

## Approaches for gender-responsive GCM implementation in the context of migration and climate change

**Side-Event at the International Migration Review Forum  
17<sup>th</sup> May, 08:00-09:00 (EDT), virtual**

### *Background*

In 2022, nearly four years after the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), governments, stakeholders and the United Nations system will meet to discuss the successes and challenges of implementing this landmark cooperative framework. The first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) is being held under the auspices of the General Assembly, chaired by the President of the General Assembly, at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York from 17-20 May 2022, with a preparatory stakeholder hearing taking place on 16 May.

A series of IMRF side-events will be organized in the margins of the IMRF. They will provide an opportunity to discuss good practices, challenges and recommendations to further the implementation of the GCM. Side-events will take place on 16-20 May 2022.

### *Description of the Side-event*

Climate change, environmental crises and disasters disproportionately affect women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable and marginalized situations. In turn, gender inequalities and women's unequal access to land and natural resources, finance, technology, knowledge, mobility, and other assets constrain the ability of women to respond and cope in contexts of climate and environmental crises and disasters.

In this event a diverse panel will discuss and emphasize the over-looked interrelation between human mobility in the context of climate change (HMCCC) and gender. It will bring together leading thinkers and stakeholders from different fields who will highlight existing gaps and present case studies, and good practices that illustrate the impacts of the gender dimensions of HMCCC and propose innovative gender-responsive approaches to address them. The objective is to promote concrete action for a gender-responsive implementation of the GCM.

Climate change and environmental crises cause loss of livelihoods and depletion of natural resources fueling migration and displacement. By 2050, up to 216 million people could move within their countries as a result of climate change. While sex-disaggregated data is limited or unavailable, evidence suggests that the adverse effects of climate change affect women and girls in developing countries most, especially across Africa. They face a heightened risk of gender-based violence and child marriage, negative impacts on maternal and neonatal health and a greater burden of unpaid care and domestic work.

Human mobility can influence gender dynamics by both, entrenching traditional gender roles and perpetuating existing inequalities as well as by challenging and changing them. If HMCCC is well managed, it can generate opportunities for women in receiving and sending communities, such as changes in leadership roles, including in the context of adaptation and mitigation strategies to address the climate crisis.

The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) includes gender-responsiveness as one of ten guiding principles and under Objective 2, climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters were identified as adverse drivers that compel people to leave their country of origin. In addition, the Paris

Agreement underscores the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the Commission on the Status of Women, at its sixty-sixth session, considered “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes” a priority theme.

However, regional and national legal and policy frameworks on HMCCC do not yet provide a cohesive basis for gender-responsive migration governance that fulfils the rights and needs of women and girls, nor do they ensure women’s participation in decision-making. Major challenges include (1) lack of disaggregated data and research, (2) policy gaps, (3) limited stakeholder coordination, (4) lack of capacity and (5) a lack of gender responsive practical approaches. This event is a call for action to close existing gaps and ensure HMCCC is addressed in a gender-responsive manner.

### Format

The event will take virtually via MS Teams. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

### Suggested agenda

17 <sup>th</sup> May Time: 08:00-09:00 (New York); 14:00-15:00 (Geneva) virtual	
5 minutes	<p><b>Welcome by the moderator</b></p> <p><b>Carolina Gottardo</b>, Executive Director, International Detention Coalition (<b>IDC</b>) and Member of the Women in Migration Network (<b>WIMN</b>)</p>
5 minutes	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Niels Annen</b>, <i>Parliamentary State Secretary</i>, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (<b>BMZ</b>): Climate change and migration in the light of a Feminist Development Policy</p>
15 minutes	<p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fathia Alwan</b>, <i>Director of Health and Social Development (IGAD)</i> (tbc): Integrating gender into policies and action planning in the context of climate change-related migration and displacement</li> <li>• <b>Jemimah Njuki</b>, <i>Chief of Economic Empowerment (UN Women)</i>: Mainstreaming gender equality considerations into policy making, service provision and programming on migration and climate change</li> <li>• <b>George Mwachiro</b>, <i>Principal Immigration Officer of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) Secretariat (Kenya)</i> (tbc): Gender-responsive approaches for addressing human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change at the national level</li> </ul>
30 minutes	<b>Discussion / Q&amp;A</b>
5 minutes	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Ugochi Daniels</b>, Deputy Director General (<b>IOM</b>) (tbc)</p>