



## Analytical report of the workshop on “Climate Change and Human Mobility Towards dignified, coordinated and sustainable responses”



*The thematic workshop was carried out with the support of the IOM which helped the Moroccan stakeholders in the conception of this report*

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
CAF	Cancun Adaptation Framework
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMG	Global Migration Group
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MDCMREAM	Delegate Ministry to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and of Migration Affairs
MICIC	Migrants in Crisis Initiative's
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
TPSA	Guidelines on Temporary Protection and Stay Arrangement
UNDAF	United Nations Development Action Plans
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

## I – A WORKSHOP IN LINE WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

### 1. Goals and expectations of the workshop

The workshop entitled “Climate Change and Human Mobility towards dignified, coordinated and sustainable responses” organized by the German-Moroccan co-chairs of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was, considering the current international situation, a timely and relevant discussion platform in many ways. It is known that the increasing risk of natural disasters due to climate change and the resulting population flows have become, for many years, a matter of great concern internationally. Moreover, the workshop was held at a decisive moment during which phases of reflection within the GFMD were carried out to support the consultation process leading to the elaboration of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

In this context, the workshop’s main objective was to **contribute to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration and to discuss the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda’s objectives for the Sustainable Development regarding migration**. Specifically, the workshop discussions and the resulting recommendations are expected to fuel the contribution of the GFMD to the Global Compact for Migration adoption’s process, furthermore, to help equipping the States with the necessary tools to face the challenges arising from climate change as well as help meet the needs of displaced people in terms of protection and assistance. It is indeed crucial to take the migration related to climate change into consideration in the conception of the Global Compact for Migration, as it represents an opportunity to join this issue to the international political agenda and to promote its spreading among the decision-making processes at the global and national levels.

**This analytical report is a decision-making tool for States as well as international and regional institutions** that intervene in the development of public policies concerning migration and environmental issues. Based on existing good practices, the report suggests to these stakeholders the concrete measures they need to take in order to ensure adequate protection and assistance for displaced persons. Moreover, the report carefully points out the fundamental principles that should guide these actors in the implementation of these concrete actions. Based on its institutional commitment to migration, environment and climate change and its collaboration with Morocco for the preparation of COP22 in 2016, notably in the efforts to include migration and climate change agenda in the work of the Marrakech climate conference, IOM helped the Moroccan stakeholders in the conception and the implementation of this workshop.

### 2. Context

In the perspective of highlighting the new challenges related to climate change, Morocco, since its presidency of the COP22 held in Marrakech in November 2016, has been actively working to include the matter of human mobility due to climate change in the international climate negotiations’ agenda. In fact, more than thirty side events on the link between climate change and migration were held to that end. Morocco was a founding member of the Platform on Disaster Displacement and has also become a member of the Platform’s steering committee.

**Morocco is willing to move this debate forward, to encourage the best practices and the cooperation on specific issues such as migration related to climate change and on migration in general.** In a spirit of solidarity, Morocco has been committed, for several years now, to take its share of responsibility and put serious efforts into implementing an international governance of migration. To that end, Morocco continues to take initiatives in order to encourage the handling of migration issues as part of the international and regional cooperation. The Moroccan open spirit and cooperation can be measured by its recent reintegration into the African Union and its request to join the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). **Morocco is fully committed to work towards the development of an African perspective on issues related to migration.** Regarding the importance of intra-continental migration flows, Morocco strongly encourages the development of an African policy, particularly through the adoption of an African Charter on migration and development. Morocco wants to be the voice of the whole continent, which must be heard to have a constructive impact on the international negotiations on migration.

The process of regularization of undocumented migrants, relaunched in December 2015 by Morocco, is in line with this goal, reaffirming Morocco's will **to take its share of responsibility as an actual host country.** The need of developing a genuine migration policy can also be measured by the development of a legal arsenal helping migrants to integrate into their host country. Working to guarantee and to strengthen the human rights, in particular the right to education of migrant children, the right to vocational training and the right to health, remains among the priorities of Moroccan public authorities. The contribution of the National Commission on Human Rights and the civil society is overarching for the progress of the agenda related to the protection and the integration of migrants in Morocco.

**The country's activities around migration have also been carried out within the framework of the program "Mainstreaming migration into national development strategies",** which was implemented by the Delegate Ministry to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and of Migration Affairs (MDCMREAM) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the program aims to foster a coherent inclusion of migration related concerns into public policies and development planning processes. In order to achieve this end, IOM and UNDP, with the financial support of the SDC, provide assistance to governments and their partners particularly in terms of data collection activities, identification and implementation of migration priorities, the consolidation and the reinforcement of coordination mechanisms regarding migration and in the establishment of implementation, monitoring and evaluation programs. For this purpose, UNDP and IOM have developed a Guidance Note on Integrating Migration and Displacement into United Nations Development Action Plans (UNDAFs).

Concerning the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, Morocco has played a leading role from the consultation phase to the negotiation phase of the adoption of **the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016;** a Declaration that expressly recognizes environmental factors and climate change as a cause of population movements. **Member States have committed to addressing the root causes of population displacements so that migration becomes a choice and not a necessity, nor a means of survival.** To this end, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda up to 2030, which includes, among its objectives, the fight against environmental degradation and the implementation of effective measures to face natural disasters and adverse effects of



climate change, remains of paramount importance. The New York Declaration also recalls the importance of implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Accord as well as the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change developed by the Nansen Initiative. This should be considered as a major achievement highlighting the cross-cutting nature of the challenges raised by climate change related migration.

### 3. The opening ceremony

The workshop was launched with an opening ceremony during which Mr. Abdelkrim Benoutiq, Deputy Minister at the Delegate Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and of Migration Affairs (MDCMREAM) warmly welcomed everyone. In his speech, the Deputy Minister did a reminder about Morocco's commitments during the discussions and the negotiations about the establishment of an international governance of migration. While expressing his pride about the co-chair for Morocco's pioneering spirit and commitment on the issue of human mobility in the context of climate change, he pointed out that **it was the responsibility of the international community to devise innovative mechanisms that can meet the current and the future protection challenges**. In line with this perspective, he hoped that the outcomes of the workshop would add to the contributions of the GFMD to the development of the Global Compact for Migration.

This was followed by a speech from Mr. Md. Toufiq-ur-Rahman, Ambassador and Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairman of the GFMD in 2016, who commended the choice of this workshop's theme, and underlined the very concerning nature of the phenomenon of climate change related migration. **He stressed the importance of changing our negative perception of migration, which can be used, in a climate change context, as an adaptation strategy to reduce, for example, the demographic pressure on certain ecologically fragile regions**. Facing the increased number of displaced persons by natural disasters, mainly caused by climate change, Mr. Md. Toufiq-ur-Rahman reminded that the adoption of the Global Compact represents a historic opportunity for international policy makers to ensure that adaptation measures are taken in order to prevent and reduce the risk of displacement and to promote the benefits of a planned and voluntary migration that respects human dignity. He also underlined the fact that national adaptation plans are also highly relevant inasmuch as they must identify the short and long-term adaptation needs of displaced persons.

Mr. Md. Toufiq-ur-Rahman's speech was followed by a video message from Mrs. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Migration, who insisted on **the plight of those trapped who are, due to the lack of resources, not able to leave their homelands**. The issue of vulnerability and the needs of women and children deserve particular attention and remind us of the importance of planning proactive measures.

Finally, Mr. Omar Hilale, Ambassador of Morocco to the United Nations, spoke to highlight the relevance of the issue given the current international situation. This workshop on human mobility in the context of climate change is being held at a time when the extent of natural disasters is generating more and more population movements. Moreover, **the thematic workshop is just at the right moment**, as the resulting recommendations will feed the discussion phase of the GFMD and the process leading to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration.

#### 4. The sessions program

The remainder of the workshop was structured around two sessions, animated by the intervention of subject matter experts from government bodies and universities to international organizations and civil society. **The first session entitled “Understanding and Acting”** was dedicated to the efforts made to improve the understanding of the phenomenon and to strengthen the actions undertaken in order to face the particular challenges raised by displacement in the context of climate change. **The second session entitled “Towards a shared responsibility: working together to strengthen action”** was devoted to ensure the consistency of global and national policy frameworks and to formulate the recommendations for a more equitable sharing of responsibility.

Both sessions included panels of experts from academic, professional and international circles who gave, after the different presentations, the floor for questions and comments from the audience; subject matter experts, members of civil society and States’ delegates who took the opportunity not only to ask questions but to make recommendations as well. They unanimously agreed that it is imperative to find ambitious solutions up to the challenges currently faced by humanity.

## II THE CHALLENGES RAISED BY HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

### 1. A major humanitarian challenge

Climate change has become **a major environmental and humanitarian challenge for the international community**. Both scientists and legal experts describe it as one of the greatest concerns of the 21st century. The physical impacts of climate change, whether sudden or gradual, due to their adverse effects on the ecosystem, undermine the living environment of communities, their well-being, and their livelihoods. Facing the desertification, rising sea level, coastal erosion, loss of ecosystem and sudden hydro-meteorological hazards, some communities have no choice but to leave their homelands.

Up until a few years ago, the societal impacts of climate change, including its relationship to human mobility, were still being debated. Today, after almost 25 years of debate, the consequences of climate change on human mobility are well established<sup>1</sup>. Since the first report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1990, who predicted these consequences, the link between human mobility and climate change has continuously been confirmed by time and reality. According to data provided by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), **sudden disasters have on average displaced at least 22.5 million people between 2008 and 2014**; this means that one person is displaced every second. Developing countries are the most affected with almost 175 million people displaced by disasters between 2008 and 2015, representing 95% of the total number. Recent data reveal that the number of displaced persons continues to grow; just in 2016, **24.2 million people have been internally displaced by disasters in 118 countries**. This figure is three times higher than displacement resulting from conflict situations. The impacts of climate change affect entire communities both in the northern and southern hemisphere.

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC, 2009, 2014.

However, countries with low and lower middle-income levels are the most affected by forced displacement, mainly because, in addition to their geographical positioning, they have a low resilience and adaptation ability.

**There is now a broad consensus on the consequences of climate change on human mobility**, there is no longer any doubt of the existing nexus between climate change and migration. While in the past, migration related to climate change has failed to draw the necessary attention of the international community, we are currently experiencing an overexposure of this issue as evidenced by the abundance of studies in the field. Given the emergency and the seriousness of the situation, **aggressive advocacy efforts were carried out at different levels** and extensive academic studies have been done on the topic. In fact, the response towards this issue goes beyond merely the academic circle; State initiatives and the actions of international institutions have also been significant. Among the international organizations, the work of IOM and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has significantly contributed to the discussion on this phenomenon and the actions that need to be taken. Many countries such as Switzerland, Norway, Bangladesh, and Morocco have also paid close attention to the fate of displaced persons because of climate change. Vulnerable countries notably Island States gathered under the name Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) have done extensive advocacy work and have made a significant effort to include the issue on the international political agenda.

## ***2. An inadequate legal protection***

Despite the consensus on the magnitude of the phenomenon and the need to provide quick and concrete responses, **persons moving as a result of the impacts of climate change do not get any statutory recognition in the international law** nor do they fit into any of the categories already provided by the existing international legal framework. In the absence of internationally recognized fixed terminology, persons displaced by climate change are referred to by many expressions that has been used without getting a unanimous approval. The term “climate refugees” for example remains inadequate insofar as the 28 July 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees, does not apply to cases of migration related to environmental factors.

**The needs of certain extremely vulnerable categories should be met;** the fate of vulnerable persons who are trapped or are unable to move due to lack of resources is a deeply concerning situation. Certain categories of persons such as women, children, and indigenous communities, having specific needs, are weakened by displacement in the context of climate change. The situation of certain countries particularly the Small Island States or the African States which respectively have a fragile ecosystem and a high dependency on agriculture, should be of more concern.

## ***3. A multifactorial phenomenon***

The complexity of the phenomenon can be pointed out in several respects. First, it should be noted that, **since human mobility in the context of climate change can be multi-factorial, the relationship between climate hazards and migration is not always linear**. In reality, the decision of communities to leave their usual place of residence may be motivated by a combination of the physical impacts of climate change and other demographic, political or



socio-economic factors<sup>2</sup>. Gradual environmental degradations such as drought can often be considered as latent factors that can trigger population movements by existing vulnerabilities worse and sometimes causing conflict situations that could lead to the birth of certain population movements. Additionally, whether the migration induced by the impacts of climate change is internal or transboundary, temporary or permanent, voluntary or forced, it must be understood that **it is never entirely positive or negative**. While migration can test and magnifies people vulnerabilities, when carried out in a forced and improvised way, it can allow people to build resilience when it is conducted in a proactive and voluntary way.

However, it should be noted that global measures taken to fight climate change, can be also a cause of people displacement; whether through mitigation or adaptation measures, Communities may be driven away from their homelands.

#### **4. A phenomenon difficult to quantify**

Quantifying the phenomenon of climate-induced migration also presents a significant technical challenge. Despite the progress of scientific research that has significantly improved the understanding of the main issues around human mobility in the context of climate change, **accurate quantitative data at the local, national and regional levels are still missing**. There are also knowledge gaps in the understanding of local needs, vulnerabilities and dynamics, which prevents the formulation of specific local policies.

It must be acknowledged that, in front of all these challenges, **“it is not enough to get indignant, we must act”**. Considering the urgency of the matter at hand, the implementation of the relevant instruments and concrete plans should no longer be delayed; there should be no excuse for inaction and not pre-planning. The main challenges are now the implementation of specific actions that address the problems associated with environmental migration as well as the consistency of the solutions to the multidimensional and cross-cutting nature of migration.

As emphasized by the different panellists, it is now time “to move away from the poetry of the beautiful commitments” and move to the action and concrete measures. To this end, panellists and other stakeholders have established several recommendations in order to make the protection and the assistance of people displaced due to the impacts of climate change, more effective

### **III KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKSHOP**

#### **1) It is important to continue building upon existing achievements regarding the protection of displaced persons in the context of natural disasters.**

Operational tools that can be used to improve the management and to ensure an effective protection of displaced persons due to the impacts of climate change include general tools such as **the draft principles on human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations** prepared by the Global Migration Group (GMG) as well as the Migrants in Crisis Initiative’s

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<sup>2</sup> IOM, Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, Geneva, 2014, en ligne : [http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc\\_outlook.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc_outlook.pdf).

(MICIC) **Guidelines to protect migrants in countries experiencing conflicts or natural disasters. The Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change** is also a highly relevant tool specifically drafted by the Nansen Initiative to address the challenges raised by displacement due to disasters and climate change. It compiles a broad set of good practices that can be used by countries and humanitarian actors to guarantee the effectiveness of the protection and assistance provided in the context of displacement due to climate change.

Other binding instruments such as **the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Paris Agreement** deserve special attention. The latter refers explicitly to the consequences of climate change on human mobility and calls for the establishment of a task force to develop, inter alia, “recommendations for an integrated approach to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change”. The first meeting of the task force was held on 18-19 May 2017, in Bonn.

It is also important to recall that **international and regional human rights laws** already protect every displaced person due to environmental hazards<sup>3</sup>. These provisions should, therefore, be given full effect to guarantee an effective protection of displaced persons in the context of climate change. Similarly, the provisions of **the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement** adopted in 1998 can also be applied to protect internally displaced persons due to natural disasters. Therefore, countries should be encouraged to take the necessary measures to incorporate this instrument into their domestic law.

At the regional level, **the African Union Convention on Protection and Assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa (Kampala Convention)** is the first legally binding instrument to explicitly mention climate change as a cause of internal displacement. It imposes human rights obligations upon the Member States on whose territory the persons are displaced. It also urges the international community to support the implementation efforts undertaken by these States. As far as transboundary movements are concerned, it should be noted that **the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees** contain provisions that open up favourable prospects for the protection of cross-border displaced persons in a context of disasters and climate change.

There are reasons to believe that the implementation of both **the Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development** should also be seen as a priority insofar as it contributes to the protection of people threatened by displacement, notably through disaster risk reduction and capacity resilience strengthening of people affected by climate change in general. Equipped with the right tools, these people will be much less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and will therefore be less prone to the risks of displacement. As a matter of fact, the seventeen goals of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable goals are more or less directly linked to climate change. While the fight against climate change or the development of an effective environmental policy (clean energy, infrastructure, sustainable cities, and municipalities) can undoubtedly contribute to strengthening communities’ resilience against disaster risks, it is important to note that the fight against poverty and hunger, the advocacy for the right to education, the promotion of peace and social justice can all minimize the risks of displacement by reducing

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<sup>3</sup> Mc. Adam, J. and Limon, M. (2015), *Human rights, Climate Change and Cross Border Displacement : the role of the international human rights community in contributing to effective and just solutions*, Versoix, Universal Human Rights Group.

existing vulnerabilities. It is therefore essential that the development of any new climate-related migration management policy should take account of the objectives set out in the Agenda 2030, as the latter are decisive in achieving a coherent and effective policy towards a sustainable development.

International organizations such as UNHCR or IOM have also developed tools that can be applied by States in the face of migration flows triggered by disasters and climate change. Prepared by UNHCR, the **Guidelines on Temporary Protection and Stay Arrangement (TPSA)** are for example devised to help governments design and implement protective and temporary accommodations arrangements to deal not only with humanitarian crisis but also with mixed or complex population movements. These pragmatic tools of international protection can validly be applied in the context of displacement related to disasters and climate change in order to settle issues related to the entry and reception into the territory, the registration and identification of persons with special needs, the documentation of beneficiaries and the minimum standards of treatment such as, among other things, respect for human rights, humanitarian assistance of displaced persons as well as the search for durable solutions, all within the framework of international cooperation based on burden and responsibility sharing. **UNHCR's 10 point Plan of Action** is also a relevant strategic tool in the management of migration related to climate change as it identifies good practices in ten working areas that UNHCR deems necessary to provide practical guidance in order for States to adequately respond to mixed migration.

**IOM is also a committed actor, particularly involved in capacity-building activities related to migration, environment and climate change.** To this end, it has launched a series of capacity-building training sessions targeting mid to senior level policy-makers as well as practitioners active in environmental and/or migration areas. The trainings are intended, on the one hand, to provide the participants with a basic understanding of the concepts and terminologies related to migration, environment, and climate change and, on the other hand, to provide them with concrete tools that can help them in national and regional policymaking processes. The trainings are also aimed at facilitating exchange and dialogue between policymakers and practitioners. These activities are in line with IOM's overall goal to support the integration of human mobility issues in policies related to environmental and climate change, and vice versa, to include climate and environmental concerns in migration policies. In line with this perspective, IOM's Member States stressed, at an inter-sessional workshop on the International Dialogue on Migration in March 2011, the need to develop capacity in the areas of migration, environment and climate change, in particular building knowledge, improving data collection, strengthening policy as well as institutional, administrative and legal frameworks and reinforcing operational and technical capacities.

To this end, IOM is working on the conception of **the first migration training manual: "Migration, Environment and Climate Change: A Training Manual (Facilitators' Guide)"** for policy makers, directly or indirectly working on issues related to environmental migration. The manual is also designed for facilitators who will be able, based on this document, to deliver training workshops.

The Training Manual aims to achieve the following objectives:

- deepen understanding of the key concepts and issues;
- encourage and equip policy makers to reflect on policy options available and examples of good practices;
- facilitate policy dialogue across policy sectors;
- support the development of policy frameworks at national and regional levels;

- strengthen the capacity of decision makers to contribute to key policy processes, in particular climate negotiations and national and regional climate policies related to disaster risk reduction;
- contribute through further knowledge sharing and training sessions, to more activities on the ground addressing the migration-environment nexus.

**2) While the effective implementation of existing instruments related to human rights protection, climate change, disaster risk reduction or sustainable development remains highly critical, innovative approaches as far as management policies of migration due to climate change are also needed. The Global Compact for Migration should be able to give greater visibility, in particular to the following initiatives and existing good practices.**

a) The flexibility and adaptability of policies to different types of migration must be assured considering that **there is no single solution but rather context-driven, flexible measures** that take into account specific local characteristics with the protection of human rights as a keystone.

b) As is the case in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) or the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), **the implementation of free movement agreements allowing the free circulation of people affected by climate change** must be encouraged. In fact, within these sub-regional organizations, pastoral transhumance agreements are planned to promote the movement of nomadic pastoralists beyond national borders during periods of drought or environmental stress. The widespread adoption of these agreements throughout the African continent as well as in other regions globally should be deeply encouraged.

c) **Differential treatment** towards displaced persons due to climate change, particularly through the establishment of specific humanitarian visas, the recognition of “climate asylum” or the implementation of temporary protection mechanisms, remains necessary. Some South American countries such as Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Cuba already have legislations on the reception of persons displaced by environmental factors that could be used as benchmark examples. These States often plan, in their domestic laws, for the reception of natural disasters victims in their territory with the intent of granting them a temporary resident status.

d) In order to be fully effective, a good migration management policy in the context of disasters and climate change must obviously **include prevention and risk reduction**. It also must be able to innovate by planning and fully preparing the post-displacement period, through the implementation of a reconstruction aid and the creation of economic opportunities for the people returning to their home region.

e) **The need to initiate planned resettlement as part of the adaptation to climate change** reflects this idea of prevention and the need for proactively planned solutions; UNHCR is a key player in the development of guidelines in this field. However, it is worth mentioning that resettlement should only be considered as a last resort solution to put out of danger those who are threatened by the adverse effects of climate change, those who are most vulnerable and those trapped in their area of residency. Priority should be given to strengthening the communities’ resilience and enabling them to remain in their usual place of residence. Relocation operations must respect the rights guaranteed by international and regional human rights laws. The operations must also consider the will and the procedural rights of the concerned communities by first, consulting them before the beginning of the

operations and second, ensuring that they actively participate in all relocation related decision-making processes. The host communities must be involved in relocation decisions as well through consultation and meaningful participation, in order to take their concerns into account, facilitate the reception of displaced persons and reduce possible social tensions.

f) Beyond the normative responses that the Global Compact for Migration can propose to meet the challenges posed by climate change induced migration, it provides a unique opportunity to **initiate international institutional reforms**.

Given that existing international institutions can often be overwhelmed by the magnitude of the situation, there is a need to adapt institutional structures to the emerging issues at stake. While the establishment of new structures can be a lengthy task, the consolidation of existing structures, in particular by providing them with the means to meet the challenges is crucial.

The Global Compact for Migration should also support **the development of a strategic and coherent partnership between international institutions**. Greater collaboration and complementarity need to be established between the various agencies, which according to their respective areas of expertise, can actually contribute to providing a multidimensional response to the multi-causal issue of climate change related migration.

**3) Given the cross-cutting nature of migration issues in general and more specifically migration related to climate change, a global and comprehensive approach needs to be adopted to address it.**

a) This implies that **national migration policies first need to incorporate the link between environmental factors, climate change, development and migration** to better address the needs and the challenges faced by displaced persons. Capacity building for civil servants on issues related to migration and environmental as well as climate change should be considered as a priority.

b) **The link between migration and environmental factors and climate change will also need to be included in national policies pertaining to the fight against climate change.** This is particularly important in adaptation and disaster risk reduction programs, as it will give a real impetus to action. To this end, in line with the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF) and the paragraph 14 (f) of the Cancun Agreements, national adaptation plans must be implemented in such a way that they identify long and medium term adaptation needs, and they devise strategies and programs that meet the identified needs.

c) At the international level, **better synergy between policies related to environmental protection and the fight against climate change and those related to migration policy** should be ensured. It is however important to acknowledge that the international climate regime has already made significant progress in taking into account the impact of climate change on migration.

**4) The Global Compact for Migration should promote all considerations related to human rights protection, which must be the cornerstone of migration management policies. Public authorities must, always, through the development of these policies, keep in mind concerns related human rights protection as they apply to the management of migration flows resulting from the impacts of climate change.**



Because they further weaken some segments of society and exposes them to increased climate risks, it is essential to promote policies aimed at combating all forms of discrimination as it. It should indeed be borne in mind that the impacts of climate change act as threat multipliers; which, by exacerbating the existing socio-economic vulnerabilities, force people to leave their usual place of residence. For example, in some countries, women are denied access to land. In this context, women are thus more likely to be exposed to the risk of displacement, because, in the absence of adequate means to ensure their livelihoods, they are unable to provide for themselves. It is, therefore, **necessary to urge States to remove any and all discriminatory policies from their legislation**. The principle of non-discrimination should also be the foundation of the management of displacement, in particular of the protection, assistance and reception afforded to displaced persons as a result of climate change. Public authorities must devise and implement each of these three areas without discrimination based on the gender, ethnic origin, nationality or language of the concerned persons.

It is also advisable to put particular focus on the topic of protection of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, at the upcoming Global Compact for Migration. **The inclusion of discussion points on gender and children** is also particularly important, as the protection of women and children is a prerequisite for the preservation of family unity.

**5) The Global Compact for Migration must explicitly recognize the protection and humanitarian assistance needs of displaced persons in the context of disasters and climate change in the same way as the needs of those displaced by conflict and persecution the Global Compact for Migration.**

Populations fleeing conflicts may sometimes settle in refugee camps located in ecologically fragile areas affected mainly by gradual deterioration such as drought. In these circumstances, **the host communities in these circumstances can sometimes find themselves in very vulnerable situations and more severe levels of deprivation than of camp refugee** who can rely on humanitarian aid. These two types of displacements can be conflated in certain regions when people fleeing conflicts or persecution are forced to leave their first country of asylum in search of a better living environment.

The Global Compact for Migration should, therefore, be able to drive the efforts towards a collective solution to above-mentioned challenges including by:

- reducing the risk of secondary displacement of resettled or host communities living in sensitive areas prone to disasters and climate change risks.
- increasing economic and social opportunities and reducing constraints such as drought and famine in order to promote the sustainable return of refugees to their countries of origin.

It is important that to implement development programs that supplement humanitarian assistance efforts. **The sustainable return of displaced persons and the prevention of new migratory flows cannot be assured without the creation of economic opportunities** ensuring the welfare of local communities, the youth in particular. These economic opportunities can be created locally but can also be realized through the implementation of voluntary migration plans such as sustainable or seasonal labour migration, which must be preceded by skill and ability enhancement efforts. Used as an adaptation strategy, these

plans allow migrants to cope with harsh climate conditions while simultaneously alleviating the demographic and ecological pressures on some already fragile regions. Voluntary migration also has its advantages for the host communities, enabling them to reduce their labor shortages. Overall, it must be recognized that it can have a positive impact on economic development for both stakeholders.

**6) In order for responses to be in line with the reality on the ground, it is essential that the impacts of climate change on migration are better understood through sustained multidisciplinary scientific researches. The Global Compact for Migration should therefore encourage States to set up structures dedicated to research and to foresee adequate funding for this purpose.**

Awareness being a necessary prerequisite for any action, research on understanding the phenomenon must be conducted through the collection and analysis of data on climate factors that are likely to lead to population movements. The development of a **multidisciplinary research is crucial** in order to better understand the complexity and the different facets of migration due to climate factors, in particular with regard to the needs and the will of local communities. A closer collaboration between researchers and policy makers will be required to ensure that public authorities specifically address issues on the ground. However, there are not yet enough research centres working on this topic. Set up in November 2016, **the Hugo Observatory** is one of the few research structures devoted exclusively to the study of environmental change and migration. Based at the University of Liege, it works closely with the IOM, the World Bank and the Platform on Disaster Displacement. It is also a member of the civil society on the task force set up under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change impacts.

Some scientific researches may sometimes primarily focus on certain specific regions such as in Africa. Studies of migration and environmental factors studies generally cover more the western part of the continent to the detriment of other regions. However, these **studies are worth generalizing because, without sufficient knowledge of migration trends and climate patterns, States are unable to draft a climate and migration policy that effectively responds to existing challenges.** IOM's work as part of the "Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy" project, led between January 2014 and March 2017, remains an initiative that needs to be further expanded. The main objective of this project focused on six countries (Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kenya, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam) is to improve knowledge on the relationship between migration and global environmental changes. More specifically, it aims at formulating public policies in order to use migration, especially planned relocations, as a strategy for adaptation to environmental and climate change. IOM contributes in general to improving knowledge on the link between migration, environment and climate change through extensive research (over 100 publications) and sustained communication by means of an information portal specifically dedicated to this topic.

Scientific research can also help build resilience and better prepare communities threatened by climate risks through the establishment of early warning mechanisms and improved weather forecasts.

**7) The Global Compact for Migration should emphasize the importance of awareness campaigns, which must be carried out at the local level to alert communities about the climate risks they are likely to face.**

**Access to information**, specifically for vulnerable people, on the risks and methods of prevention, is essential. Similarly, the introduction of modules on the impacts of climate change in basic education needs to be considered. Moreover, disaster risk reduction alert exercises should be carried out in schools, retirement homes and other places where vulnerable people may be accommodated.

**Awareness campaigns directed towards host communities** should also be initiated in order to change for the most part negative perception of migrants. It should be noted that a positive image of migration should be promoted to prevent displaced persons from becoming victims of xenophobia and discrimination in their new host region. Public authorities are thus encouraged to work in close collaboration with civil society, cultural as well as religious community leaders who have the necessary platforms to play a huge role in raising awareness and in promoting better social cohesion to avoid potential tensions between migrants and host communities.

**8) Given the global nature of the problem, the Global Compact for Migration should reaffirm that the responsibility to act is incumbent on all States, yet the responsibility must be shared on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.**

While the contribution of Southern countries to global warming is marginal, they are particularly threatened by the detrimental effects of the phenomenon. Their low resilience to the impacts of climate change forces them to suffer its negative consequences. Their populations are also more exposed to the physical impacts of climate change and may thus be more likely to face displacement. **On the basis of equity and the principle of common and differentiated responsibility enshrined notably in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC), developed countries must support developing countries in the fight against climate change** and its effects including the management of climate change related displacement.

More specifically, this means that greater cooperation at international and regional levels should be promoted through international, regional and bilateral agreements. **Universal responses, multi-stakeholder and multi-level partnerships including with the private sector and civil society need to be established.** It is important for the Global Compact for Migration to recognize the importance of promoting dialogue among States and the importance of increasing the number of initiatives that encourage regional and bilateral agreements in order to improve the management of transboundary displacement while also taking into account their humanitarian aspect. **To be able to exchange good practices in the field of migration linked to climate change**, States need to make an effort to engage and collaborate on migration policies. This inter-state cooperation between developing and developed countries should be encouraged, particularly in the implementation of development programs because improving economic opportunities can strengthen the resilience of communities in the face of climate change and potentially minimize the risk of displacement. **The implementation of local development projects** as part of the intergovernmental cooperation plan can help communities in developing countries diversify the economic activities on which the incomes rely on. By diversifying their activities, these communities can expand their revenue streams and ensure more stable and sustained means of livelihood.

**9) The issue of funding remains a major problem to establish an efficient governance of migration in the context of climate change. Adequate funds should be allocated to protection and assistance activities for persons displaced due to climate change.**

Questions regarding funding issues constantly arise and remain central as they constitute one of the pillars of the equitable sharing of burdens and responsibilities and have a significant influence over the effectiveness of the protection. It is essential to guarantee, on the one hand, access for vulnerable countries to funds set up in the context of environmental protection and the fight against climate change, and on the other hand, access to funds for migration management.

**In the field of the fight against climate change, the transfer of technology** to vulnerable countries is especially necessary to help them build their resilience. States must also invest further in **renewable energy** in line with their commitments under the UNFCCC. In this regard, it is important to encourage developed countries to fulfil their commitments regarding the financing of climate change adaptation.

Beyond the high economic cost of *in situ* adaptation, assistance to displaced persons, reconstruction of affected areas and planned relocation represent a considerable financial burden that developing countries cannot bear on their own.

**10) While the existence of adequate financing remains a decisive factor in the implementation of protection and assistance activities, the effectiveness of these activities will need to be strengthened through the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism.**

States should agree to establish a **Conference of the Parties to the Global Compact for Migration**. Through it, they can strengthen their ties under the auspices of the Conference of States. **A reporting mechanism can also be put in place** to enable States to submit reports indicating public policy and other measures they have taken to give effect to the provisions of the Global Compact for Migration as well as share the difficulties they have encountered in the process of its implementation. The States' reports should contribute, inter alia, to **the preparation of a compendium** that will regularly identify good practices in the area of protection and assistance of displaced persons due to disasters and climate change.

## **IV – THE NEED FOR ACTION AND CONCRETE MEASURES**

The reality of the phenomenon of migration related to the impacts of climate change no longer needs to be proved. In fact, there is a broad consensus about the urgency and the gravity of the situation. Moreover, there is a real awareness of the challenges and stakes surrounding migration due to the impacts of climate change. Although the development of quantifiable data remains a difficult task, it should under no circumstances be an excuse for inaction. Although sustained multidisciplinary research, to clarify grey areas, should be encouraged, it is important to put this collective will towards action in order to find concrete solutions to the issues resulting from human mobility in the context of climate change.

**The adoption of the Global Compact for Migration represents an important opportunity to face the challenges** by addressing migration factors while also guaranteeing the respect of human rights for all migrants in situation of high vulnerability. Many recommendations were

made, and the need to standardize a number of good practices was also pointed out. In summary, it was underlined that the issues related to human mobility in the context of disaster and climate change will have to be addressed in several phases:

- the first set of actions pertains to **the prevention of forced displacement**, which will have to be implemented through measures related to disaster risk reduction and efforts to improve the resilience of communities threatened by climate change. During this phase, *in situ* adaptation measures will have to be taken to help communities stay in their usual place of residence;
- the second set of actions relates to **humanitarian assistance**, which must be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles and human rights standards. However, in the event that these measures are not sufficient and displacement becomes inevitable, relocation plans should be outlined to avoid forced, hasty and disordered migrations likely to aggravate the vulnerabilities of people affected by climate change. **The use of migration as an adaptation strategy** needs to be promoted through the adoption of regional and bilateral agreements to allow the free movement of persons within the framework of development programs such as labour migration schemes;
- the third set of actions concerns **measures to promote the sustainable return** of communities by setting-up aid programs for reconstruction and by creating better economic and social opportunities.

Considering the cross-cutting nature of the problem and the need to make the above-mentioned measures effective, it is important for States to **integrate human mobility concerns into their national development programs, their migration management policies as well as their environmental policies, particularly in their national adaptation plans.**

The adaptation to climate change and the management of human mobility resulting from climate change have come at a considerable financial cost that vulnerable States cannot fully bear without the support of the international community. Given the global nature of the issue, **there is a need for cooperation between States** to face the financial challenge. Developing countries that are particularly vulnerable require the support of developed countries not only in the fight against climate change but also in the management of migration linked to its adverse effects; **shared responsibility and international solidarity are necessary.** In addition to the financial support that must be made available to vulnerable States, international solidarity and shared responsibility can be realized by putting in place protection mechanisms for displaced persons due to climate change, notably the implementation of humanitarian visas, the recognition of “climate asylum” as well as the establishment of free movement agreements or temporary protection mechanisms.

Inter-State cooperation, which needs to be more encouraged, can be strengthened through the exchange of good practices between States. **The reporting mechanism** likely to be established within the framework of the Global Compact for Migration will be used not only to promote the mainstreaming of these good practices but also to highlight the difficulties that States encounter in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.

Of course, **respect of humanitarian principles and human rights** must truly serve as the Northern Star, guiding the action of States and international organizations in the management of the flow of displaced persons due to the impacts of climate change.



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