

Concept Note for the International Migration Review Forum (17-20 May 2022) Side Event Co-sponsored by Caritas Internationalis, Mercy International Association, ACT Alliance, and the NGO Committee on Migration

TITLE:

The Cross Cutting Call to Protect People and Planet: *Experiences and Timely Recommendations for Accelerating the Implementation of GCM Objectives 2 and 5 to Address the Impacts of Climate Change on Human Mobility*

Date: Tuesday 17 May 2022

Time: 13:15-14:45H EST

Location (for in person participants): 777 UN Plaza, 8th Fl.; (for online participants): Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlsc--vrj4qGtd9b-f99Y2A8i4o64im94A1>)

Details:

Caritas Internationalis (CI) and its partners will host a 75 minute long hybrid side event during the UN's International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) both in person at the United Nations Church Center and broadcast live to Zoom, allowing for virtual participation so that all participants of the IMRF can engage in our side event. Speakers will also be present in the room as well as via video stream. There will be simultaneous translation between English, Spanish, and French.

Concept:

Paragraph 13 of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) explicitly states that "migration should never be an act of desperation," yet we know that due to climate-induced vulnerabilities, including those related of food insecurity, lack of livelihood options, and human rights crises, many people are forced to migrate within States and across-borders.

The increasing impacts of climate change on people's livelihoods, food security challenges and risks to human rights have been acting as adverse drivers of migration, with varying and complex impacts on human mobility. This is of serious concern for affected populations as well as for States, international agencies and NGOs, especially as climate change is projected to significantly increase threats to food security due to its impacts on food production, ocean acidification and fishery yields, infrastructure, and a higher number of both slow- and sudden-onset disasters. In combination, these developments will lead to an increased demand for varied and flexible mobility options for affected people in the *short term* (for example, to address humanitarian crises), the *medium term* (for example, to access labour migration and family reunification), and the *long term* (including in some cases, planned relocation).

In **GCM Objective 2**, States committed to "*minimiz[ing] the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin*" and focus on specific actions to address "*natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change,*

and environmental degradation,” so that people can “lead peaceful, productive and sustainable lives in their own country and [to] fulfill their personal aspirations.”

At the same time, in **GCM Objective 5**, recognizing that migration can at times be a necessary *“respon[se] to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability,”* States also committed to *“enhance[ing] [the] availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.”*

Recalling states commitments to the GCM, CI and its partners will provide stories of success in addressing the root causes and multiple drivers of migration (in relation to GCM Objective 2), and will call for the expansion of safe, regular migration pathways (in relation to GCM Objective 5).

GCM Objectives 2 and 5, respectively, have both been broadly supported by member states in negotiations of the text of the draft of the progress declaration. CI and its partners believe that the symbolic commitment to addressing adverse drivers of migration (obj. 2) must be supported by concrete actions, many of which CI and its partners stand ready to recommend at the side event. When adversities cannot be overcome and people are seeking protection and livelihood options outside of their own country, CI and its partners call for broadly available and easily accessible regular pathways that are safe and flexible to safeguard migrants’ rights and address their needs (obj. 5). CI will advocate for these pathways within the context of the side event.

Expected Outcomes:

This side event aims to contribute to the debate around adverse drivers of migration by analysing the relationship between climate change, food insecurity and forced migration, and by bringing grassroots experiences and best practices of Caritas and other NGOs in addressing these adverse drivers and encouraging regular migration pathways as a means of guaranteed protection for forced migrants.

CI’s side event will:

- Bring evidence-based arguments that showcase the need for States to strengthen their commitments to the GCM, especially objective 2 in order to prevent forced migration and objective 5 to provide more regular migration pathways, respectively;
- Showcase grassroots experiences and best practices and offer them as key methods for implementing vital locally-led climate adaptation strategies and community resilience projects; therefore providing recommendations to States and the international community on mitigation efforts to address climate-related human mobility challenges.
- Echo and strengthen the voices of stakeholders in holding states accountable to the GCM by urging States to reduce the environmental and climate vulnerabilities which can compel people to leave their homes (GCM, obj. 2), and by developing broad, regular legal channels for migration (GCM, obj. 5) to protect those affected by the realities of climate change and food insecurity.

Content:

- Introduction and Key Note Address: Mr. Aloysius John, Secretary General, Caritas Internationalis
- Panel Discussion
 - MODERATOR: Mr. Paul Skoczylas; Deputy Director, UN System and Multilateral Engagement, World Food Programme (WFP)
 - Caritas MOs:
 - Climate resilience and capacity building: Caritas Zimbabwe; Mr. Marius Zibgwi, National Coordinator, Caritas Zimbabwe
 - Creating regular, safe migration pathways: Mr. Elvy Monsanto, Executive Secretary, Red Clamor
 - Climate commitment synergies: UNEP; Mr. Matti Lehtonen, UNEP Coordination Officer, UNEP-DPPA-UNDP-DPO Climate Security Mechanism
 - Regular Pathways: Mr. Christian Wolf, ACT Alliance
- Recommendations: Ms. Maria Amparo Alonso Escobar, Head of Advocacy and Campaigns, Caritas Internationalis
- **Closing Remarks: Ambassador of PM Mission to the UN; TBC**

Agenda:

13:15-13:30: Refreshments provided in room; Zoom online setup

13:30-35: Welcome and short explanation of hybrid technology (OWL, connection of persons to simultaneous translation, etc.); Introduction of Moderator and the keynote speaker; *Ms. Brianna Fitzpatrick, Liaison to the UN, Caritas Internationalis (5 Minutes)*

13:36-41: Key Note Speaker; *Mr. Aloysius John, SG CI (5 Minutes)*

13:42-46: Reflections; *Moderator*; Introduction of Panelists; *Moderator*; Beginning of Panel with Q1 *(4 Minutes)*

13:47-52: Q1, on climate resilience and capacity building related to climate adaptation; *Speaker 1, Mr. Marius Zibgwi, Caritas Zimbabwe (5 Minutes)*

13:53-55: Reflections; *Moderator*; Q2; *Moderator (2 Minutes)*

13:56-14: 01: Q2, on need for safe migration pathways as a need in response to climate-induced migration; *Speaker 2, Mr. Elvy Monsanto (5 Minutes)*

14:02-04: Reflections; *Moderator*; Q3; *Moderator (2 Minutes)*

14:05-10: Q3, how to ensure greater synergies between the GCM, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to scale-up action on climate change and migration; *Speaker 3; UNEP, Mr. Matti Lehtonen (5 Minutes)*

14:11-13: Reflections; *Moderator*; Q4; *Moderator (2 Minutes)*

14:14-19: Q4, on existing models for pathways and people's experience in accessing them; *Speaker 4, Mr. Christian Wolff, ACT Alliance (5 Minutes)*

14:20-22: Reflections; *Moderator*; Follow Up Qs; *Moderator (2 Minutes)*

14:23-25: Follow Up Q1; *Speaker X (2 Minutes)*

14:26-27: Flow to Follow Up Q2; *Moderator (1 Minute)*

14:28-30: Follow Up Q2; *Speaker X (2 Minutes)*

14:31-33: Final Reflections, Closing of Panel; *Moderator (2 Minutes)*

14:33-38: Reflections, capturing of themes, drawing conclusions; Importance of IMRF as milestone in recommitment to addressing adverse drivers of migration

and creating regular pathways; Introduction to Closing Remarks; *Maria Amparo Alonso Escobar, Head of Advocacy, CI (5 Minutes)*

14:39-45: Closing Remarks; *Ambassador of PM of X to the UN on the GCM, IMRF, and Event (6 Minutes)*

14:45: Wrap up and thank you. *Moderator*