

# BRIEFING NOTE

## HUMAN MOBILITY in NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

Developed by SLYCAN Trust

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**Under the Paris Agreement**, all parties are requested to "outline and communicate their post-2020 climate actions [...] to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change." These submissions are known as **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and shall be submitted every five years to the UNFCCC Secretariat, which currently records them in the publicly available interim NDC registry.

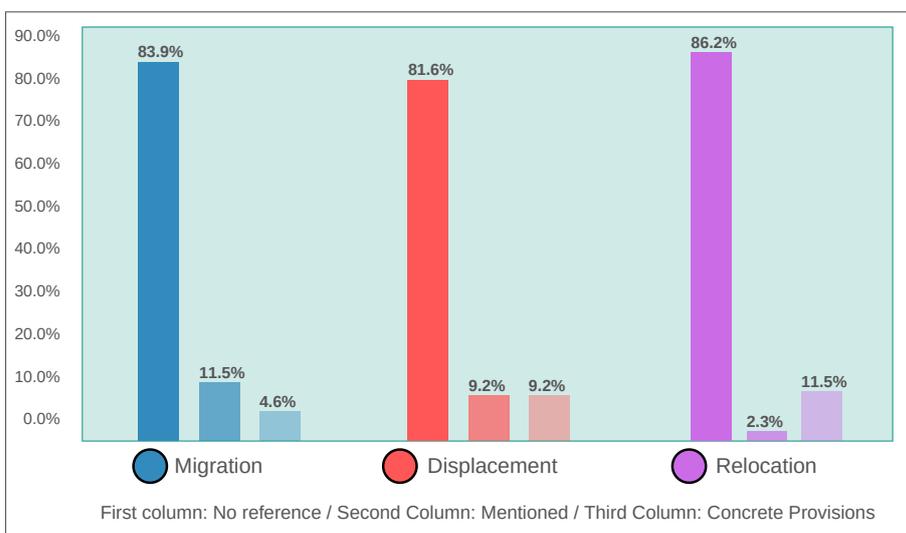
Under the UNFCCC, human mobility is formally referenced by mentioning the rights of migrants in the **Preamble of the Paris Agreement** and through the adoption of Decision 1/CP.21 to **create a dedicated Task Force on Displacement under the Warsaw International Mechanism** for Loss and Damage.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Out of a total 87 countries that have submitted revised or updated NDCs in 2020 or 2021 so far, 25 (29%) include human mobility in some form.
- 64% of these refer to displacement, 56% to migration, and 48% to planned relocation.
- The majority of these are in Central or South America, followed by Africa and Asia. There is only one Annex-I party that includes a reference to human mobility (Russia).
- 10 countries have concrete provisions for relocation, 8 countries for displacement, and 4 for migration.

Increasingly, climate change has become an **underlying driver of human mobility** that shapes and alters existing movement patterns or opens up new movement corridors around the world. This briefing note examines the extent to which the different **dimensions of human mobility** [1] have been integrated into the revised, updated, and newly submitted NDCs:

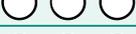
- **Migration:** The movement of persons away from their place of usual residence, either across an international border or within a State.
- **Disaster displacement:** The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence.
- **Planned relocation:** Permanent relocation of persons away from places exposed to climate hazards and prone to climate-related disasters.



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**Further information:** Please visit SLYCAN Trust's homepage <https://www.slycantrust.org/> as well as the Adaptation & Resilience Knowledge Hub: <https://www.slycantrust.org/knowledge-portal/home>

# HUMAN MOBILITY in NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS 2020/2021

<b>I</b> Andorra		20/05/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Angola		16/11/2020	First NDC	No reference to human mobility.
Argentina		30/12/2020	Second NDC	Includes migrants, refugees, and displaced people among the most vulnerable groups. Commitments related to environmental displacement in health sector.
Armenia		05/05/2021	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
<b>I</b> Australia		31/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Bangladesh		31/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Bosnia Herzegovina		20/04/2021	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Brazil		09/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Brunei Darussalam		31/12/2020	First NDC	No reference to human mobility.
Cabo Verde		02/04/2021	Updated	Lists migration and displacement under loss and damage and under vulnerabilities. Commits under DRR sector to support and protect internally displaced persons.
Cambodia		31/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Chile		09/04/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Colombia		30/12/2020	Updated	Acknowledges climate change impacts on human rights and names displaced people as a vulnerable group. includes relocation of small-scale miners in páramos high mountain regions as a support need.
Costa Rica		29/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Cuba		17/09/2020	Updated	Reference to the 2017 State Plan to Confront Climate Change, which includes in one of its tasks the relocation of human settlements from low-lying coastal areas.
Dominican Republic		29/12/2020	Updated	Refers to relocation of communities away from flood- and landslide-prone areas as an adaptation action.
<b>I</b> European Union		01/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Ethiopia		31/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Fiji		31/12/2020	Updated	Two adaptation targets that focus on relocation of highly vulnerable communities and critical public infrastructure
Georgia		05/05/2021	Updated	Eco-migrants identified as a key vulnerable group; commitment to identify most vulnerable populated areas with a threat of displacement.
Grenada		01/12/2020	Second NDC	Commitment to build coherence between NDCs and NAP to strengthen resilience and address human mobility.
Honduras		19/05/2021	Updated	Refers to climate-related migration and displacement.
<b>I</b> Iceland		18/02/2021	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Jamaica		01/07/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
<b>I</b> Japan		31/03/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Kenya		28/12/2020	Updated	Refers to climate-related displacement and refugees.
Kyrgyzstan		18/02/2020	First NDC	No reference to human mobility.
Lao PDR		11/05/2021	Updated	Original submission refers to resettlement due to dam.
Lebanon		16/03/2021	Updated	Reference to displaced Syrian population in the country.
Maldives		28/12/2020	Updated	Original submission refers to relocation of port.
Marshall Islands		31/12/2020	Second NDC	Refers to internal displacement and commits to assure the continued opportunity for migration and relocation.

Mexico				30/12/2020	Updated	Includes migrants and displaced people among the most vulnerable groups and commits to identify and address climate-related displacement.
Monaco				28/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Mongolia				13/10/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Nepal				08/12/2021	Second NDC	No reference to human mobility.
New Zealand				22/04/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Nicaragua				24/12/2020	Updated	Refers to displacement and relocation of people away from risk-prone areas.
Nigeria				27/05/2021	Updated	Several commitments related to reducing internal migration in the sectors of human settlements and disaster, migration, and security. Commitment to relocate high-risk industries, facilities, and markets.
Norway				07/02/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Panama				28/12/2020	Updated	References migrants as a vulnerable group.
Papua New Guinea				16/12/2020	Second NDC	Climate migration is one of nine adaptation priority areas and addresses migration, displacement due to hazards and environmental degradation, and relocation.
Peru				18/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Philippines				15/04/2021	First NDC	No reference to human mobility.
Republic of Korea				30/12/2020	Second NDC	No reference to human mobility.
Republic of Moldova				04/03/2020	Updated	Refers to migrants in relation to extreme weather events.
Russia				25/11/2020	First NDC	Includes evacuation and temporary resettlement under post-crisis adaptation measures.
Rwanda				20/05/2020	Updated	Commits to relocating households from risk-prone areas.
Saint Lucia				27/01/2021	Updated	Refers to migration and addresses displacement under loss and damage from sea level rise and extreme events.
Senegal				29/12/2020	First NDC	Refers to a potential increase in illegal immigration.
Singapore				31/03/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
South Sudan				23/02/2021	First NDC	Refers to flood-related displacement. Commitment to relocate communities away from flood-prone areas.
Switzerland				09/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Thailand				26/10/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Rep. of North Macedonia				16/04/2021	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Tonga				09/12/2020	Second NDC	Refers to migration as a potential impact of and relocation as a potential measure to address sea level rise.
United Arab Emirates				29/12/2020	Second NDC	No reference to human mobility.
United Kingdom				12/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
United States of America				22/04/2021	First NDC	No reference to human mobility.
Vanuatu				22/03/2021	Updated	No reference to human mobility.
Viet Nam				11/09/2020	Updated	Commitment to relocate residential areas away from frequently disaster-affected areas.
Zambia				30/12/2020	Updated	No reference to human mobility.

	Mentioned in NDCs			Provisions in NDCs									
Migration		= 0 x		+ 10 x		= 10		= 0 x		+ 4 x		= 4	Annex-I Party
Displacement		= 0 x		+ 8 x		= 8		= 1 x		+ 7 x		= 8	
Relocation		= 0 x		+ 2 x		= 2		= 0 x		+ 10 x		= 10	Non-Annex Party

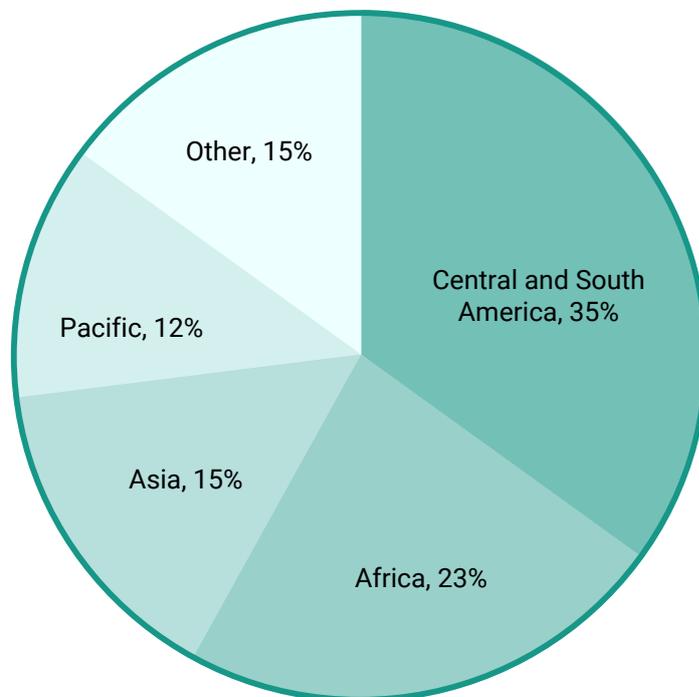
## IDENTIFYING TRENDS and PATTERNS

As of May 2021, there are **191 parties to the Paris Agreement** [2], 87 of which (including the 27 EU countries) have submitted their updated or revised NDCs in 2020-2021 so far (up to May 31st, 2021).

In a study undertaken by IOM [3], only 20% of (I)NDCs submitted by 2016 had some kind of provision related to migration. A similar mapping carried out by the Task Force on Displacement under the Warsaw International Mechanism together with IOM in 2018 [4] found the same ratio of 20% among 193 submissions.

It is important to note that less than half of parties have submitted their updated or new NDCs at this point. Therefore, there is the possibility that the percentages and regional ratios presented in this briefing note are subjected to change. Furthermore, **countries do not choose to address human mobility in the context of climate change only through their NDCs**. Some countries have incorporated human mobility into their National Adaptation Plans, climate policies, related national policies and regulations, development plans, or dedicated policies on climate change and human mobility.

Out of the 87 parties who have submitted their revised, updated, or first NDCs in 2020 and 2021 so far, **25 (29%) make some form of reference to human mobility**, the majority of them in South and Central America, Africa, and Asia.



*Percentages of countries addressing human mobility in their 2020/2021 NDCs by region*

Going through the different forms of human mobility, only **four countries have included concrete provisions for migration** in their NDCs. These comprise relatively broad commitments to enhanced policy coherence (Grenada), assuring the continued opportunity for migration (Marshall Islands), strengthening disaster management and rural infrastructure to discourage out-migration (Nigeria), and an entire adaptation priority area on climate-induced migration (Papua New Guinea).

**Disaster displacement is directly addressed by eight countries** (Argentina, Cabo Verde, Georgia, Grenada, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Russia, and Saint Lucia) through provisions related to the health, safety, and support of displaced people, temporary relocation, and the identification and assessment of areas with high displacement risk. Russia is the only Annex-I country with any provision related to human mobility in their NDCs, as well as the only country in Europe except Georgia and Moldova to make any reference to human mobility at all.

**With regard to planned relocation, ten countries** (Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Viet Nam) **have included commitments** to relocate human settlements, households, critical public infrastructure, high-risk industries, facilities, and markets away from flood- and landslide-prone areas.



There is significant variation regarding **the degree to which human mobility is included into NDCs**. Migration is mentioned in fourteen NDCs, usually by referring to migrants as a specific vulnerable group, but only four countries have included provisions to address climate-related migration. Similarly, disaster displacement is mentioned in sixteen NDCs and specifically addressed in eight. Further, planned relocation has commitments or actions attached to it in the majority of NDCs, with ten out of twelve countries having provisions to relocate populations or assets away from risk-prone areas.

Out of all 87 parties who have submitted up till end of May 2021, **Papua New Guinea is the only one that has an adaptation sector that is focused on human mobility** to jointly address issues of migration, displacement, and relocation. This priority has been carried forward from the first NDC and includes commitments related to data (gender and social inclusion assessments, consultations with migrants and host communities), awareness creation, planning and development (government relocation plans, construction of buildings and infrastructure, preparatory strategies and activities for relocation), and considering interventions related to relocation.

Out of the 87 revised or updated submissions, all eight countries that have already submitted their **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)** as well address human mobility to a certain extent. For some countries the inclusion of human mobility presents the opportunity to align their NDCs and NAP, for example Colombia, Fiji, Grenada, and Kenya. However, for Brazil, Chile, and Ethiopia, the NAP addresses human mobility while the NDCs do not. For Saint Lucia, the NAP clarifies human mobility "as not an acceptable adaptation strategy."



If all countries that mentioned human mobility in their first NDC submission will include it in their revised or updated NDCs as well, **it can be expected that at least 51 countries (26.6%) will have provisions related to human mobility in their NDCs** once the second round is completed.

If this were the case, it would be a considerable increase compared to the first round of submissions, highlighting human mobility in the context of climate change as **an important issue to focus on in the lead-up to COP26** for many countries around the world, particularly developing countries in South and Central America, Africa, and Asia.

## REFERENCES

- [1] IOM Website: *Key Migration Terms*. Accessed 31.05.2021.
- [2] United Nations Treaty Collection: *Depositary: Status of Treaties*. Accessed 31.05.2021.
- [3] IOM (2016). *Migration in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)*.
- [4] WIM/IOM (2018). *Mapping Human Mobility and Climate Change in Relevant National Policies and Institutional Frameworks*. Task Force on Displacement under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts.

This working paper was compiled and drafted by SLYCAN Trust's Research & Knowledge Management Division led by Dennis Mombauer.

The information contained in this briefing note is assembled from desk research conducted by SLYCAN Trust based on the NDCs uploaded by May 31st, 2021, to the interim NDC Registry operated by the UNFCCC Secretariat under the following address: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/All.aspx>.