

Facilitating Safe and Regular Migration Pathways in a Changing Climate: Lessons from GCM Implementation - IMRF Side Event

Date and time: 18 May 2022, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM (New York)

Notetakers: Timo Schmidt, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)

Notes of the session	Member State/UN/Stakeholder
<p>To reflect the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key points raised with focus on innovative approaches, successes and hindrances, and reasons of success or failure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of expanding regular migration pathways (Obj. 5) and in investing the follow-up and review of GCM commitments related to human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation • Identifying innovative approaches for GCM implementation and developing a methodology for analyzing GCM progress through the GCM baseline mapping project 2. Pledges / Requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See last section of the summary note (below) 3. Issue/s to flag for the Network to follow-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult on further implementation of the 2021-22 workplan under Thematic Priority 4 	<p>Identify the MS/group of MS/UN entity/Stakeholder</p> <p>Germany Fiji European Union Argentina Dhaka North (Bangladesh) PDD IOM IFRC C40-MMC Task Force Refugees International</p>
<p>Summary</p>	



Introduction

This multi-stakeholder side event was held in hybrid format at the UN Headquarters in New York with livestreaming available via UN Web TV and a remote Q&A session available via the sli.do application. The side event was attended by 60+ participants in person, with many more following the UN Web TV stream. A diverse range of eight high-level speakers debated the relevant commitments and principles set out in the GCM and shared existing national, regional and local migration policy perspectives, instruments and practices to address human mobility challenges in a changing climate, recognizing that safe, regular and orderly migration, if well managed, can also offer opportunities for migrants' inclusion, their host communities and societies. The side event is particularly relevant to Roundtable 1 of the IMRF covering Objectives 2 (environmental drivers) and Objective 5 (regular pathways).

Panel discussion

The panel was moderated by Kayly Ober (Refugees International) and started with an intervention by Mr. Tobias Lindner (Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany), who reaffirmed Germany's commitment to implement the GCM in line with its cross-cutting principles and noted the importance of assessing progress in GCM implementation, highlighting Germany's support to the GCM baseline mapping project. Prof. Walter Kaelin (Envoy of the Chair of the PDD) presented key findings from the [GCM baseline mapping report](#) implemented under Thematic Priority 4 of the UN Network on Migration, which is accompanied by [infographics with ten key insights](#) from the report. LtCol Neumi Vakadewabuka (Counselor, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations) spoke about the development of a regional human mobility framework in the Pacific. Ms. Helena König (Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Affairs, European External Action Service) focused on climate change as a risk multiplier for adverse drivers of migration and vulnerability linked to precarious migration conditions, zooming in on the EU's action and role to address this issue including through the upcoming chairpersonship of the PDD. Ms. Florencia Carignano (National Immigration Director, Argentina) discussed relevant regional consultative processes and launched a new [Environmental Humanitarian Visa Program](#) relevant to Objective 5. Mr. Mohamad Atiqul Islam (Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh) talked about the scale and urgency of climate-migration challenges in Dhaka North from a local governance perspective. Ms. Rania Ahmed (Deputy Regional Director, IFRC's MENA Regional Office) spoke about assisting people on the move and ensuring migrant voices are heard in policy decision-making processes. Finally, Ms. Caroline Dumas (Director General Special Envoy for Migration and Climate Action, IOM) provided closing remarks and linked the conversation to upcoming policy processes, including COP27.

Recurring issues, commitments & interventions from the floor

A number of recurring issues were discussed, including the importance of expanding the availability and flexibility pathways for regular migration in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, and analyzing GCM progress relevant to this area (particularly Objectives 2, 5, 21, and 23). Among others, Argentina came forward with a new promising practice by introducing a regular migration pathway in a changing climate (see link above); Fiji highlighted its commitment to support the development of a regional human mobility framework in the Pacific; Germany reaffirmed its commitment to support implementing as well as reviewing GCM progress with a strong focus on human rights-based and gender sensitive approaches; the EU highlighted its commitment to prioritize the topic including through its upcoming PDD chairpersonship; and the Mayor of Dhaka North presented on the [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#) which saw 70 local actions being delivered to the President of the UN General Assembly at the IMRF. A number of interventions from the floor were made, including from those participating virtually, which broadly included questions on the role of migration as a form of adaptation, regional differences in policy development, and migrants' role in green transition projects.