

**UNECE Regional Review  
Intervention by the PDD Secretariat**

**Intergovernmental Conference: Session 1 (Objectives 2, 5, 6, 12, and 18)**

Monday, 11 March 2024

---

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to join you today for the second Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. I am speaking on behalf of the Secretariat of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), a state-led initiative currently chaired by the Government of Kenya, with the Government of Costa Rica serving as Vice-Chair.

The PDD's objective for the 2024-2030 Strategy is to support States and other stakeholders to strengthen the protection of persons displaced in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change; as well as to prevent or reduce disaster displacement risks in countries of origin. The work of the PDD is directly relevant for the Regional Review of the GCM and today's discussions, since the PDD and the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda are mentioned in Objective 2, and since a strategic priority of its work is to enhance availability of pathways for regular migration in disaster and climate change contexts, as per GCM Objective 5 on regular pathways.

The inclusion of commitments to address human mobility in climate change and disaster contexts in the GCM was as innovative as it was necessary in view of the growing climate crisis. These commitments have paved the way for advancing policy development and programming in this area: since its establishment, the GCM and its related funding mechanism, the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, have funded several projects specifically related to human mobility and climate change. Additionally, the UN Network on Migration has dedicated a workstream to climate change and migration. It is clear that progress has been made in various ways over the years. But how do we accurately measure and build on this progress?

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

One lesson from the 2020 Regional Reviews is that a systematic evaluation of GCM implementation requires, in particular, two things: establishing a *baseline* on policy development and identifying *gaps*.

First, let us consider the issue of developing a *baseline*. As part of the UN Network on Migration's workstream on climate change and migration, and with funding from Germany, PDD and partners conducted a baseline analysis of availability of policy instruments to address human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change under the GCM.

Let me highlight a few findings from the analysis regarding the UNECE region: the region represents only 9% of all relevant national instruments identified in the analysis. That said, nearly 40 countries include provisions in their immigration and asylum legislation for temporary admission and stay on humanitarian grounds or humanitarian visas. Strategies to tackle human mobility in disaster and climate change contexts are mostly looked at through civil protection policies, border management, legislation on foreigners' status, or by considering the implications of increased migration from other regions.

This is the policy landscape from which to build on. For a more detailed overview of existing policies and laws that form the baseline of our current understanding in the UNECE region, I encourage you to visit – and contribute further examples to – the CLIMB Database on the UN Network on Migration website.

Secondly, let us look at the issue of identifying *gaps*. The baseline mapping found that in recent years many countries, including those in the UNECE region, have increased their legal and policy efforts to address environmental drivers. This progress made in implementing Objective 2 is encouraging. At the same time, much less progress has been made regarding Objective 5. This indicates that policy development has been primarily focused on addressing drivers and reducing risks, rather than enhancing availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration in climate change and disaster contexts.

The promising news is, some practices relevant to Objective 5 do exist in the UNECE region, and I will just mention four cases:

1. **Albania's Law on Aliens** includes a provision on visa issuance at the border in exceptional cases, including disasters.
2. **Iceland's Foreign Nationals Act** implements discretionary measures for admission and stay, addressing the needs of individuals from disaster-affected regions.
3. **Croatia, Montenegro and North Macedonia** have provisions in their legislation on foreigner's status facilitating temporary entry or stay on humanitarian grounds for people affected by disasters.
4. **United States** provides temporary protection status to eligible nationals of certain countries, who are already in the United States, due to an environmental disaster.

We encourage other Member States to learn from and draw on such examples, which show that policy instruments for enhancing availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration in climate change and disaster contexts do exist, and that gaps can be addressed by scaling up and widening their implementation.

Finally, welcoming the development of a limited set of indicators under the GCM, we look forward to these guiding our efforts to systematically enhance implementation of Objectives 2 and 5. This approach not only responds to current needs but also prepares us for future challenges, reinforcing our commitment to a comprehensive and effective implementation of the GCM.

End/.