



United Nations  
Network on Migration  
*Working Better Together*



## GCM Talk

# Migration and adaptation in the context of climate change: a pragmatic approach towards removing barriers and enhancing opportunities

**Thursday 7 September 2023, 15:00 – 16:30 hrs. BST – hybrid event**

**Venue: FCDO, King Charles Street and Online**

Registration link [here](#)

### 1. Background

Climate change presents an immediate and growing threat across the world and is already influencing migration flows. The intersection of climate change and migration is becoming an increasingly important global challenge, requiring international action and co-operation. Currently, the vast majority of people moving in the context of climate change are doing so within their own country. However, some of the most vulnerable people are already being left behind.

The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) recognises this challenge, identifying slow onset environmental degradation, disasters, and climate change impacts as drivers of migration. The GCM outlines potential responses to these drivers including; disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and disaster response, and facilitation of population movements. Different forms of migration (e.g., labour migration, planned evacuation, pastoralism, and planned relocation) could enhance adaptation if enabling conditions are available. In recognition of its growing salience, climate-related migration was discussed at length at the International Migration Review Forum in 2022 and will likely grow in prominence as a theme in future international dialogues.

The UK recognises climate change as a significant factor in driving migration. The international community will need to work together to ensure these movements are safe, orderly, and regular, and that they work to benefit both countries of origin and destination, as well as the migrants themselves. To help develop our understanding of the challenges and potential solutions arising from this issue the UK has funded research on the relationship between climate change and human mobility. We are using this, and the growing body of evidence from around the world, to support development of a comprehensive policy position on climate migration.

To add to this evidence base, this talk will focus on the potential adaptive capacity of migration in the context of climate change, widening the scope of current conversations around climate change and



United Nations  
Network on Migration  
*Working Better Together*



migration. Speakers will explore concrete ways in which different migration pathways (e.g. labour migration, planned evacuation, pastoralism, and planned relocation) can support adaptation and how migrants and diasporas can be part of the solution if included in adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring. The timing of this event is particularly relevant in the lead up to COP28, and to next year's GCM Regional Reviews, where climate change is likely to feature heavily as a key theme.

## 2. Objectives of the GCM Talk

- Increase knowledge and understanding of best practices around programming and policy in the context of migration, climate change and adaptation amongst UK Government and the wider GCM community
- Increase the level of awareness within the UK of the climate change and migration nexus, including the role of migration in the context of adaptation
- Inform UK's statement and contributions to COP28, GCM Regional Reviews and the White Paper on Development
- Create an opportunity for peer learning and networking

### Guiding Questions

- What is the state of knowledge on the benefits and challenges of human mobility in the context of climate change adaptation?
- What does successful programming look like on migration in the context of climate change adaptation?
- How do we enhance the potential benefits of migration as adaptation for communities of origin, destination and migrants themselves and reduce the risks?
- What policies need to be in place and which actors could be engaged to maximise the potential of migration to enhance adaptation?
- What good practices can be drawn from stakeholders engaged at a local, national and regional level?
- How can we achieve coherence across policy and funding streams related to climate change, migration and sustainable development?

## 3. Suggested Speakers (TBC):

- Moderator: Soumyadeep Banerjee, Regional Migration, Environment and Climate Change Specialist, IOM
- Opening: Jonathan Prentice, Head of Secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration.
- Closing: Gerard Howe (Deputy Director, Adaptation, Nature and Resilience Department, Energy, Climate and Environment Directorate; Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK Government), Greg Houston (Deputy Director, Migration and Demining Department, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK Government)
- Panel:
  - o Neil Adger – Professor of Human Geography at the University of Exeter
  - o Diaspora representative from IOM UK's D4C programme
  - o ILO Representative working on Labour Mobility for Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience in the Pacific programme
  - o Technical expert from European country on labour mobility partnerships



**United Nations  
Network on Migration**  
*Working Better Together*



- C40 Cities representative
- Mark Tilley (Researcher and Policy Adviser, member of the Welsh Refugee Council and Red Cross Youth Advisory Group on Climate)

Format: Roundtable discussion; one question addressed to each speaker + Q&A at the end