

## USG Intervention at the International Dialogue on Migration 2022

### *Global Compact for Migration Implementation in Practice: Successes, Challenges and Innovative Approaches*

- Combined with physical, social, economic, and/or environmental vulnerabilities, climate change can undermine food, water, and economic security.
- Secondary effects of climate change are equally corrosive and spur displacement, threaten the livelihoods of entire communities, weaken governments, and in extreme cases result in political instability and conflict.
- The World Bank's Groundswell report notes that climate impacts could displace 216 million people within their countries by 2050. These potential movements spotlight just how crucial it is that we act now.
- Last October, the White House released its Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration. The primary goal of the report was to understand the scope of the challenge and ensure that our policy responses are effective, thoughtful, and strategic. This report is our roadmap moving forward, which will guide the U.S. government's formulation of policy responses and multilateral engagements targeting the nexus of the climate crisis and migration.
- Consistent with Objective 2, the Biden-Harris Administration has redoubled efforts to minimize the adverse drivers that push people to leave their countries of origin, such as regional violence, corruption, economic insecurity, and overall lack of opportunity.
- The U.S. government will continue to support trusted partners to anticipate, prepare, and respond to climate-induced migration and displacement, and to scale up support to communities to reduce the risk of climate-related disasters and strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change. In November last year, the President announced his Emergency Plan for Adaptation & Resilience, better known as PREPARE, to help more than 500 billion people in developing countries adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change by 2030.
- Through our work with IOM, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration funds programs that address the nexus between migration and climate change. We fund assessments of the impacts of climate on migration, training for government officials on migration and climate change, and capacity building programs that take a proactive approach in supporting regional, national, and local coordination mechanisms to prepare for and respond to climate change, including through implementing the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Guidelines.
- In line with Objective 5, the United States also seeks to avert and respond to displacement through safe, regular migration pathways, and through strengthening access to assistance and protection for people displaced by the impacts of climate change, both across borders and within their countries of origin.
- Although displacement as a result of climate change is not itself a basis for a claim of protection under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, or U.S. law, people fleeing their countries in the context of the adverse effects of climate change and disasters may, in some instances, have valid claims for refugee status.

- To better address issues of protection in the context of climate change, the United States is looking to strengthen the application of existing protection frameworks, update U.S. protection mechanisms to better accommodate people fleeing the impacts of climate change, and evaluate the need for additional legal protections for those who have no alternative but to migrate.
- We are exploring various protection options and policy tools, such as whether legislative changes to the Temporary Protected Status could bolster protection, as well as improving protection of IDPs and vulnerable migrants outside our national boundaries.
- On refugee resettlement policy, we have harnessed our role as co-chair with UNHCR of the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement to focus on climate-related displacement. We plan to discuss further this summer at the ATCR the possibility of incorporating climate-related implications into consideration for third country resettlement.
- Finally, we continue to raise the impacts of climate change on migration in multilateral bodies. On President Biden's first day in office, he rejoined the Paris Agreement.
- In December 2021, in our revised national statement, we announced our support for the vision of the GCM.
- We are also actively reengaged in bodies such as the Regional Conference on Migration and the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees, which we will chair in 2023.
- We look forward to the International Migration Review Forum and the opportunity to discuss more at the roundtable on climate. Combatting climate change is not just a U.S. or even regional issue, but a global one.
- We are committed to working with member states, civil society and our international partners to find opportunities to face these climate challenges together in ways that are safe, orderly, and humane.