

SIDE EVENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

May 18th, 2022 - New York

MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

CONCEPT NOTE:

For decades, the Member States of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have highlighted the need to increase national, regional, and international efforts to address the challenges related with human mobility in contexts of disasters, environmental degradation and climate change.

In this regard, environmental factors need to be integrated into all areas of migration management, such as prevention, preparedness and response to displacement, border management, labor migration, integration, return, and reintegration.

It is worth mentioning that IOM's objectives related to migration, environment, and climate change are: to avoid forced migration resulting from environmental factors to the extent possible; to provide assistance and protection to affected populations when migration occurs due to climatic situations; and to facilitate migration in the context of climate change adaptation and improve the resilience of affected communities.

The Central American region continues to be affected by extreme climatic events, which influence human mobility, a situation that requires a comprehensive approach. Central America is classified as one of the areas with high climate vulnerability on a global scale and is therefore subject to extreme weather events such as droughts and floods that cause the loss of livelihoods and environmental services, which are key to the integral development of populations.

These effects not only constitute a risk but also affect the most vulnerable populations, violating conditions in terms of physical factors, such as accessibility or inaccessibility to basic services; socioeconomic and environmental factors, which reduce the resilience of communities. The IPCC has noted that the Northern Countries of Central America are amongst the most sensitive to climate migration and displacement.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is the first intergovernmental agreement, developed under the auspices of the United Nations, which covers all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner, seeks primarily to protect the human rights of all migrants and decriminalize migration, with the purpose of creating enabling conditions that allow all migrants to enrich our societies with their human, economic and social capacity, contributing to local, regional and global sustainable development. The Global Compact integrates clear recommendations vis a vis the nexus between migration and climate change, with the objective of preventing forced migration and enabling safe pathways for persons affected by sudden-onset hazards and slow-onset environmental change.

Objective of the side event:

Exchange experiences that the region has implemented to strengthen the resilience of families and communities to the effects of climate change, promoting food security, adaptation and resilience, addressing other climate vulnerabilities that impact local, regional and international human mobility.

Expected outcome:

1. To present the challenges faced by local communities in relation to climate impacts and events and how these are linked to mobility and migration dynamics.
2. Identify the causes of community migration linked to climate change impacts, biodiversity loss and the need for environmental services.
3. Identify local development strategies that communities are implementing to increase resilience at the local and household level.
4. Share best practices for addressing the adverse drivers of forced migration by promoting economic, social and environmental development.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Wednesday, May 18th 2022

UN Headquarters, Conference Room A

13:15 - 14:30 hrs.

13:15-13:20	Welcome: moderator Ambassador Luis Antonio Lam Padilla, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations
	Opening remarks
13:20-13:35	S.E. Mario Adolfo Búcaro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala
	Presentation Guatemala's progress in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
	Presentation "Climate Change and Human Mobility"
13:35-13:40	Ms. Amy Pope, Deputy Director-General for Management and Reform, International Organization for Migration.
	Challenges of food security and climate change.
13:40-13:45	Mrs. Lola Castro, Regional Director for World Food Programme Latin America and the Caribbean (pre-recorded statement)
	Presentation "What COP26 Means for Migration"
13:45-13:50	S.E. Greg Houston, Deputy Director and Head of Migration department at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom.
	Interventions countries of the region:
13:55-14:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amb. Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador. ▪ Amb. Marta Elida Gordon, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama. ▪ Amb. Carlos Antonio García Carranza; Vice Minister for Consular and Immigration Affairs of Honduras
14:15-14:25	Exchange with participants (Q&A)
	Closing remarks
14:25-14:30	S.E. Mario Búcaro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala