

## IMRF Side Event:

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

Date and time: 17.05.2022, 08:00 – 09:00

Notes of the session	Member State/UN/Stakeholder
<p>1. Key points raised with focus on innovative approaches, successes and hindrances, and reasons of success or failure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gender data gap – need for more sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics (as part of the BMZ-funded Making Migration Safe for Women a survey instrument was developed to gather data on the experiences of women migrating from, through and to Niger, and a How-to guide on how to collect gender data in the context of migration is under development)</li> <li>▪ support community resilience to reduce the risks of involuntary displacement</li> <li>▪ regular migration pathways as an adaptation strategy</li> <li>▪ specific vulnerabilities are based on gender roles and stereotypes</li> <li>▪ women in all their diversity need to be seen and treated as powerful actors of change</li> </ul> <p>2. Pledges / Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Climate change is intensifying already significant challenges to human wellbeing, with growing implications for people on the move. Its consequences compel people to leave their country of origin and affect patterns of migration in ways which require explicit recognition and a plan to address the impact of climate change on human mobility. Germany will continue to support the development of solutions under the umbrellas of the Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on Loss and Damage including its dedicated Task Force on Displacement (TFD) and its Expert Group on Non-Economic Losses (NELS).</li> <li>▪ The Federal Government is committed to a feminist foreign and development policy, which aims for a gender-transformative approach,</li> </ul>	<p>All UN MSs, especially signatories of the GCM</p> <p>IGAD and other regional organizations working on migration, climate change and/or gender</p> <p>UN Women, IOM, UN Network on Migration</p> <p>Civil Society Organizations working on migration, climate change and/or gender</p>



addresses underlying social norms that negatively influence and shape gender roles and includes supporting the rights and representation of women and girls in all their diversity globally, also increasing the resources dedicated to gender equality. Germany will contribute to the implementation of the UN resolution 1325 with its third National Action Plan for the Women, Peace and Security (2021-2024) and specifically increase its programmes and projects within the gender-conflict nexus with a focus on promoting gender equality in migration and forced displacement settings. German development cooperation will strengthen gender-responsive – and where possible also gender-transformative approaches in the field of migration and displacement and support women in all their diversity as agents of change.

3. Issue/s to flag for the Network on Migration to follow-up
  - Work with the UN Network on Migration to ensure increased utilization of the Policies and Practice Guide to Gender-Responsive Implementation of the GCM, including to support Member States in addressing the gender, migration and climate change nexus.

### Summary (500 words max)

#### Introduction

- Focus on GCM Objective 2 and the guiding principle of gender-responsiveness.
- Structure of the Side Event:
  - *Moderation:* Ms Carolina Gottardo, Executive Director, International Detention Coalition (IDC) and Member of the Women in Migration Network (WIMN)
  - *Opening Remarks:* Mr Niels Annen, Parliamentary State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
  - *Panelist:* Fathia Alwan, Director of Health and Social Development (IGAD)
  - *Panelist:* Ms. Jemimah Njuki, Chief of Economic Empowerment (UN Women)
  - *Panelist:* George Mwachiro, Principal Immigration Officer of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) Secretariat (Kenya)
  - *Closing Remarks:* Ms Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General (IOM)
  - *Discussion*



## Panel discussion

As the moderator Carolina Gottardo gave an introduction on the intersection between gender, migration and climate change. She underlined the need to see women as agents of change and not just through a lens of vulnerability, as well as to take into account the complexity of local realities. The IMRF can build a momentum to advances on these issues and to identify innovative solutions.

In his Opening Remarks Niels Annen highlighted that climate change is increasingly impacting the livelihood of people, forcing them to leave their homes and often affecting women disproportionately. He explained that under its feminist foreign and development policy the German government focuses on supporting equal rights for women and girls in all their diversity in the context of migration. This includes gender considerations in planning of preparedness and climate risk insurance, as well as the equal participation of women in climate and migration policy making. At the IMRF Germany committed to further strengthen the Platform on Disaster Displacement, to increase its support of the Migration Multi Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF), as well as to enhance cooperation with partners such as UN Women in the area of migration.

During the first intervention Fathia Alwan explained that gender, migration and climate change are all important topics for IGAD and the region, with an ongoing drought that leads to food insecurity and with high numbers of displacement due to disasters. She stressed that disasters and climate change impact people differently depending on their gender roles and responsibilities. Ongoing efforts include a regional action plan to mainstream gender in disaster response and migration policies, a MPTF-funded regional programme on addressing drivers and facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration in the contexts of disasters and climate change in the IGAD region”, IGAD’s Climate and Prediction Application Center (ICPAC) to collect sex-disaggregated data as well as engagement with climate affected communities. IGAD also works closely with member states to include gender in national and regional policies. However, Fathia Alwan also underlined that there is still a need for more information and data that can be used for evidence-based policy making.

Jemimah Njuki from UN Women supported the call for more sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics to better understand how disasters and climate change specifically affect women and girls. She explained that inequalities both reduce the possibilities to migrate and put certain people at heightened risk during the migration process. She emphasized that it was vital that migration policies, laws and programmes needed to be put in place which address both women’s specific needs and the climate crisis. Investing in the collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics on climate change and migration was also critical. In addition, she stressed that migrant women needed to be provided with access to decent work and social protection, and that it was also vital to offer gender-responsive services including health, justice, and social services to all migrants irrespective of their migration status, and particularly to survivors of gender-based violence and/or trafficking.

George Mwachiro from the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration in Kenya presented how gender is considered in policy making on different levels of governance



(global, national and local) and across sectors. Kenya experiences an increase in frequency and intensity of climate disasters which leads to more inequality if gender is not taken into account in policy making. Among the concrete examples of policies and legal frameworks George Mwachiro presented, was the Kenyan Climate Change Act 2016 that provides a framework for promoting climate resilient low carbon economic development. It mainstreams intergenerational and gender equity in all aspects of climate change responses on the national and county level. George Mwachiro also presented the draft national migration policy that includes a whole chapter on migration, climate change and women. Kenya supports multi-stakeholder participation to achieve climate targets.

In her closing remarks, Ugochi Daniels underlined the need to build community resilience to reduce the risks of involuntary displacement as well as the need to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration as an adaptation strategy. This directly links to the GCM and states have to be encouraged to strengthen regular migration pathways. The needs of the most vulnerable communities to climate change, including people with diverse gender identities, have to be prioritized. Ugochi Daniels furthermore explained that while gendered social norms and roles strongly affect possibilities to move and adapt, especially for women and girls in vulnerable situations, women and girls are also powerful actors of change in adaptation. She stressed the need to challenge gender roles and stereotypes and to recognize the leadership role that women play in their surroundings.

During the open discussion participants highlighted the need to close the **gender data gap** in relation to climate change. The need for related **capacity building** such as training and practices guides and certifying courses was underlined in this context. In addition, the **importance of global, regional and national mechanisms** was highlighted to keep gender high on the political agenda, even in the context of climate crises. The **GCM** and its related mechanisms such as the **IMRF** and **MPTF** were mentioned as central tools for this purpose with the potential to support innovative approaches. However, it was also emphasized that these mechanisms **need to translate into implementation**, for which better cooperation and partnership are necessary.