

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

MIGRATION IN THE INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (INDCS) AND NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCS)



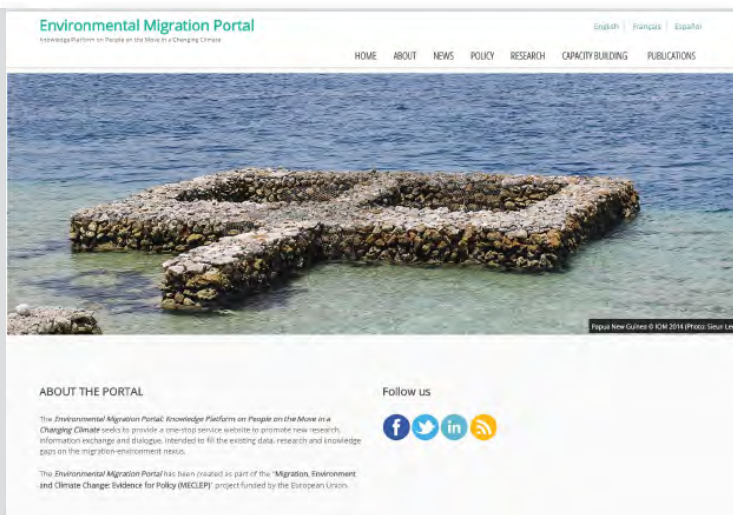
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Photo: Muse Mohammed
© IOM 2016

For updated information on IOM work on migration, environment and climate change, please visit the IOM Environmental Migration Portal

<http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/>

Follow us on Twitter: [@IOM_MECC](https://twitter.com/IOM_MECC)



This document was prepared by Mariam Traore Chazalnoël (Associate Expert, IOM Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division) and Eva Mach (Project Officer, IOM Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division) in coordination with Dina Ionesco (Head, IOM Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division).

MIGRATION IN THE INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (INDCs) AND NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCS)

What are INDCs and NDCs?

Prior to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) formed the basis of States' engagement to support the legally binding international climate agreement, reflecting their national commitments to achieve the global climate objectives on tackling climate change and reducing CO2 emissions. Under the COP21 Paris Agreement¹ adopted in December 2015, submitted INDCs automatically become Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) upon ratification of the Agreement – unless the State decides to submit a new NDC at the time of ratification. By [decision 1/CP.21](#), paragraph 13, Parties who have not yet submitted their INDCs are requested to communicate them as soon as possible prior to COP 22.²

As of 15 July 2016, 162 countries have submitted their INDCs, with a technical focus on how to reduce CO2 emissions and reach mitigation targets. Adaptation is often considered as mainly the concern of developing countries – evidenced by the abundance of references to adaptation measures in their submissions. However, it is important for all countries to consider that insufficient mitigation efforts now will most likely mean a need for more adaptation measures in the future. Both mitigation and adaptation efforts have immediate and future impacts on the migration patterns of people.

Why are INDCs and NDCs important to the migration and climate nexus?

Setting mitigation targets as outlined in the INDCs/NDCs is necessary to reduce negative climate impacts as much as possible. But whether mitigation targets are achieved or not in the future, we know that unprecedented number of people are already on the move following weather-related

natural disasters³ and slow degradation of areas that are becoming inhospitable to human beings. It is also likely that the number of people migrating in connection to climate impacts will rise in the future.⁴ At the same time, adaptation measures are already implemented throughout the world and it is expected that more adaptation efforts will be needed in both developed and developing countries in the future.

In terms of climate migration, this calls for understanding: i) what the current and expected climate impacts are on the migration of people; and ii) how to best use the policy tools and the resources available to turn [migration into a possible adaptation strategy](#) whenever possible.

Where is migration in INDCs and NDCs?

Out of the 162 INDCs submissions⁵ to the UNFCCC before COP21, 33 submissions refers to migration in one of its different forms. This means that 20 per cent of the current submissions refer to migration. Among these countries, 46 per cent are located on the African continent, 33 per cent in Asia-Pacific and Oceania and 21 per cent in Latin America. Unsurprisingly, these continents are the most affected by climate change,⁶ which might explain their interest in linking climate impacts to migration issues.

The references to migration mostly focus on three dimensions, which reflect the overall debate on climate migration: i) managing the effects of climate change on security and the need to tackle and prevent adverse mobility effects such as the displacement of people due to natural disasters and/or migratory movements linked to climate change as a push factor; ii) using migration as a possible adaptation strategy to climatic changes through policy measures such as resettlement and relocation; and iii) leveraging remittances and financial transfers from migrants and diasporas to contribute to climate action.

Six months after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, six of the INDCs became NDCs following States' ratification of the Agreement. As INDCs and NDCs reflect States' commitments to combat the negative effects of climate change, it is encouraging to note that one fifth of the States, Parties to the UNFCCC, have made reference to human mobility in their national submissions, and that many of these States have firmed up their commitments following the adoption of the Paris Agreement.

Please see all references to human mobility in the INDCs on page 5–7.

How to consider migration in the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement?

In addition to the INDCs/NDCs dimension, it is important to note that the Paris Agreement has formally included references to migration and displacement,⁷ notably through a reference to the rights of migrants in the Preamble and the adoption of COP Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 49 to create a dedicated Task force under the Executive Committee of the [Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage \(WIM\)](#) to develop recommendations on *“integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.”*

Over the next decades, the implementation phase of the national commitments expressed in the INDCs and NDCs will be rolled out. The migration dimension will continue to be of increasing relevance to most countries – especially for those who are already aware of the adverse impacts of climate change on the mobility of people as well as for those who are eager to seize the opportunities associated with migration in a changing climate.

In the implementation phase, it is critical that States have access to technical support and expertise in order to tackle issues and opportunities associated with climate migration, especially considering the complexity of the issues at stake. In that respect, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has, over the past decade and at the request of its Member States, intensified its efforts⁸ to support States to understand and take action on climate migration. In its comprehensive Atlas of Environmental Migration, IOM has mapped existing national adaptation plans and policies referring to

migration and human mobility. The Organization has also developed guidelines on mainstreaming migration into National Adaptation Plans.⁹ IOM now actively supports the WIM and the creation of the Taskforce on Displacement through sharing of technical expertise.¹⁰

For more information, please visit the Environmental Migration Portal: <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/>

-
1. <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>
 2. http://unfccc.int/meetings/paris_nov_2015/session/9057/php/view/decisions.php
 3. www.internal-displacement.org/globalreport2016/
 4. Atlas of Environmental Migration 2016 <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/atlas-environmental-migration>
 5. The 162 submissions represent 190 countries (161 national submissions plus 1 common submission for the 28 European Member States)
 6. <http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/atlas-environmental-migration>
 7. <https://weblog.iom.int/cop21-paris-agreement-stepping-stone-climate-migrants>
 8. Ongoing IOM activities include research, capacity-building and policy support as well as operational responses to address climate migration
 9. <http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/default/files/publications/pdf11800.pdf>
 10. IOM has organized in July 2016 a Technical Meeting on migration, displacement and human mobility in the Kingdom of Morocco, host to COP22, that brought together members of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage with the wider community of migration and displacement experts, in order to support action on climate migration. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/technical-meeting>

SUMMARY TABLE OF REFERENCES TO HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE INDCS AND NDCS

| Country | Reference to Human Mobility in Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) as of 4 August 2016 |
|--------------------------|--|
| Bahamas, The | Human Settlement / Relocation of communities from the shoreline. This has already proven effective. New coastal defences have been built and existing ones strengthened. Building codes have been made more robust to mitigate against increase wind loadings; and adapted to a loss of freshwater by employing reverse osmosis facilities throughout our islands to provide access to potable water. |
| Myanmar | Observed changes iii) in the last decades include rain patterns variations that are causing climate-driven migration that affect, for instance, the socio-economic conditions of dry regions due to increased occurrences of drought. |
| Central African Republic | Adaptation option 3: Sustainable management of the agricultural, forestry and animal husbandry systems Objective 13. Sustainably manage transhumance corridors and conflicts between agriculturalists and pastoralists. |
| Chad | Current and planned initiatives to support adaptation: Improvement of intercommunity grassland areas, in order to reduce migratory movements due to climate change. |
| China | To proactively promote the development of hydro power, on the premise of ecological and environmental protection and inhabitant resettlement. |
| Colombia | Building peace in Colombia presents economic, social and environmental challenges for the country. Some of these challenges can be addressed through actions that at the same time have a potential to contribute to mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In the past, peace processes elsewhere in the world have been associated to negative impacts on the environment, due to, among other things, migration patterns that increase pressure on natural resources in the most vulnerable areas, often resulting in increased deforestation. These potential impacts have been taken into account in postconflict scenarios in different regions. |
| Comoros | Réduction des risques et catastrophes: 100 % de la population située en zone vulnérable est déplacée ou bénéficie d'aménagements la protégeant des aléas climatiques et plus particulièrement des risques de submersion. |
| Egypt | Sea-level rise by 50 cm leads to serious impacts on low-level lands in Delta and adjacent highly populated cities such as Alexandria and Port Said. Consequently, this will result in a more significant challenge, which is the migration of people from the affected areas to other areas , thus affecting the efficiency of different services and increasing the financial cost required for their development. / Develop systems, programs and policies to protect rural community and support its adaptive capacity to the expected trend in land use change, plant and animal production, and internal migration due to climate change. |
| Fiji | The planting of mangroves, construction of seawalls and the relocation of communities to higher grounds are part of ongoing adaptation initiatives. / Capacity-building provided to communities for which vulnerability assessments have indicated that relocation is the long term adaptation strategy to minimize risks due to anticipated impacts of climate change. [Ratified: 22 April 2016] |
| Guinea | Finally, the Guinean diaspora could make a more active contribution to the country's low-carbon, climate change resilient development, namely by redirecting its financial flows (around USD 150 million per year) towards the formal sector. |
| Haiti | Réduction des risques de désastres dans les zones les plus vulnérables aux inondations, et intégration de migrations (internes et internationales) et réimplantation planifiée de communautés comme stratégie d'adaptation. Etudes coûts-bénéfices de la relocalisation et réimplantation planifiée de communautés. Production, communication et diffusion des connaissances liées aux changements climatiques, y inclus les migrations (écoles primaires, secondaires et Universités).Elaboration et mise en oeuvre de Plans d'urbanisme et de Développement Durable des villes à risques d'inondation, en incluant les mouvements et déplacements internes de la population et la réduction de risques de désastres dans les zones les plus vulnérables. |

| | |
|---|---|
| India | India has been able to establish a holistic disaster risk reduction and response apparatus at national, state and district levels with the aim of reducing existing levels of vulnerability, prevention, and mitigation of disasters and also to provide appropriate response, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Strategies include early warnings and communications, construction and sustainable maintenance of multipurpose cyclone shelter, improved access and evacuation , enhanced capacity and capability of local communities to respond to disaster and strengthening disaster risk mitigation capacity at central, state and local levels. |
| Kiribati | Approximately 47 per cent of the population lives in South Tarawa, and this is a magnet for internal migration from the outer islands. disparities between the different islands of Kiribati (resulting in internal migration , displacement, and urbanisation). Increase in conflict and stress due to loss of property and land, and forced migration. Population and resettlement – aim to reduce the vulnerability of Kiribati to increasing physical risks caused by climate change by establishing host country agreements to government-sponsored and self-sponsored emigration to resettle I-Kiribati overseas and assist the inevitable migration of the population, due to climate change as and when this eventually arrives. |
| Maldives | Malé Commercial Port that handles more than 90 per cent of the imported cargo. To increase the capacity and reduce the impacts of high winds and seas to the operation of the port, the commercial port would be relocated to a different island called Thilafushi. [Ratified: 22 April 2016] |
| Mauritius | Adaptation: The Republic of Mauritius is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and climate variability which are seriously impacting on the sustainable development of the country and has, therefore, developed comprehensive action plans to adapt to these. However, the costs of such adaptation measures are so exorbitant that Mauritius can only achieve its targets if financial support in terms of grant and technical support from partners is made available to enable it to implement the plans to protect life and property and mitigate any propensity of migration of its population . [Ratified: 22 April 2016] |
| Mexico | Adaptation for the social sector: Relocate irregular human settlements in zones prone to disasters through land use regulations. |
| Nigeria | Sectoral Strategies F. STRATEGIES FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND HOUSING : Strengthen rural settlements in order to reduce migration. J. STRATEGIES FOR DISASTER, MIGRATION AND SECURITY 1. Strengthen capacity to anticipate disasters and impacts on internal migration and security 4. Strengthen rural infrastructure and the availability of jobs to discourage out migration . |
| Papua New Guinea | The Government of Papua New Guinea through the Office of Climate Change and Development has put its emphasis on identifying the specific nine hazards prevalent in Papua New Guinea: 1. Coastal Flooding and Sea-Level Rise; 2. Inland Flooding; 3. Food Insecurity caused by crop failures due to droughts and inland frosts; 4. Cities and Climate Change; 5. Climate-Induced Migration ; 6. Damage to Coral Reefs; 7. Malaria and Vector Borne Diseases; 8. Water and Sanitation; 9. Landslides. |
| Rwanda | Rwanda will implement the following community-based DRR activities: improved farming techniques that mitigate flood and landslide impacts; first aid training; and environmental and public health awareness for disease prevention, particularly following flood and storm episodes. In order to reduce locally specific hazards, relocation from high risk zones is considered as one of the strategic actions. In addition to households previously relocated from high risk zones, Rwanda will relocate additional 30,000 households by 2030. |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Expected increases in the frequency or magnitude of certain weather and climate extremes (e.g. heat waves, droughts, floods, tropical cyclones) as a result of climate change will affect the tourism industry through increased infrastructure damage, additional emergency preparedness requirements, higher operating expenses (e.g. insurance, backup water and power systems and evacuations) and business interruptions. [Ratified: 29 June 2016] |
| Sao Tome and Principe | Reduce the number of people living in vulnerable areas at risk, by providing housing in safer areas . |

| | |
|---|---|
| Senegal | Protection des zones vulnérables et /ou déplacement des populations vulnérables. |
| Solomon Islands | The plan to relocate the provincial headquarters and town from Taro Island to the mainland area of Choiseul Bay is also a good adaptation strategy that needs to be complemented with an Integrated Water Resource Management strategy and programme. |
| Somalia | With existing pastoralist and farming systems and methods already under threat from poor land management, it was universally felt that existing climatic variability combined with longer term impacts of climate change would inevitably undermine the entire sector and result in increased rural to urban migration , increased conflict over natural resources and the continued loss of lives and livelihoods. Specific issues raised during consultations include the potential for increases in injury and death as a result of drought, increase in incidence of conflict over diminishing natural resources such as water and grazing land, significant migration and displacement of people, and loss of primary assets such as livestock. [Ratified: 22 April 2016] |
| Sri Lanka | Minimize the impact of sea-level rise on coastal settlements and infrastructure. By 5.2. Shifting urban densification inward. |
| South Sudan | Adapting Vulnerable Communities to Climate Change 26. Actions to reduce vulnerability of the population to climate induced hazards are the following: ix. Create buffer zones and relocate vulnerable communities away from flood-prone areas. / Climate change threatens the existence of these livestock as well as the livelihoods of pastoralist communities due to the loss of pasture lands and reduced access to water resources. |
| Sudan | Establishment and rehabilitation of hand pumps and construction of water-networks in rural areas for provisions of drinking-water and achieving water security in order to discourage communities' migration from vulnerable areas /absence of unified legislation, absence of high-resolution land use maps, inadequate consideration of the socioeconomic factors, and weak implementation of the existing legislation and policies by the sectors. This land use context has led to serious environmental problems such as overgrazing, over cultivation and reduced land productivity which in turn have led to rural poverty, and rural-urban migration patterns that cannot be sustained in the long-term. |
| Suriname | Moreover, recognizing the vulnerability of the coast and ever increasing impacts on a significant percentage of the population, Suriname's dilemma is whether to continue to invest heavily in adaptation or relocate and rebuild its entire economy away from the threat of the rising sea. |
| Togo | Impacts des changements climatiques : établissements humains (bâtiments et villes) et santé : l'augmentation des dépenses au niveau de l'Etat, des collectivités et des ménages en vue de construire de nouveaux habitats, des infrastructures socioéconomiques et de reloger les sinistrés, l' exode rural massif , le développement de maladies comme le paludisme, les diarrhées, les affections cardiovasculaires et respiratoires et autres nécessiteront des dépenses supplémentaires, entraîneront des famines et augmenteront l'insécurité alimentaire. |
| Tunisia | Population stabilization and prevention of rural depopulation. |
| Tuvalu | While longer term impacts such as sea-level rise could result in the unavoidable out-migration of some of her people, they have a right to pursue any and all means to ensure their nation survives and the legacy remains, with future generations living productive lives on these islands. [Ratified: 22 April 2016] |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (the) | Gran Misión Vivienda Venezuela: La Misión Vivienda surge en 2010 como respuesta a la emergencia generada por lluvias torrenciales que afectaron a cientos de miles de habitantes de las zonas más pobres del país. A través de esta Gran Misión se han construido y entregado más de 800.000 viviendas hasta Noviembre de 2015 y se plantea la construcción de tres millones de viviendas como meta acumulada para 2019. Esta misión significa una respuesta a pérdidas y daños por lluvias extremas para cerca de 150.000 mil personas afectadas y una reducción de vulnerabilidad frente a los efectos de Cambio Climático para más de 12 millones de personas. |
| Viet Nam | Develop infrastructure and make plans for residential areas; relocate and resettle households and communities from areas affected frequently by, storm surges, floods, riverbank and shoreline erosion, or areas at risk of flash floods and landslides; (p. 10) Responding to sea-level rise and urban inundation: Use sea-level rise scenarios in urban and land use planning for infrastructure, industrial parks, coastal and island resettlement areas. |

For more information on IOM's activities in the area of migration, environment and climate change, please visit the Environmental Migration Portal www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/ or contact:

Dina Ionesco

Head of Division – Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division (IOM Geneva)

E-mail: dionesco@iom.int

Tel. +41 22 717 9481

Eva Mach

Project Officer – Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division (IOM Geneva)

E-mail: emach@iom.int

Mariam Traore Chazalnoël

Associate Expert – Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division (IOM Geneva)

E-mail: mchazalnoel@iom.int



International Organization for Migration (IOM)