

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

Tuesday 17 May 13:15-14:45H EST

Details and Summary

Event Details:

Under discussion at Caritas Internationalis' hybrid side event at the IMRF, cosponsored by ACT Alliance, Mercy International Association, and the NGO Committee on Migration, were **GCM objectives 2 and 5**. The hybrid event had 55 online attendees and 20 in person attendees, for a **total audience of 75** member states, UN agencies, civil society representatives, and major stakeholders.

The agenda of the side event was introduced at the start of the program by Ms. Brianna Fitzpatrick, Liaison to the United Nations for Caritas Internationalis, which ran as follows: a key note address by Mr. Aloysius John, Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Paul Skoczylas, Deputy Director, UN System and Multilateral Engagement, World Food Programme (WFP) with participation from Mr. Marius Zibgwi, National Director of Caritas Zimbabwe, Mr. Elvy Monsanto, Executive Director of Red Clamor, Mr. Matti Lehtonen, UNEP Coordination Officer, UNEP-DPPA-UNDP-DPO Climate Security Mechanism, and Mr. Christian Wolf of ACT Alliance. Finally, the event concluded with key messaging and calls to action from Ms. Maria Amparo Alonso Escobar, Head of Advocacy and Campaigns for Caritas Internationalis.

Event Summary:

The keynote address given by Mr. John highlighted that the issue of climate change induced migration, especially as concerns food security issues, is a growing phenomenon. The Global Compact on Migration, the first international agreement which acknowledges climate change as an adverse driver of migration (**GCM objective 2**), calls on member states and the international community at large to address climate change and to create regular, safe, legal pathways (**GCM objective 5**) for migration when climate change, especially a crisis in food security, makes it impossible for peoples to remain in place and forces said peoples to migrate. As noted by Mr. John, these pathways must be made more flexible and accessible to migrants.

Mr. Scokzylas then introduced each panelist and began the panel discussion with a question on climate resilience and capacity building posed to Mr. Zibgwi, whose response began with Zimbabwe's recent history of climate issues including severe droughts and devastating cyclones. Mr. Zibgwi continued his statement by relaying the details of Caritas Zimbabwe's efforts at the local level to implement climate adaptation strategies and community training. The audience then heard from Mr. Monsanto whose comments elaborated on Central America's severe droughts that have caused the global community to generally refer to a part of Central America as the "Dry Corridor." A loss of jobs can be linked to the droughts because of the loss of agriculture and ultimately leads to crises of food security. These issues are significant factors in forcing migration, and the need for regular pathways that are safe for all people, especially vulnerable populations, is clear. Thirdly, the panel moved to Mr. Lehtonen, who spoke of action being taken at the global level, specifically by UN agencies and member states via various compacts on mechanisms, and how these can be linked together to better activate a scaling up of climate resilience at the local levels. Finally, Mr. Wolff, acknowledging that climate migration is already happening, spoke on the need for actions to be taken on GCM objective 5 via a human rights based approach, which would enhance the availability and accessibility of regular migration pathways, especially for peoples in situations of forced migration due to climate change.

The event's concluded with the remarks of Ms. Alonso, who summarized the event by underlining the message that migration should be a free choice, not an act of survival or necessity. Resilience to climate change must be addressed through preparedness, and capacity building of local communities and a further support to Agro ecology and indigenous knowledge. The UN' response must be coordinated at all levels, ensuring coherence between GCM and GCR. When people choose to migrate, due to slow and sudden onset climate issues, all opportunities must be taken by the global community to reduce the vulnerabilities faced by environmental migrants, and for member states to strengthen and implement further safe and regular migration pathways in an accessible, coherent, and respectful of fundamental rights, accompanied by concrete mechanisms at the national level.