOM, Georgetown University, UNHCR  
2017 A Toolbox: Planning Relocations to Protect People from Disasters and Environmental Change. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/toolbox-planning-relocations-protect-people-disasters-and-environmental-change>.

IOM

2016 Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Training Manual (Facilitators' Guide) - Module 2: Disasters and Mobility. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/training-manual>.

## Other References

2021 Mayors Migration Council, *US Local Governments Call for Equitable and Inclusive Action on Climate Migration: An open letter to President Biden*. <https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/biden-climate-eo>

2021 UNHCR Strategic Framework for climate Action. <https://www.unhcr.org/604a26d84/strategic-framework-for-climate-action>.

2021 Refugees International, Issue Brief *At a Climate Change Crossroads: How Biden-Harris Administration can Support and Protection Communities Displaced by Climate Change*. <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2021/2/10/at-a-climate-change-crossroads-how-a-biden-harris-administration-can-support-and-protect-communities-displaced-by-climate-change>

Bower E and Weerasinghe S

2021 Leaving Place, Restoring Home: Enhancing the Evidence Base on Planned Relocation Cases in the Context of Hazards, Disasters and Climate Change. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/leaving-place-restoring-home-enhancing-evidence-base-planned-relocation-cases-context-hazards>.

Wood, T

2020 Opinion: New pact paves way for innovative solutions to disaster and climate change displacement in Africa. <https://news.trust.org/item/20200228175003-4k8dq>

2020 USRAP Report to Congress: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FY21-USRAP-Report-to-Congress-FINAL-for-WEBSITE-102220-508.pdf>

2020 *Energy Access and Forced Migration* (eds. Grafham O), Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Energy-Access-and-Forced-Migration-1st-Edition/Grafham/p/book/9781138543386>

2019 CSM Lineamientos regionales personas desplazadas por desastres. [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).

Yonetani, M

2018 Mapping the Baseline. To what extent are displacement and other forms of human mobility integrated in national and regional disaster risk reduction strategies?, 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)

2015 The Nansen Initiative. Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, Volume I. <https://nanseninitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/PROTECTION-AGENDA-VOLUME-1.pdf>