

## **Africa Event - French Pavilion - COP 26 in Glasgow**

Migration and Displacement in the era of the Climate Emergency: Political and Operational Challenges and Strategies at Global Level and in West Africa and the Sahel  
**November 10, 2021 10:00-11:00 am**

### **Overview**

In West Africa and the Sahel, displacement and migration linked to the increasing intensity of disasters or to slower environmental degradation such as coastal erosion, water scarcity, land degradation, crop failure or herd decline are having a growing and alarming impact on the lives of populations. With the intensification of the drought and rainy season, many households and communities are resorting to seasonal migration as a coping strategy. As the availability of natural resources decreases, transhumant herders have been forced to travel longer distances over the years. If urgent action is not taken, these disasters risk increasing regional instability by exacerbating inter-communal tensions, human rights abuses, poverty, and food insecurity, and leading to further displacement in the region.

These consequences, which affect the lives of the most vulnerable, pose a major challenge for International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and African Risk Capacity (ARC) in terms of disaster risk and population movement management. With the support of their governmental and non-governmental partners, UNHCR, IOM and ARC have developed and are implementing strategies, projects and activities to address these issues at global, regional and local levels.

This high-level event is part of the French presidency of the Platform on Disaster-Related Displacement (PDD), continuing the collaborative work between UNHCR, IOM and PDD to better protect and support people facing the impacts of climate change and disasters. This event aims to better understand the dynamics of climate change-related migration and displacement, as well as UNHCR and IOM's work at the global and regional level in West Africa and the Sahel in particular, to better prevent and respond to the risks that may arise, so as to sustainably protect displaced people in the context of climate change and disasters in the region. In addition, linking the work of UNHCR and IOM with the work that ARC is undertaking on the continent will provide a better understanding of how a disaster risk management mechanism can reduce the impact of climate change on migration and displacement in West Africa and the Sahel.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event also proposes to integrate into this joint work of the PDD, IOM and UNHCR a reflection on the convergence between migration and displacement issues related to disasters; while showing the responses that an organization such as ARC brings in reducing the impact of disasters related to climate change.

The objective of the event is to foster an interdisciplinary conversation between key representatives who act at the policy and operational level in West Africa and the Sahel on environmental migration and disaster-related displacement. This event will provide an opportunity for speakers to share their experiences, but also to relay the testimonies of people directly affected by climate change, including through art, videos and photographs. It

will give voice to affected communities, demonstrate the dynamism of international cooperation on these issues and share the activities already implemented to address these issues at the global and regional level.

## **Run of show**

### **1. Introduction**

- Introduction by the Moderator: **Representative of France** (TBC)
- Artistic Introduction: **Ms. Emi Mahmoud**, Sudanese-American slam poet and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador

### **2. Videos on migration and displacement in the era of climate crisis and testimonies of affected people** (Senegal, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Cameroon)

### **3. Panel**

- **Ms. Mami Mizutori**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNDRR) (TBC)
- **Mr. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong**, UN Under-Secretary General, Director General of the ARC (Africa Risk Capacity) Group
- **Ms. Ugochi Daniels**, Deputy Director General for Operations, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- **Mr. Andrew Harper**, Special Advisor on Climate Action, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- **Ms. Caroline Dumas**, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Special Envoy for Migration and Climate Action (TBC)
- **Mr. Yao Bernard KOFFI**, Head of the Environment and Climate Change Division, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission (TBC)
- **Representative of the Republic of Senegal. (TBC)**
- **Mr. Al-Hamdou Dorsouma**, Acting Director of the Climate Change and Green Growth Department of the African Development Bank (AfDB)
- **Mr. Guillaume Bouveyron**, Disaster Risk Reduction Expert, French Development Agency (AFD)

### **4. Q&A and Concluding Remarks by the Moderator: Representative of France (TBC)**