

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE GCM CHAMPION COUNTRIES

SECOND SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION (IDM) 2023

05-06 October 2023
InterContinental Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland

The Philippines is delivering this statement on behalf of the GCM 33 Champion Countries.

IOM Director-General Amy Pope,
Distinguished panelist,
Excellencies and colleagues,

The GCM Champion Countries congratulate Ms. Amy Pope on her assumption as IOM Director-General, and assure her of their support in steering forward the IOM's and the international community's shared vision of fully implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. We also express our gratitude to the able leadership of former Director-General António Vitorino.

We support this IDM session's theme of continuing to explore the nexus between human mobility and climate change. This is especially relevant as the international community acknowledged, in the GCM and during last year's International Migration Review Forum, that the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters are among the drivers of migration, which are influenced by economic, social, political and demographic contexts.

We reiterate the guidance outlined in the GCM, particularly in Objectives 2, 5, and 23, on addressing the interactions between human mobility and climate change.

We highlight the need for urgent actions to adapt to and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, as well as to adequately address loss and damage, which may compel people to leave their countries of origin. This includes, among others, investing in programs that accelerate the States' fulfilment of the SDG goals, strengthening joint analysis and information sharing, developing adaptation and resilience strategies, integrating displacement considerations, harmonizing and developing approaches and mechanisms at subregional and regional levels, and developing coherent approaches to address the challenges of migration movements in the context of sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters.

We urge the international community to cooperate in identifying, developing, and strengthening comprehensive solutions for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin due to slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation. In order to address irregular migration, we underscore the importance of increasing international and regional cooperation to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We believe that this is the decisive moment to shape our understanding and approach on the interface of climate, environment, and mobility.

In the IOM and in the broader multilateral space, we have the opportunity for constructive dialogue and cooperation. To effectively realize the vision of the GCM on climate change and mobility, we need to recognize how this nexus interlinks with other international conventions, and to focus with equal vigor in implementing the SDGs, the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

Next month, the international community will gather again during the 2023 Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC or COP28 in the UAE to pave the way for the future of our climate agenda, including for migrants, regardless of their migration status, and for people on the move. We emphasize the need to build on the breakthrough achieved in COP27, whereby for the first time the direct link between climate change and displacement was highlighted in the covering decision “Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan”, and continue to acknowledge that efforts to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change have been insufficient, including in climate finance, and in adequately addressing loss and damage. During the upcoming COP28, we call on the international community to have the political will to continue to address these gaps.

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This IDM session reminds us to “*Think about Tomorrow, Act Today*.” How we address climate change today could contribute to and shape the extent of movement and displacement, including force displacement of people in the future. We recognize that climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters do not affect everyone equally and can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities.

The GCM Champion Countries, in their regional diversity, under the leadership of co-chairs El Salvador and Morocco are committed to continuing their leading role and lending their voices in ensuring that, in the face of climate change, we will do our utmost to preserve and protect the rights, welfare, and security of migrants and people on the move. We call on other member states to join us in this shared commitment.

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