

Moving Forward to Tackle Migration and Displacement in a Changing Climate

Side-Event at the International Migration Review Forum Friday, 20 May 2022 | 1:30-2:30pm ET | Virtual

Co-hosted by: Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and British Red Cross

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-event will be organized in the margins of 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 from 16-20 May 2022.

Description of the Side-event

As climate- and weather-related disasters increase in frequency and intensity, peoples' lives are negatively impacted by the destruction, trauma, and resource scarcity, and affecting peoples' physical and mental health. The [IFRC's World Disasters Report 2020](#) states that 83% of all disasters are caused by climate- and weather-related events, rising by almost 35% over the last three decades and impacting over 1.7 billion people around the world.

The latest [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Changes \(IPCC\) assessment](#) states that climate change is contributing to humanitarian crises, where climate and weather extremes are increasingly driving displacement in all regions, while the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) recognizes that displacement is one of the most immediate impacts of disasters. Presently, the majority of people forced to move due to climate impacts and disasters are displaced within their own country. According to the IFRC's report '[Displacement in a Changing Climate](#)', approximately 30.7 million people were internally displaced by disasters in 2020, over three times more than by conflict and violence. However, the people moving across borders face critical legal barriers and still need assistance.

As we continue to learn more about climate migration and displacement, it is crucial to prioritize communities that are most exposed and vulnerable to its impacts, as climate- and weather-related disasters exacerbate existing challenges and underlying vulnerabilities and force communities to face compounding crises. In some contexts, the adverse impacts of climate- and weather-related disasters that contribute to migration and displacement can be



avoided and mitigated through effective disaster risk reduction measures, investing in adaptation and resilience measures, and scaling up early warning systems. Additionally, it is important to address the protection and assistance needs of migrants and displaced persons when it comes to ensuring the human rights of all, irrespective of their status, including safety, dignity, and access to health and other essential services.

In line with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration's (GCM) Objectives 2, 15, and 16 and connected to the findings and recommendations from the [United Nations Secretary-General's report](#) on the GCM, the IFRC's report '[Displacement in a Changing Climate](#)', and in view of the 27th Conference of the Parties in Egypt, this side-event looks to engage United Nations Member States, United Nations agencies, and humanitarians in a forward-looking conversation that presents concrete recommendations on 1). how to accelerate efforts to reduce the risks posed by climate- and weather-related events and environmental degradation, on people exposed, displaced, and at risk of displacement, and 2). how to ensure that all people at risk of the humanitarian impacts of migration and displacement in the contexts of climate- and weather-related events and environmental degradation receive the assistance they need, including access to humanitarian, health and other essential services, in an inclusive manner.

Objectives

As we look to define progress and assess our collective implementation of the GCM's Objectives 2, 15, and 16, beyond the IMRF 2022, this side-event will convene United Nations Member States, United Nations agencies, and humanitarians in a forward-looking conversation that aims to:

- 1). Briefly explain the findings from the latest IPCC report on how climate change is exacerbating and, in some places, even contributing to humanitarian crises and increasingly driving migration and displacement;
- 2). Reflect on recommendations on how to continue to implement the GCM's Objective 2, looking at how the different stakeholders are preparing for climate- and weather-related disasters and environmental degradation as a way to reduce displacement, including by facilitating adaptive migration (in line with Objective 5), disaster risk reduction, adaptation and resilience measures, early warning systems, and investments at the international, national, and local levels;
- 3). Reflect on recommendations on how to continue to implement the GCM's Objective 15, looking at how the different stakeholders are ensuring that all migrants and displaced people, irrespective of their status, have access to the assistance they need, including health and other essential services;
- 4). Reflect on recommendations on how to continue to implement the GCM's Objective 16, ensuring that United Nations Member States, the United Nations system, and other key stakeholders work in an inclusive and coordinated manner and that existing legal and normative frameworks related to human mobility are consistently applied in the context of climate change and disasters.

Format

The side-event will be held on Zoom, register [here](#).

Friday, 20 May 2022

1:30-2:30pm ET (New York) | 7:30-8:30pm (Geneva)

Venue: Zoom ([register here](#))

25 minutes	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham, Lead, Migration and Displacement, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations • Representative from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations • Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (via video) • Mr. Francesco Rocca, President, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
20 minutes	<p>Panel discussion in form of Ignite Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nathalia Sánchez García, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations • Ms. Joanna Moore, Senior Humanitarian Policy Adviser and Lead on Migration and Displacement, British Red Cross • Mr. Santino Severoni, Director Health and Migration Program, World Health Organization • Mr. Daniel Pfister, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
10 minutes	<p>Discussion / Q&A</p>
5 minutes	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Andrew Harper, High Commissioner's Special Advisor on Climate Action, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees