



# Migration in the Context of Disasters, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

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## BACKGROUND

Climate change is intensifying already significant challenges to human wellbeing, with growing implications for people on the move, amongst others. Increased stresses on oceans and land are directly impacting people while deepening exposure to risk in fundamental ways, eroding human rights and threatening efforts to achieve sustainable development. The consequences of climate change impact migrants and their communities in their pursuit of better prospects for children, decent work, access to food or basic services. They compel people to leave their country of origin and affect patterns of migration in ways which require more explicit recognition and a plan to address the impact of climate change on human mobility<sup>1</sup>.

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, the Warsaw International Mechanism of Loss and Damage Executive Committee's Task Force on Displacement (WIM ExCom Task Force on Displacement) provided recommendations<sup>2</sup> inviting Parties to avert, minimize and address displacement, including considering strengthening legislation and policies, data and knowledge, and measures to set-up and improve early warning systems and forecast-based finance taking into consideration their respective human rights obligations .

Building on these recommendations, the UN Network on Migration (Network) calls on the Parties of the UNFCCC to ensure greater synergies between the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to scale-up action on climate change and migration which places primary emphasis on the wellbeing and rights of all humans, without discrimination. The Network also encourages States to collaborate with actors engaged in other forms of human mobility identified under the Cancun Adaptation Framework –

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<sup>1</sup> Human mobility is understood as encompassing migration, displacement and planned relocation as reflected in GCM Objectives 2 (18 j) and 5 (21 h) and agreed under relevant UNFCCC processes such as the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage and the Task Force on Displacement recommendations.

<sup>2</sup> Recommendations on integrated approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change of the Task Force on Displacement under the UNFCCC Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts. See <https://undocs.org/FCCC/CP/2018/10/ADD.1>

namely displacement and planned relocation – to ensure a comprehensive response to the multiple protection-related challenges arising in the context of climate change and disasters.

This call is in line with the Task Force on Displacement recommendations to the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage for inclusion in its recommendations to COP26 Parties in Glasgow.

## COP DECISION

The Network invites the Parties to consider the following insertions:

### Preamble

*Acknowledging the accelerating impact of a changing climate on human mobility globally;*

*Emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen integrated, principled and inclusive, adaptation action and planning to avert, minimize and address the adverse effects of climate change, including sudden-onset and slow-onset disasters, environmental degradation and other precarious situations, to build resilience, to take adaptive actions, to enhance regular pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration, and to create responses to climate change, working collaboratively with state and non-state actors working on other forms of human mobility with a view to leaving no one behind.*

### Decision

The Network invites the Parties to also consider the following:

- Recalling the importance of addressing systematically human mobility linked to climate hazards, by enhancing the systematic assessment of the impact of climate change on population movements, ensuring the collection of relevant data disaggregated by age, sex and, migration status among other characteristics;
- Prioritizing adaptation and efforts to avert, minimize and address the adverse impacts of climate change to increase resilience by enhancing adequate action and measures, including sustainable and predictable finance aligned with global climate commitments and the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities;
- Integrating into planning processes effective recognition of the challenges and opportunities related to migration and planned relocation in the context of slow and sudden onset disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, including considerations on loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. This includes integrating displacement and migration in national and local planning processes of adaptation, disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and, humanitarian assistance, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- Enhancing the inclusive mobilization and meaningful, effective and informed participation of all relevant sectors of society and persons in decision-making processes related to climate change and

migration, including, public and private partners, civil society, migrants, displaced persons and, affected persons and communities in the risk assessment, planning and implementation of human rights-based, child-sensitive and gender-responsive measures;

- Facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration in accordance with target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goal by protecting, promoting and fulfilling the rights and needs of migrants, communities of origin, transit and destination, and by enhancing the availability of regular migration pathways via the implementation of the Network guidance issued to that effect in July 2021<sup>3</sup>;
- Promoting the accessibility by vulnerable countries to sustainable and predictable finance and building capacity for adaptation, including by expanding the support of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF) to respond to current and future mobility scenarios in the context of sudden-onset and slow-onset disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and, environmental degradation, and other precarious situations, and to support Member States to develop and implement their NAPs and NDCs.

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<sup>3</sup> [The UN Network on Migration Guidance Note on Regular Pathways for Admission and Stay for Migrants in Situations of Vulnerability](#) is intended to support Member States and other stakeholders to strengthen the design, implementation, monitoring and review of pathways for admission and stay for migrants in situations of vulnerability. It considers the situations of persons affected by sudden and slow-onset disasters.