

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT HUMANE AND ORDERLY INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION DIALOGUE BENEFITS MIGRANTS AND ON MIGRATION SOCIETIES IOM ASSISTS IN MEETING THE GROWING OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES OF ACCELERATING MIGRATION INTEGRATED ACTION MANAGEMENT ON SUSTAINABLE ADVANCES DEVELOPMENT: UNDERSTANDING OF MIGRATION, MIGRATION THE ENVIRONMENT ISSUES ENCOURAGES AND CLIMATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MIGRATION UPHOLDS THE HUMAN DIGNITY AND WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS.

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INTERNATIONAL
DIALOGUE
ON MIGRATION

**REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 2021
INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION**

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**ACCELERATING INTEGRATED ACTION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
MIGRATION, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

IOM
UN MIGRATION

The primary goal of IOM is to facilitate the orderly and humane management of international migration ... To achieve that goal, IOM will focus on the following activities, acting at the request of or in agreement with Member States: ...

7. To promote, facilitate and support regional and global debate and dialogue on migration, including through the International Dialogue on Migration, so as to advance understanding of the opportunities and challenges it presents, the identification and development of effective policies for addressing those challenges and to identify comprehensive approaches and measures for advancing international cooperation.

IOM Strategy, adopted by the IOM Council in 2007

IOM launched the IDM at the fiftieth anniversary session of the IOM Council in 2001, at the request of the Organization's membership. The purpose of the IDM, consistent with the mandate in IOM's Constitution, is to provide a forum for Member States and observers to identify and discuss major issues and challenges in the field of international migration, to contribute to a better understanding of migration and to strengthen cooperation on migration issues between governments and with other partners.

The IDM is a platform for the Organization to listen and learn from its Member States and partners, and build an evidence base for projects worldwide. The discussions also contribute to the overall implementation of the SDGs, particularly target 10.7. The inclusive, informal and constructive format of the IDM has helped to create a more open climate for migration policy debate and to build confidence among the various migration stakeholders. In combination with targeted research and policy analysis, the IDM is providing an open forum for debate and exchanges between all relevant stakeholders and has contributed to a better understanding of topical and emerging migration issues and their linkages with other policy domains. It has also facilitated the exchange of policy options and approaches among policymakers and practitioners, with a view to achieving more effective and humane governance of international migration. The IDM is organized by the IDM Unit of IOM's Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships.

The International Dialogue on Migration Publication Series (or "Red Book Series") is designed to capture and review the results of the events and research carried out within the framework of the IDM. The Red Book Series is prepared and coordinated by the IDM Unit. More information on the IDM can be found at www.iom.int/idm or by contacting idmworkshop@iom.int.

This publication presents a summary report of the deliberations at the first session of the 2021 IDM, which was held from 25 to 27 May 2021. It offers a collection of experiences, best practices shared and recommendations made for advancing integrated action on migration, the environment and climate change in support of the SDGs. It also contains the agenda and concept note of the meeting.

The report was drafted by Daria Mokhnacheva, independent consultant. Paula Benea, Migration Policy Officer in the IDM Unit, coordinated the report's drafting and general production. Dejan Keserovic, Head of the Governing Bodies Division, provided overall guidance. Special thanks go to Hannah Emerson, Intern, Governing Bodies Division, who provided valuable assistance during the review and editing process.

Thanks for their contribution to the 2021 IDM session are owed particularly to colleagues in the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division for their valuable support and thematic guidance at all stages of the preparations, to the IOM country and regional offices, the regional thematic specialists on migration, the environment and climate change, the Migration Health Division, the Department of Operations and Emergencies, IOM's Office to the United Nations in New York, the Meetings Secretariat, the Media and Communications Unit, the French and Spanish Translation Units and the Publications Unit.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bali Process	Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime
COP 26	United Nations Climate Change Conference (26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
COVID-19	Novel coronavirus disease (SARS-CoV-2)
DG ECHO	Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICCCAD	International Centre for Climate Change and Development
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
IDM	International Dialogue for Migration
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IILA	Organizzazione Internazionale Italo-Latino Americano (Italian-Latin American International Organization)
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LGBTQI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex
NGO	Non-governmental organization
Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda	Nansen Initiative Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change
Paris Agreement	Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC on 12 December 2012
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN-OHRLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

Introduction

The first session of the 2021 IDM was held from 25 to 27 May 2021 and was dedicated to the topic of “Accelerating integrated action on sustainable development: migration, the environment and climate change”. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions, the session was exceptionally conducted online.

The 2021 edition marked the twentieth anniversary of the IDM and the seventieth anniversary of IOM, and despite the reduced online format, the participants welcomed the opportunity once again to discuss some of the most pressing and evolving migration challenges of the times.

In a year of critical importance for multilateralism in respect of global climate change action, migration governance and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and ten years after the first session of the IDM, on the nexus between migration, the environment and climate change, IOM put this crucial topic back on the agenda, in line with its key institutional priorities. As noted by all the participants, the discussion was particularly timely given the growing political urgency of the issue and in view of the devastating social and economic effects of the COVID-19 global health crisis, which has compounded existing challenges related to migration, development and climate change.

This first session of the 2021 IDM offered a space to take stock of progress made in terms of the state of knowledge, policy development and effective practices addressing key migration challenges in the context of climate change and environmental degradation; to discuss specific challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic; and to highlight opportunities for joint action and for the implementation of relevant international, regional and national frameworks.

Ministers, ambassadors and other representatives of governments, the European Union and the United Nations, including the President of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, youth delegates, diaspora members, academic experts, and representatives of the private sector and of international and civil society organizations participated in this year’s dialogue, exchanging views and sharing experiences and examples of effective practices. In all, 1,281 participants from 95 countries attended this first session of the 2021 IDM.

The session featured five panels with 30 speakers, including national and local government officials, policymakers and practitioners from countries of origin, transit and destination, representatives of regional organizations, of partner United Nations agencies and NGOs, academic experts, youth delegates and private sector representatives. Every panel had a balance in terms of geographical, gender and sectoral representation. Migrants were also

heard, as panel speakers and in short videos produced for IOM's global campaigns on migration, the environment and climate change: Find a Way and Do the Right Thing.¹

The session was predicated on recognition that migration, climate change, health and human security challenges are interconnected and must be addressed through holistic, inclusive and collaborative approaches at national, regional and global level, with a view to advancing towards sustainable development and peace. Over the course of the three days, the participants engaged in rich discussions highlighting key opportunities to promote a more sustainable, climate-resilient and migrant-inclusive society and economy as the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. They also recognized that failure to act in a timely and preventive manner to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, to address displacement and its root causes, and to strengthen health systems will undermine the progress made so far towards attaining the SDGs.

One of the session's aims was to gather insights and recommendations to inform key global policy processes on migration, climate change action, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. The session outcomes thus constitute a substantive contribution to numerous policy events and forums, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2021, COP 26 in November 2021, the International Migration Review Forum in May 2022, which will review implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the 2022 Global Forum on Migration and Development and Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

¹ More information about the Find a Way and Do the Right Thing! campaigns is available at www.iom.int/findaway/en/ and <https://dotherightthing.iom.int/home>.

The proceedings in brief

During the three days of the session, the participants discussed key issues related to migration, the environment and climate change over the course of five panel sessions:

- **Panel 1:** The Road to COP 26 – Accelerating action to address migration and displacement in the context of climate and environmental change
- **Panel 2:** Understanding the linkages between migration health and migration, the environment and climate change in the context of COVID-19, and promoting the inclusion of migration, environment and climate change dimensions in COVID-19 recovery efforts
- **Panel 3:** Examining the linkage between migration, the environment and climate change and the humanitarian, development and peace nexus
- **Panel 4:** Developing multi-stakeholder approaches to leverage opportunities and support the inclusion of migrants and internally displaced people to build a sustainable future
- **Panel 5:** Promoting and supporting regional, national and local action on migration, the environment and climate change

This section briefly presents the proceedings of the five thematic panels and of the opening and closing sessions.

Opening session

The session was opened by the IOM Director General, who welcomed the participants and introduced the session's objectives. He emphasized the importance of cooperation and accelerated action on migration, the environment and climate change, which was an institutional priority for IOM that had been reaffirmed in the Organization's new institution-wide Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change.² He encouraged the participants to seize the opportunity provided by the IDM to exchange views and share examples of good practices, lessons learned and recommendations that could inform the implementation of commitments made under key relevant international frameworks on climate change action, migration governance, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

The session's objectives were to discuss key aspects and challenges of the migration, environment and climate change nexus, to explore its links to health, conflict and sustainable development, to take stock of advances made in terms of policy development and implementation, and to identify opportunities for collective integrated action across policy areas, building on the current political momentum.

² See IOM, Migration, Environment and Climate Change, at www.iom.int/migration-environment-and-climate-change; and IOM, IOM Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, Environmental Migration portal, at <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/iom-strategy-migration-climate-change-and-environment>.

While significant progress had been made in terms of awareness, knowledge and global policy development since the issue had first been discussed a decade earlier in international policy forums, including the 2011 IDM,³ much remained to be done to ensure that concrete action was taken. Climate change and environmental degradation constituted a defining issue of the times, and their impact on migration and displacement was already evident in all regions of the world. Vulnerable populations around the world were increasingly experiencing the adverse effects of climate change, particularly in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States,⁴ leading some communities to consider relocating to safer areas. More and more frequent and destructive disasters resulted in the displacement of millions of people globally every year. In parallel, slow-onset environmental degradation and ecosystem loss were undermining livelihoods and exacerbating tensions in many parts of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic had added to the pressure and disproportionately affected migrants and vulnerable populations. It was important that the recovery process did not distract the attention of governments and other stakeholders from the urgent need to tackle climate change and its impact on migration, conflict and development, and to assist and protect vulnerable populations, including migrants and displaced persons.

The opening session featured keynote statements by five distinguished speakers: the Prime Minister of Fiji, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, who shared the experience of Fiji in adapting to climate change, including through the planned relocation of vulnerable communities; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, Nasser Bourita, who presented Morocco's commitments on climate mitigation and adaptation and on Global Compact implementation as well as key regional initiatives in Africa; the President of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, who spoke of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants and of opportunities to support climate mitigation and adaptation as part of recovery efforts; the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, who outlined four priority areas for the protection of nature and people, namely prevention, mobilization of funds, support for the most vulnerable, and whole-of-society approaches to achieve the SDGs; and the Founder and Executive Director of Friendship NGO, Runa Khan, who provided insights into the challenges faced at community level in Bangladesh and examples of integrated solutions implemented locally. The keynote speakers stressed that it was imperative that the international community accelerate action to address critical concerns, particularly at local level. There were ample opportunities and tools available to support collective action to implement the key global commitments made under instruments such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵ the Global Compact on Migration,⁶

³ See IOM, *Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration*, International Dialogue on Migration Series, No. 18 (Geneva, 2011). Available at www.iom.int/idmclimatechange.

⁴ IOM and UN-OHRLS, *Climate Change and Migration in Vulnerable Countries: A snapshot of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States* (Geneva, 2019). Available at <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/climate-change-and-migration-vulnerable-countries-snapshot-least-developed-countries-landlocked>.

⁵ United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (25 September 2015). Available at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1>.

⁶ United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/195 on the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* (19 December 2018). Available at <https://undocs.org/A/RES/73/195>.

the Paris Agreement,⁷ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction⁸ and the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda⁹.

Panel 1: The Road to COP 26 – Accelerating action to address migration and displacement in the context of climate and environmental change

The first panel reflected on some of the main challenges around the migration, environment and climate change nexus, and presented opportunities for action at the global, regional and national levels in line with commitments made under several major international and regional policy processes. The participants discussed progress and gaps in relation to the implementation of relevant policy frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact on Migration. They shared examples of action already being undertaken at national and regional level, made recommendations for further action and stressed the need to deliver on the pledges made.

The panel was moderated by the IOM Director General and featured six speakers. A.K. Abdul Momen, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, presented his country's adaptation and mitigation efforts, its innovative approaches to addressing disaster displacement, including in urban contexts, and its engagement at regional and global level to foster cooperation to support the most vulnerable countries. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, United Kingdom International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP 26 Presidency, presented the vision and priorities of the COP 26 Presidency and her Government's commitment to promote gender-sensitive adaptation, early action and research in support of policy and action in vulnerable countries. Frank Tressler Zamorano, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, shared his country's experience in mobilizing national, regional and global action for mitigation and adaptation as part of its presidency of COP 25, and highlighted some of its actions to promote sustainability, carbon neutrality, ocean protection and assistance for disaster-displaced persons. Ovais Sarmad, UNFCCC Deputy Executive Secretary, underlined the urgent need to tackle climate change and the associated impacts and inequalities, and called on the international community to accelerate implementation of commitments made under the UNFCCC through cooperation and transformative action. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt, stressed the need to build synergies across global policy frameworks on disaster risk reduction, climate change action, biodiversity conservation and desertification, and presented experiences in sustainable urban planning and disaster risk reduction in Egypt. Andreas Papaconstantinou, Director for Neighbourhood and Middle East at DG ECHO, presented the European Green Deal and the European Union's external action and priorities for implementation of the Global Compact on Migration,

⁷ UNFCCC, Paris Agreement. Available at <https://unfccc.int/process/conferences/pastconferences/paris-climate-change-conference-november-2015/paris-agreement>.

⁸ United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/283 on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (3 June 2015). Available at <https://undocs.org/A/RES/69/283>.

⁹ The Nansen Initiative, *Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change* (Geneva, 2015). Available at www.nanseninitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/PROTECTION-AGENDA-VOLUME-1.pdf.

strengthening of the humanitarian and development nexus, climate change action and disaster risk reduction, and gender mainstreaming.

Panel 2: Understanding the linkages between migration health and migration, the environment and climate change in the context of COVID-19, and promoting the inclusion of migration, environment and climate change dimensions in COVID-19 recovery efforts

In the second panel, the panellists discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration and the linkages between climate change, health, vulnerability and inequality. They stressed the need for integrated approaches to climate change, migration and public health management, to ensure more resilient societies and sustainable development, and noted several opportunities associated with post-pandemic recovery efforts, for example the creation of green jobs and inclusion of migrants in the recovery.

The panel was moderated by Monica Goracci, Director of the Department of Migration Management at IOM, and had five speakers. Ibrahim Abubakar, Chair of Lancet Migration, and Climate Change and Migration Lead, Director of the Institute for Global Health at University College London, presented the *Lancet* Countdown on health and climate change¹⁰ and related key findings on migration, health and climate change, and outlined some specific areas of concern and recommendations for further research. Maria Neira González, Director of the WHO Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, presented WHO's work and perspectives on climate change and health, highlighting the need to adapt health systems to climate change and to demographic and humanitarian pressures associated with migration and displacement, and emphasizing the health co-benefits of climate action. Kristof Tamas, Senior Adviser at the Division for Migration and Asylum Policy of the Ministry of Justice of Sweden, underlined the implications for sustainable development arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate effects on migrants, stressed the need to focus on long-term development and climate change concerns as part of post-pandemic recovery efforts, and presented Sweden's international cooperation priorities. Elizabeth Ferris, Research Professor at the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University, noted that the COVID-19 pandemic provided useful lessons in terms of strengthened global cooperation and solutions for a global problem, which could inform global climate action, and outlined challenges such as limited funding and insufficient coordination. Verena Knaus, Global Lead on Migration and Displacement at UNICEF, presented key health, migration and displacement implications for children and highlighted specific gaps and areas of action required to ensure healthier and more resilient societies, including through youth empowerment.

Panel 3: Examining the linkage between migration, the environment and climate change and the humanitarian, development and peace nexus

The third panel focused on the links between climate change and disasters, conflict, sustainable development and forced migration, underlining the human security and human rights implications of these interconnected issues. The panellists emphasized the need to

¹⁰ See Nick Watts et al., The 2020 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: responding to converging crises, *The Lancet*, 397:129–170 (9 January 2021). Available at www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2820%2932290-X.

address the root causes of poverty, conflict and displacement, including through climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures and through operationalization of the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. They stressed the importance of prevention, early action and preparedness, and of protecting the most vulnerable populations, including migrants and displaced people, through holistic approaches and partnerships.

The panel was moderated by Angelica Broman, Senior Advisor on the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus at IOM, and had seven speakers. Joost Klarenbeek, Special Envoy for Migration of the Netherlands, discussed the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for climate and humanitarian action from the point of view of its impacts on food security, poverty and inequalities, and highlighted opportunities related to recovery efforts, noting the need for global partnerships and collective knowledge to address local development and humanitarian challenges. Grata Endah Werdaningtyas, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, presented key issues of migration, climate change and disaster management in the Pacific region and shared examples of disaster risk management and migration governance measures undertaken by Indonesia, including in support of regional cooperation. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, presented the main findings of a recent report on the human rights implications of internal displacement in the context of the slow-onset adverse effects of climate change,¹¹ calling for a people-centred approach to prevention, protection and solutions, and underlining the need to consider the differentiated impacts of climate change on particular groups and to empower the people affected as agents of change. Anicet Nibaruta, Head of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Management of Burundi, presented the capacity-building programme for disaster risk reduction rolled out in Burundi and shared key lessons drawn from its implementation, showcasing the importance of preventive action, national coordination, optimized resource use, and inclusive, integrated cross-cutting approaches. Faryde Carlier González, Director of the National Office for Migration of Colombia, presented Colombia's national strategy for climate change adaptation and resilience, and shared insights from managing mixed migration flows and examples of holistic measures for migrant inclusion. Andrew Harper, Special Advisor on Climate Action at UNHCR, underscored the need to invest more in climate change adaptation and prevention, promote proactive, rather than reactive, approaches, and encourage collaborative action across sectors and among stakeholders to address current challenges. Ignacio Packer, ICVA Executive Director, presented the key conclusions and recommendations of the ICVA 2021 annual conference,¹² which had highlighted the need for collective action to address silos between the humanitarian and development fields and thereby ensure climate resilience, and to reduce vulnerabilities, and called for enhanced, locally led adaptation action through partnerships, smarter investments and capacity-building.

¹¹ United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary (A/75/207 of 21 July 2020). Available at www.undocs.org/A/75/207.

¹² See ICVA's 2021 Virtual Annual Conference at www.icvanetwork.org/icvas-2021-virtual-annual-conference (accessed 29 July 2021).

Panel 4: Developing multi-stakeholder approaches to leverage opportunities and support the inclusion of migrants and internally displaced people to build a sustainable future

This panel focused on the opportunities and positive outcomes associated with migration in the context of climate change, showcasing examples of innovative solutions for climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development involving migrants, young people, women and the private sector. The panellists, who included young people, migrants, diaspora members and entrepreneurs, shared insights from their experiences on the ground and highlighted the positive outcomes and contributions of migration and the enormous potential of locally led inclusive climate action and solutions for adaptation. They stressed the importance of empowering and promoting the voices of migrants, women and youth, and of considering not only their vulnerabilities, but also their agency and resilience.

The panel was moderated by Dina Ionesco, Head of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division at IOM, and featured six speakers. Naser Nuredini, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia, delivered keynote remarks on North Macedonia's experience as a country of transit and on national action and commitments for climate change mitigation and a green post-pandemic recovery. Amadou Diaw, Technical Advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad of Senegal, talked about the challenges that Senegal faced in terms of coastal erosion and desertification, and presented examples of ongoing adaptation and relocation projects and regional initiatives, including innovative land management practices involving migrants. Balgis Osman-Elasha, Chief Climate Change and Green Growth Specialist, and Regional Coordinator of the African Development Bank North Africa Development and Business Delivery Centre, highlighted key challenges related to poverty, inequality and demographic change in Africa, and outlined priority areas to unlock the potential of youth and migration in the region, including through innovation, green growth and strategic partnerships. Enja Saethren, Senior Business Development Analyst of Scatec in Norway, provided insights into the role that private sector entities could play in supporting sustainability, for example by helping the humanitarian sector to transition to renewable energy. Irfan Ullah Afridi, representing the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, emphasized the role of young people in climate action and the need to strengthen youth empowerment and participation in decision-making, while highlighting barriers to youth participation. Belal Altiné Sow, Co-founder of the Sow Ranch in Senegal, shared his experience as a migrant and entrepreneur, and presented the example of his agroecological farm offering green jobs to local youth and returning migrants as a model for sustainable community-level development, resilience and adaptation.

Panel 5: Promoting and supporting regional, national and local action on migration, the environment and climate change

The final panel of the 2021 IDM focused on the primary role of local, national and regional stakeholders in the implementation of measures related to climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, poverty reduction and migration management. It highlighted the importance of regional partnerships and dialogue to translate and adapt global frameworks and commitments at the regional level and to mobilize joint resources to address migration, environmental and climate change concerns. It also discussed the role of cities in addressing

local challenges and promoting inclusion, adaptation and risk reduction, while pointing out the difficulties that local entities faced in terms of limited resources and capacity.

The panel was moderated by Michele Klein-Solomon, IOM Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean, and featured six speakers. Cristopher Ballinas Valdés, Director General for Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, presented national and regional initiatives in Mexico, elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean to address the root causes of migration and vulnerability, and spoke of the importance of better evidence to inform policy. Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, Mayor of Freetown in Sierra Leone, shared her city's experience of dealing with increased internal migration and addressing the needs of a growing urban population, while ensuring a safe and healthy environment. Sino Tokhirzoda, Director of the Committee for Environmental Protection of Tajikistan, shared his country's experience of mainstreaming migration and gender considerations into its national climate change adaptation strategy. María Florencia Carignano, National Director of Migration in Argentina, presented her country's priorities as part of its presidency of the South American Conference on Migration and showcased examples of regional cooperation in addressing disaster displacement. Lena Brenn, IGAD Disaster Displacement Advisor, presented IGAD's work to support regional and national policy development, build the evidence base and address the drivers of migration and displacement in the context of climate change in the East Africa region. Katja Schaefer, Inter-Regional Advisor at UN-Habitat, highlighted the role of cities in enabling local sustainable development, mitigation and adaptation, and presented examples of programmes in West and Central Asia aiming to address unplanned urban growth and promote inclusivity and sustainability in urban planning.

Closing session

The first session of the 2021 IDM ended with closing remarks by the IOM Deputy Director General, who emphasized the timeliness of the discussion ahead of key upcoming events and forums, including COP 26 and the International Migration Review Forum. She stressed the importance of multilateralism in addressing the complex and interconnected challenges facing the world in terms of climate and environmental change, and their implications for migration, health, peace and sustainable development. She also stressed that the response required collective, innovative, inclusive and integrated action. Cross-sectoral partnerships and approaches at local, national and regional level were key to meeting the needs of the populations and countries affected, protecting the most vulnerable individuals and communities, and leveraging the positive contributions of migration for sustainable development.

Key messages of the 2021 IDM

Eight key messages emerged from the three days of discussion and serve to structure this report.

1. A global challenge with differentiated impacts. The impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on migration and displacement are already manifest in all regions of the world, and disproportionately affect the most vulnerable countries and populations.

2. Recognizing the links between health and migration, the environment and climate change as part of the post-pandemic recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated vulnerabilities and inequalities, but post-pandemic recovery efforts offer an opportunity to build more resilient and inclusive societies.

3. Linking migration, the environment and climate change with the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. The interconnectedness of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, migration and displacement, human security, conflict and peace, and development must be recognized and addressed in an integrated manner.

4. Harnessing migration for a sustainable future. While addressing the vulnerabilities and challenges associated with the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on migration is crucial, it is also important to consider the opportunities related to migration and its potential for resilience-building.

5. Mobilizing global collective action, cooperation, innovation and finance. Migration and displacement in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation constitute a global challenge that requires global, collective, holistic and innovative action.

6. Prioritizing regional, national and local action. Regional, national and local action is key to addressing migration, environmental and climate change concerns, and should be supported and strengthened.

7. Promoting inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches. It is fundamental to leverage the capacities and contributions of migrants, young people and women as agents of change, in order to ensure the success of collective efforts through a whole-of-society, inclusive, rights-based and gender-responsive approach.

8. Seizing global policy opportunities for accelerated action. Global policy frameworks and opportunities for enabling action and promoting cooperation on migration, the environment and climate change are plentiful and must be seized, including at COP 26 and the International Migration Review Forum.

The key messages in the words of the participants

1. A global challenge with differentiated impacts

Overview

As many participants stressed throughout the discussions, the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on migration and displacement are not a distant reality – they are already manifest in all regions of the world, affecting millions of people and livelihoods, and revealing global and local inequalities through their uneven repercussions on different countries and communities.

Discussion – Evidence of concern

Since the first IDM discussion on migration, the environment and climate change in 2011, significant progress had been made in strengthening the knowledge base and data on the topic. The evidence of ongoing and projected trends in migration, displacement and planned relocation in the context of environmental and climate change was steadily improving, and there was a much better understanding of the extent of the challenge and how it affected different regions and countries, as well as of the underlying multiple, complex and interrelated drivers and related legal, human security and human rights implications.¹³

In 2019, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre,¹⁴ 24.9 million people were newly displaced by sudden-onset disasters – mainly storms and floods – in 140 countries and territories. In 2020, that figure was even higher, with an estimated 30.7 million new displacements triggered by disasters. Those figures, cited by many participants at the IDM, were around three times higher than the number of people newly displaced by conflict and violence over the same period. Most of the displacements occurred in East and South Asia and the Pacific, followed by the Americas and sub-Saharan Africa.

Several speakers on various panels spoke of the specific challenges faced by their countries. A.K. Abdul Momen (Bangladesh) and Runa Khan (Friendship NGO) said that, in Bangladesh, extreme weather events such as floods had led to loss of lives, land, homes and livelihoods, and caused displacements of people every year. In Fiji, according to Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, tropical cyclones were becoming more frequent and intense each year – in December 2020, Cyclone Yasa, the second strongest cyclone on record to make landfall in the country, had resulted in the displacement of an estimated 23,000 people¹⁵. Grata Endah Werdaningtyas (Indonesia) said that her country, which was located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, had recorded over 2,000 disasters in 2020, including both weather-related disasters such as floods and storms, and geophysical disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. Cristopher Ballinas Valdés (Mexico) was joined by several other panellists and participants in pointing

¹³ See, for example, D. Ionesco, D. Mokhnacheva and F. Gemenne, *The Atlas of Environmental Migration* (Abingdon, Routledge, 2017).

¹⁴ The Centre has published annual global estimates on disaster-related internal displacement since 2009. Its Global Reports on Internal Displacement, including the 2019 and 2020 editions, are available at www.internal-displacement.org/global-report.

¹⁵ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimate.

out that countries in Central America and the Caribbean were also exposed every year to destructive hurricanes.

In parallel, slow-onset environmental phenomena, including those associated with climate change¹⁶ and those resulting from unsustainable resource management, were affecting the livelihoods of millions more people. Changing rainfall patterns, drought, desertification, sea-level rise, salinization, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss affected both rural and urban areas, and increasingly shaped internal and cross-border migration patterns. As pointed out by several participants, including Kristof Tamas (Sweden) and Anne-Marie Trevelyan (United Kingdom), the World Bank estimated that in the absence of climate and development action, more than 143 million people could be forced to move internally by 2050 in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America by slow-onset impacts of climate change such as falling crop productivity, water shortages and sea-level rise.¹⁷ Nasser Bourita (Morocco) said that land degradation and water stress in the Sahel were affecting smallholders and heightening the risk of conflict, which in turn drove displacement and migration in the region. Verena Knaus (UNICEF) said that Guatemala had experienced several years of drought, affecting food security and prompting many people to migrate abroad. In Madagascar, according to Lanto Rahajarizafy (speaking from the floor), people were exposed to phenomena such as sea-level rise, coastal and soil erosion, drought and desertification, resulting in internal migration. In Senegal, according to Amadou Diaw, communities were being relocated from coastal areas affected by erosion and sea-level rise, while other parts of the country, including transborder areas, faced salinization, deforestation, desertification and ecosystem loss. Sino Tokhirzoda (Tajikistan) added that loss of ecosystems and biodiversity were affecting food and water security and key sectors of the economy in his country, and Katja Schaefer (UN-Habitat) said that, in the Caspian Sea basin, the impact of climate change and resource management on water resources was affecting health and livelihoods, and contributing to rural–urban migration.

Migration in the context of environmental hazards, degradation and climate change came in many forms. The participants cited examples of internal displacement following sudden-onset disasters in Bangladesh, Burundi, Fiji, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, the Philippines, Sudan, Tajikistan and Uruguay. Such displacements tended to be temporary, but at times became protracted, leading to even greater insecurity and precarity. Other participants referenced internal migration from rural areas to urban centres, which often resulted in the growth of informal settlements, as in the case of Sierra Leone, Senegal and the Caspian Sea Basin. Cross-border migration or displacements within regions were also becoming more frequent. Lena Brenn (IGAD) referred to the seasonal movement of pastoralists in the Sahel, where traditional routes were affected by the changing climate and droughts; and participants from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay said that similar movements had taken place in several countries in South and Central America. International migration as a means of income diversification was being seen in many countries in Central and South America, Asia and Africa, as noted by participants representing countries of origin, transit and

¹⁶ The UNFCCC defines slow-onset events as “events that evolve gradually from incremental changes occurring over many years or from an increased frequency or intensity of recurring events” (FCCC/TP/2012/7, para. 20).

¹⁷ Rigaud et al., *Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration* (Washington, DC, World Bank, 2018). Available at <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/846391522306665751/pdf/124719-v2-PUB-PUBLIC-docdate-3-18-18WBG-ClimateChange-Final.pdf>.

destination, including Argentina, Mexico, Morocco, North Macedonia, the Philippines, Senegal and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In the absence of regular and safe migration pathways, international migration was also at times associated with greater vulnerability. Lastly, plans were increasingly being made to relocate communities from areas exposed to hazards and permanent environmental degradation in different regions of the world.¹⁸ Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama gave the example of a planned relocation in Fiji, where six communities had already been fully or partially relocated and 40 more had been identified for future relocation. Amadou Diaw described a project in Senegal, where the World Bank and the Agence Française pour le Développement were helping to relocate communities from the Langue de Barbarie in Saint Louis. While such relocations usually took place within countries, some countries whose territorial integrity was threatened, such as many small island developing States, were considering moving their entire populations abroad: Fiji, for example, had offered to provide land to Tuvalu and Kiribati, should their populations need to relocate in the face of sea-level rise.

As was pointed out by participants throughout the IDM, if not managed well, migration, displacement and planned relocation in the context of environmental and climate change could have significant implications in terms of human security and human rights. At the same time, planned, well-managed migration could help to move people out of harm's way, diversify incomes and contribute to sustainable development.

The participants also emphasized that the impacts of environmental and climate change were not distributed uniformly: they disproportionately affected the most vulnerable countries, communities and individuals. Volkan Bozkir (President of the United Nations General Assembly) and Amina Mohammed (United Nations) both pointed out that it was the poorest and most disadvantaged people worldwide who were most at risk, particularly in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary (United Nations Special Rapporteur) added that the most vulnerable were migrants and displaced people, women and girls, adolescents and children, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQI community, the elderly, indigenous people and marginalized populations, who could face particular human rights violations. A representative of FAO, speaking from the floor, said that rural communities were also among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, owing to their dependency on natural resources and limited adaptation opportunities. Existing inequalities were further exacerbated by disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, which often resulted in the loss of key assets, property and livelihoods. Those inequalities in turn undermined the ability of individuals to bounce back and adapt to the changing environment, and could result in displacement or forced, unsafe migration.

¹⁸ See E. Bower and S. Weerasinghe, *Leaving Place, Restoring Home: Enhancing the evidence base on planned relocation cases in the context of hazards, disasters and climate change* (Geneva, Platform on Disaster Displacement and Kaldor Centre, 2021). Available at <https://disasterdisplacement.org/portfolio-item/leaving-place-restoring-home>; and D. Mokhnacheva, *Leaving Place, Restoring Home II: A Review of French, Spanish and Portuguese Literature on Planned Relocation in the Context of Hazards, Disasters, and Climate Change* (Geneva, IOM, forthcoming).

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,¹⁹ climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food and water security, human security and economic growth were projected to continue to increase, even if global warming did not exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. According to WMO, 2020 was one of the three warmest years on record, and the previous six years had been the warmest ever recorded.²⁰ Extreme weather events such as floods and storms were therefore expected to continue to increase in frequency and intensity, and to cause destruction, loss of lives and livelihoods, and displacement. As noted by Ovais Sarmad (UNFCCC), “This issue is not going away, and what we see is only a preview of events if we don’t get our collective act together.” Action was urgently required at national, regional and international level to mitigate climate change and support adaptation, and to address related migration challenges.

Recommendations

- Governments must urgently step up climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts and address the drivers of vulnerability and forced migration.
- The differentiated impacts of environmental and climate change, and the associated unequal vulnerabilities and migration outcomes, must be recognized, and more research should be done to better understand existing inequalities at the local level.
- Context-specific, people-centered, gender-sensitive, human security and human rights-based approaches must be prioritized to address the local needs and challenges that the most vulnerable communities face in the context of the migration, environment and climate change nexus.

¹⁹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty* (Geneva, WMO, 2018). Available at www.ipcc.ch/sr15.

²⁰ WMO, *State of the Global Climate 2020* (Geneva, WMO, 2021). Available at <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate>.

2. Recognizing the links between health and migration, the environment and climate change as part of the post-pandemic recovery

Overview

The year 2020 and the start of 2021 were marked by the global COVID-19 pandemic. As the world's countries continue to grapple with the long-term impacts of the health crisis and start to plan the recovery, discussions about the impact on migration and its links to climate action are central to the 2021 IDM, following up on the 2020 IDM discussion on the COVID-19 crisis and the role of human mobility.²¹ The participants focused on the role of the COVID-19 pandemic in exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, and on the particular challenges that migrants and displaced people faced in the context of the health crisis, with many stressing that post-pandemic recovery efforts offered a unique opportunity to build more resilient, sustainable and inclusive societies.

Discussion – Impacts of COVID-19 on migration and vulnerabilities

Many panellists, including Volkan Bozkir (President of the United Nations General Assembly), remarked that the COVID-19 pandemic had disproportionately affected migrants, particularly those in irregular situations, who had limited social support networks and safety nets in destination countries. Migrants and their families had been particularly affected by income and job loss, as many sectors of the economy relying on migrant workers, such as the food and hospitality sectors, had suffered from COVID-19-related lockdown measures. Many had been unable to return to their home countries because of border closures and travel restrictions, while others had been unable to access employment abroad. This had had a profound impact on individual human security and a significant economic impact in countries of origin, which had seen a decline in remittances. For many countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries, remittances from migrant workers were an important source of revenues, and the reduction of international financial flows resulting from the COVID-19 crisis was having a devastating effect on local communities and economies and on individual households.

Kristof Tamas (Sweden) further pointed out that migrants employed in front-line industries (e.g. health care, transportation, domestic help, waste management, the retail sector) or in the informal sector were particularly exposed to contracting the virus but did not always have access to adequate health care. A representative of the Holy See, speaking from the floor, added that many irregular migrants were reluctant to seek medical care for fear of deportation. In the words of Pope Francis, too often “migrants are not seen as entitled like others to participate in the life of society, and it is forgotten that they possess the same intrinsic dignity as any person”. Health care should be accessible and affordable to all, in particular to people in vulnerable situations, including migrants and displaced persons.

²¹ IOM, *COVID-19 crisis: Reimagining the role of migrants and human mobility for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*, International Dialogue on Migration Series, No. 30 (Geneva, 2021). Available at www.iom.int/covid-19-crisis-reimagining-role-migrants-and-human-mobility-achievement-sustainable-development.

A representative of the Philippines, also speaking from the floor, said that migrants also faced discrimination in accessing vaccines, and had suffered from stigmatization and xenophobic attacks. Women, children, irregular migrants and victims of trafficking had found themselves particularly at risk in that context, given their pre-existing vulnerability. Administrative delays and interruptions in the processing of visas, residence and work permits, and applications for asylum had exacerbated the precarity of many migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. People displaced by disasters and conflict had also faced specific hardships in the context of the pandemic, as movement restrictions hindered the delivery of aid and health risks mounted in overcrowded camps or informal settlements.²²

Participants speaking from the floor shared examples of measures undertaken at national level to assist and protect migrants during the pandemic. The Chinese response, for example, included the adoption of a policy to safeguard the well-being of migrants and the provision of online immigration support services to help repatriate migrants during the pandemic and to facilitate essential international travel through the expedited delivery of visas and other travel documentation. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had organized voluntary repatriations for its citizens abroad with the support of the United Nations and deployed mobile stations to provide health care and enable early detection of cases in remote areas. In Burundi, health emergency centres developed as part of the national disaster risk reduction capacity-building programme had been used to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In Portugal, the Government had granted residency rights to all irregular migrants and asylum seekers during the pandemic, enabling them to access social and health benefits, free diagnosis, treatment and vaccination regardless of their migration status. Yet, as stressed by many participants, deep inequalities in access to health care remained in many countries, and the unequal distribution of vaccines, particularly in the poorest countries, was of particular concern.

Linking health and migration to climate action

Around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated inequalities, vulnerabilities and precarity, and undermined development gains. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama pointed out that in countries dependent on tourism, such as Fiji, the closing of borders as part of COVID-19 containment measures had had particularly weighty economic consequences. Those consequences had in turn had negative effects on the capacity of individuals, communities and governments to cope with disasters and the effects of climate change. In most countries, political priorities had shifted towards dealing with the health crisis, and away from climate mitigation and adaptation.

And yet, climate change, health and migration were deeply interconnected phenomena.²³ As explained by Maria Neira González (WHO), climate change affected the three pillars of health, namely food, clean air and water security. Nature provided essential provisioning, protective

²² For an overview of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants, see L. Guadagno, *Migrants and the COVID-19 pandemic: An initial analysis*, Migration Research Series, No. 60 (Geneva, IOM, 2020). Available at <https://publications.iom.int/fr/node/2372>.

²³ See also IOM, Health and Migration, Environment and Climate Change, Environmental Migration portal. Available at <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/health-and-migration-environment-and-climate-change>.

and cultural services to people. Food and energy production and the availability of clean water depended on functioning and healthy ecosystems, which also acted as a protective barrier against hazards and disease. The mismanagement and destruction of ecosystems and biodiversity through deforestation, unsustainable resource use and industrial activities affected that balance and the ability of nature to provide those essential services. A recent joint report by WHO and China on the origins of COVID-19²⁴ had noted the links between human-driven environmental change and the spread of zoonotic diseases.²⁵ The *Lancet* Countdown on Health and Climate Change initiative,²⁶ presented by Ibrahim Abubakar (The Lancet), had identified outbreaks of infectious disease, drought, food insecurity and extreme events as the greatest areas of concern for human health arising from climate change. When food, water and physical security were undermined, people were likely to migrate in search of better conditions. For instance, in an example cited by Verena Knaus (UNICEF), food security was mentioned as the main reason for migrating by a majority of migrants from Guatemala, where malnutrition rates were particularly high among indigenous communities.

At the same time, population movements could help spread viruses and disease, or place additional pressure on health-care systems in destination areas, particularly in urban centres. It was therefore essential to strengthen public health systems and prepare them to withstand the mounting pressures of the effects of climate change and population increase as a result of migration and displacement. According to Maria Neira González, WHO had recently developed guidance for practitioners preparing health systems to deal with the pressures associated with climate change; she encouraged the participants to use and disseminate it.²⁷ The WHO Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework, which was referenced by Ibrahim Abubakar (The Lancet), was another example of guidance that could help governments and practitioners to deal with health consequences in the context of disasters specifically.²⁸ Both speakers stressed that, in parallel, efforts to tackle climate change could have significant benefits for health and for sustainable development,²⁹ although Ibrahim Abubakar noted that few countries had adopted national policies taking account of climate change, migration and health together.

Despite the economic and social difficulties associated with the ongoing global health crisis, the participants stressed that the pandemic should not distract governments from the urgent need to address climate change and related migration challenges. As noted by several speakers, including Anne-Marie Trevelyan (United Kingdom), post-pandemic recovery efforts

²⁴ WHO, *WHO-convened global study of origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part, Joint WHO-China Study, 14 January–10 February 2021, Joint Report* (Geneva, 2021). Available at www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-convened-global-study-of-origins-of-sars-cov-2-china-part.

²⁵ See also WHO and Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biodiversity and Infectious Diseases, Questions and Answers*. Available at www.who.int/docs/default-source/climate-change/qa-infectiousdiseases-who.pdf?sfvrsn=3a624917_3.

²⁶ See footnote 10.

²⁷ WHO, *WHO Guidance for Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities* (Geneva, 2020). Available at www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240012226.

²⁸ WHO, *Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework* (Geneva, 2019). Available at www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241516181.

²⁹ For more information on the health co-benefits of climate action, see WHO, *Health and climate change toolkit*, at www.who.int/activities/building-capacity-on-climate-change-human-health/toolkit/cobenefits (accessed 29 July 2021), and Andy Hayes, *Health co-benefits of climate action*, *The Lancet: Planetary Health* 1(1):E4–E-5 (1 April 2021), at [www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(17\)30003-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(17)30003-7/fulltext).

offered a major and unprecedented opportunity to build back better and promote a transition to a green economy and a more climate-resilient, healthier and inclusive society. Naser Nuredini said that North Macedonia, for example, had committed to a sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and would seek to ensure the inclusion of socially vulnerable groups, including migrants. Green jobs could afford employment opportunities for migrants and benefit from their extensive skills and knowledge. As many participants in Panel 2 pointed out, migrant workers had greatly contributed to pandemic responses by helping to ensure that essential sectors such as health care, food and services, and domestic help continued to function. As Volkan Bozkir (President of the United Nations General Assembly) recollected, the COVID-19 vaccine had been developed by scientists of migrant origin. Through their skills, knowledge and resources, migrants could make an important contribution to recovery efforts in countries of both destination and origin. As many participants stressed, it was therefore of utmost importance to address the barriers and challenges that migrants faced in order to ensure an inclusive recovery from COVID-19 and to prevent the effects of the pandemic from undermining progress towards the SDGs.³⁰

As pointed out by Elizabeth Ferris (Institute for the Study of International Migration), many parallels could be drawn between the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate change crisis, which were both global and pervasive in nature. A representative of Portugal, speaking from the floor, remarked that even though the responses to the health crisis tended to create barriers to human mobility, whereas climate change was triggering migration and displacement, some of the principles of the COVID-19 response might be relevant to action on climate change. For example, the response offered useful lessons in terms of the ability quickly to mobilize funding, science, and global and regional partnerships and cooperation in the face of a global risk – all were needed to address climate change. The importance of including the most vulnerable people and of careful, evidence-based planning were other key lessons of the pandemic that could inform global climate action. The representative of China, also speaking from the floor, recalled the important role that information-sharing and cooperation for the provision of medical assistance and supplies had played in the global COVID-19 response. As Elizabeth Ferris concluded, there was a need to invest more in preparedness efforts, rely on scientific evidence, raise public awareness and demonstrate political leadership in response to those challenges. It would be much less costly to act early and invest in preventive risk reduction measures than to deal with the effects of climate change and health crises in the future.

Recommendations

- The current focus on the global health crisis and post-pandemic recovery should not divert the international community from the urgent need to address the effects of climate change. On the contrary, recovery plans must support a transition to a more sustainable, green economy and a more resilient society.

³⁰ For recommendations and examples of concrete action to support safe, orderly and regular migration for sustainable development and better recovery from COVID-19, see IOM's submission to the High-level Political Forum 2021, Leveraging Migration to Recover Better from COVID-19 and Achieve the 2030 Agenda. Available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/273032021_IOM_Submission_to_the_HLPF.pdf.

- The co-benefits of effective climate, health and migration management policies and measures must be recognized, and multidimensional approaches addressing these interconnected challenges jointly must be promoted.
- As part of the COVID-19 recovery efforts, governments should prioritize efforts to improve environmental and biodiversity management practices, mitigate climate change, strengthen health systems, and protect and include the most vulnerable, including migrants, in order to reduce the risks of future health crises while also making societies more resilient and helping to address the drivers of forced migration and displacement. Specific guidance and tools to support such efforts are available and should be used.
- Commitments made in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration regarding safe, non-discriminatory access to health care for migrants must be implemented. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries and other stakeholders should partner to facilitate equal distribution of and access to vaccines, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, including migrants and displaced people.
- Further research is needed to generate evidence on the links between climate change, migration and health, taking into account the effects of policies and interventions.

3. Linking migration, the environment and climate change with the humanitarian, development and peace nexus

Overview

The root causes of poverty, conflict and displacement are closely intertwined, and disasters and the adverse effects of climate and environmental change help exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. These interconnected challenges must be addressed in an integrated manner to support global and national commitments towards sustainable development and peace.

Discussion – Understanding the needs

The sudden and slow-onset effects of climate change undermined many aspects of human security and negatively affected the enjoyment of human rights, especially when they resulted in the displacement of people. The impacts of climate change on livelihoods and economic security, resource availability, food and water security, and physical safety in the context of disasters were likely to exacerbate tensions and promote the factors of violence, conflict and displacement. As noted by Joost Klarenbeek (Netherlands), the African Union projected that climate change would cause armed conflict or political unrest in many countries in Africa. Associated with rapid urbanization, demographic growth and high unemployment rates, it could contribute to forced and irregular migration, further undermining human security and human rights. Grata Endah Werdaningtyas (Indonesia), noting that irregular migrants were particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, stressed the particular challenges of irregular migration by sea. As noted by UNODC in a written statement, climate change and disaster displacement exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and put individuals at greater risk of human trafficking and people smuggling, as shown by the rise in human trafficking incidents following sudden and slow-onset disasters.³¹

Josaia Vorege Bainimarama (Fiji) stressed that climate change threatened key human rights, such as access to food, water and a clean and healthy environment. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary (United Nations Special Rapporteur) noted that the particular challenges faced by internally displaced persons in the context of slow-onset effects of climate change were often overlooked, as attention tended to focus on sudden-onset disaster displacement. Her recent report to the General Assembly³² nevertheless showed that slow-onset events resulted in the loss of livelihoods and homes, affecting almost all human rights of the populations concerned. According to the report, the risks of human rights violations associated with such events increased with the duration, intensity and frequency of the effects of climate change, and varied significantly depending on the status and circumstances of the individuals affected, disproportionately impacting specific vulnerable groups, such as indigenous people, pastoralists, women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Faryde Carlier González (Colombia) said that, in many cases, climate change compounded existing economic and political pressures. It could prompt complex mixed migration flows,

³¹ For more information regarding data on human trafficking, see IOM, Human Trafficking, Migration Data portal. Available at <https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/human-trafficking#the-counter-trafficking-data-collaborative> (accessed 29 July 2021).

³² United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur (footnote 11).

which required a comprehensive response linking humanitarian and development measures, and new partnerships across sectors of intervention. In Colombia, as part of the Inter-Agency Mixed Migration Flows Group established by IOM and UNHCR in 2016,³³ over 70 intergovernmental agencies and international and local NGOs were working together to support government efforts to manage migration flows, providing key services and humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants, and supporting their economic, social and political integration.

Promoting integrated, evidence-based solutions

As humanitarian and development concerns became increasingly interconnected, they required integrated solutions that supported long-term peace, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Several participants noted that strengthening the humanitarian, development and peace nexus was key to ensuring that humanitarian and development efforts and resources were better coordinated, able adequately to address immediate humanitarian challenges while strengthening the long-term resilience and adaptation of vulnerable communities. Partnerships between humanitarian and development agents and across sectors of society were essential to address the complex challenges of climate change and its impacts on migration and displacement more effectively.

As was obvious from the statements made during the session, many countries and organizations were already promoting such partnerships and integrated approaches. For example, Andreas Papaconstantinou (DG ECHO) said that the European Union was promoting the incorporation of climate change and environmental concerns and migration considerations into its humanitarian operations. Kristof Tamas said that Sweden was promoting stronger cooperation between disaster preparedness efforts and development aid. A delegate from Japan, speaking from the floor, said that the country was supporting integrated programmes for preparedness, risk reduction and community resilience in several countries, including Afghanistan and Somalia, so as to boost the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. Ignacio Packer (ICVA) said that the ICVA 2021 annual conference had recognized the importance of coordinated and integrated approaches to disaster preparedness, community resilience and livelihood support in the context of climate change, for example in the Sahel. He also noted that many humanitarian agents were already engaged in long-term development action, such as ensuring access to clean water and strengthening livelihoods. Several participants also referred to IOM's long-standing efforts to promote the humanitarian, development and peace nexus,³⁴ and to address the root causes of vulnerability in conflict and disasters through effective partnerships with other United Nations agencies, such as UNHCR, and with civil society. As noted by the IOM Director General, IOM had identified the links between conflict and migration, the environment and climate change as a key priority area.

Yet, as Ignacio Packer (ICVA) pointed out, there were still many challenges to overcome, as development and humanitarian agents continued to work in silos and did not sufficiently integrate climate change considerations. Andrew Harper (UNHCR) added that governments

³³ See Grupo Interagencial sobre Flujos Migratorios Mixtos, at www.r4v.info/en/node/383.

³⁴ See IOM, IOM and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN), at www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-DhxiNI40s.

and international stakeholders were not investing sufficiently in adaptation and prevention. Climate change, urbanization and massive population growth were megatrends that would continue to build pressure on existing political, social and economic systems, and the international community should prepare and strengthen its capacities to respond to them.

To support effective policies and action, a greater effort should be made to strengthen the knowledge base on root causes and on effective practices for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and resilience-building. This meant strengthening data-collection capacities to better understand and map risks and vulnerabilities at the local level. Verena Knaus (UNICEF) provided several examples of innovative data-collection tools at the local level: Indonesia, for example, had developed a disaster risk index map to help identify schools located in disaster-prone areas; in Pakistan, satellite imagery was being used to forecast extreme weather events and associated displacement risks. Anicet Nibaruta explained that, in Burundi, a tool for local displacement risk mapping had been set up with the support of IOM and would be deployed across the country.³⁵ Speaking from the floor, Lanto Rahajarizafy said that, in Madagascar, a new observatory on internal migration set up in 2020 with the support of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, IOM and the National Centre for Environmental Research would help to strengthen evidence and data on internal migration in the country. Lena Brenn (IGAD) added that in East Africa, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre³⁶ was providing climate services to governments in the region, including early warning systems and integrated data collection linking climate change with displacement and migration data. Lastly, a representative of the Philippine Climate Change Commission, speaking from the floor, said that it was also important to strengthen risk management knowledge and competencies among key players on the ground, and to build their understanding of risk management approach concepts and their practical application in a changing environment.

As many participants emphasized, early action, prevention and preparedness were crucial if countries and communities were to become more resilient and less prone to disasters, the effects of climate change and conflict. It was thus important to strengthen national institutions and local capacities, and to promote risk awareness in the population through community-level multi-hazard preparedness and education programmes. Verena Knaus (UNICEF), for example, noted the importance of ensuring that early warning systems were accessible to children and other vulnerable populations. The strengthening of early warning systems and other disaster risk reduction tools was highlighted as a key priority by a number of speakers representing donor countries and organizations, including the United Kingdom, the United Nations and the European Commission, and examples of effective practices in that area were shared by many countries and experts throughout the IDM. For instance, Andreas Papaconstantinou (DG ECHO) said that the European Commission supported the provision of early warning services at country and community level in Europe and globally through its Copernicus Emergency Management Service.³⁷ In Mexico, according to Cristopher Ballinas Valdés, the Government prioritized efforts to address the root causes of displacement and vulnerability in the context of disasters and climate change, conflict and violence, at the same

³⁵ See TUBEHONEZA: Strengthening Resilience to Natural Disaster Risks in Burundi, 2020–2022. Available at www.iom.int/sites/default/files/latest_pdf_files_eu_drr_infosheet_-_en_-_july_2020.pdf.

³⁶ For more information on the Centre, see www.icpac.net/.

³⁷ For more information on the Service, see <https://emergency.copernicus.eu/>.

time as it assisted people forced to move as a result of those phenomena. In Indonesia, according to Grata Endah Werdaningtyas, the Government had invested in strengthening disaster risk management institutions at the national and subnational (provincial and district) levels and was working to improve institutional coordination and resource allocation across the country, in order to ensure swift responses even in the most remote areas. In Burundi, as indicated by Anicet Nibaruta, the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction³⁸ had been set up to coordinate preparedness and responses to emergencies across the country and to optimize resource use. As part of Burundi's national capacity-building programme for disaster risk reduction, priority was being given to local institutional strengthening, data collection, multi-hazard early warning systems, contingency planning, emergency communication, and innovative and inclusive partnerships involving different sectors of society, including religious practitioners and the private sector. The programme also aimed to build a culture of risk awareness through school and university curricula and through public communication campaigns supported by a national disaster risk reduction communication and training network. In Bangladesh, local organizations were taking integrated action to make local communities exposed to disasters and to slow-onset effects of climate change more resilient. For example, Friendship NGO, the work of which was presented by Runa Khan, provided support for the construction of demountable schools and the deployment of floating hospitals to ensure access to education and to health care in the most remote and exposed communities. It also trained microsocial entrepreneurs, technicians, farmers and fishermen, doctors and teachers, to help them access key services and legal support so that they were able to continue delivering their services even in displacement situations.³⁹

The participants emphasized that, in addition to preparedness and prevention, crisis response must also entail protection of the most vulnerable populations through human rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches that took account of the specific vulnerabilities and needs of migrants, displaced persons, women, young people and children, indigenous people, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups. María Florencia Carignano (Argentina), for example, said that human rights were central to her country's approach to the protection of migrants fleeing disasters, and foreign citizens benefiting from temporary humanitarian protection in Argentina were granted the same access to rights and services as citizens. Cristopher Ballinas Valdés said that Mexico's efforts to address the root causes of displacement and assist affected populations were also anchored in human rights frameworks. In other parts of the world, governments and international organizations collaborated at the regional level to identify and protect victims of trafficking and to ensure respect for the rights of migrants in crises: the EUROFRONT programme,⁴⁰ presented by Chiara Maria Paolucci (IILA), speaking from the floor, promoted respect for human rights during border controls and emphasized early warnings and action to detect migratory crises and protect the rights of migrants in Latin America. Grata Endah Werdaningtyas (Indonesia) added that the Bali Process⁴¹ had been supporting cooperation between countries in Asia and

³⁸ See Government of Burundi, *Stratégie nationale de réduction des risques de catastrophes 2018–2025 et Plan d'action 2018–2021*, in particular p. 21.

³⁹ For more information on Friendship NGO, see <https://friendship.ngo/>.

⁴⁰ A regional programme funded by the European Union and implemented by IOM, the IILA and the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (see <https://iila.org/it/cooperazione/eurofront/>).

⁴¹ For more information on the Bali Process, see www.baliprocess.net/.

the Pacific since 2002, to address and prevent transnational crimes and human trafficking through effective communication, early warning and detection of movements, and coordination of search and rescue operations.

Two speakers (Grata Endah Werdaningtyas (Indonesia) and a representative of the Philippines speaking from the floor) stressed the importance of ratifying and applying key international legal instruments such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Other key human rights instruments should also be implemented and translated into effective national and local policies and measures. As Cecilia Jimenez-Damary (United Nations Special Rapporteur) emphasized, the States bore primary responsibility for preventing and reducing the risks associated with climate change, addressing internal displacement and protecting human rights, and should adopt policies and measures to that end. In its written contribution, UNODC said that awareness-raising campaigns were also key to reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience, in that they informed migrants and other vulnerable populations of their rights and of safe migration pathways, and made them aware of the risks associated with irregular migration, such as trafficking and smuggling.⁴² In the words of Volkan Bozkir (President of the United Nations General Assembly), the international community had a responsibility to leave no one behind, and this, in turn, “requires deliberate efforts to look after those who too often fall through the cracks, and who too often do not have the support of social safety nets”.

The humanitarian and development challenges arising in the context of climate change, migration and conflict were substantial and likely to continue gathering strength. However, through collective integrated climate, development and humanitarian action and through innovative partnerships across complementary areas of expertise, the international community could help build a more resilient, sustainable and peaceful future. As noted by Ignacio Packer (ICVA), climate action was beneficial to peace and must be central to humanitarian and development efforts.

Recommendations

- The root causes of poverty, conflict and displacement are closely intertwined and must be addressed in an integrated manner to support global and national commitments to sustainable development and peace.
- The humanitarian, development and peace nexus must be strengthened and operationalized to address complex crises at the intersection of climate change, disasters, conflict, poverty and displacement. It is important to promote cross-sectoral partnerships and address silos through better coordination between different stakeholders and across the levels of decision-making.
- International human rights instruments must be ratified and applied to support protection of the rights of the most vulnerable populations, particularly in migration crises, where migrants are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and people smuggling.

⁴² UNODC, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling. Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html.

- Funding gaps and silos must be addressed to help mobilize the necessary resources for disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, early warning systems and long-term development programmes. For example, humanitarian programming and funding could better prioritize disaster preparedness and climate resilience.

4. Harnessing migration for a sustainable future

Overview

Despite the numerous challenges that the migration, environment and climate change nexus presents, it is also important to recognize and consider the opportunities associated with migration and its potential positive outcomes. As noted by many participants, migration is key to sustainable development.⁴³

Discussion – Migration as an opportunity

One of the objectives of the IDM was to showcase positive solutions, including the contributions of migration and migrants to climate change adaptation. Many participants emphasized the need to promote a positive narrative of migration. Grata Endah Werdaningtyas (Indonesia) noted that migration had always been part of human history and that many countries and civilizations had been created and driven by migration. Balgis Osman-Elasha (African Development Bank) and other participants spoke of migrants' contributions to local economies in both countries of destination and origin, of the support they provided to their communities, and of the support networks they created in crisis situations and the resources they mobilized in disasters and conflict situations. As Volkan Bozkir (President of the United Nations General Assembly) stated, migrants contributed to vital sectors of the economy in destination countries, such as food and supply services, health care and other sectors supporting day-to-day life. Mizan Khan (ICCCAD), speaking from the floor, suggested that temporary migration of qualified youth from developing countries to countries with demographic deficits and labour shortages could help boost the economy in destination countries, while also supporting countries of origin through remittances.

The knowledge, capacities and financial support of migrants and members of the diaspora could be central to climate change adaptation and sustainable development efforts globally and locally. As noted by John Bingham (NGO Committee on Migration), speaking from the floor, migrants made substantial contributions to their countries of origin through remittances, which were an essential source of income for local communities, helped improve living standards, and supported community survival, resilience, adaptation and reconstruction in the wake of disasters. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many migrant doctors had returned to their countries to participate in the local response. Migrant and diaspora associations around the world had played an important role in supporting climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction projects in their countries of origin. A majority of remittances sent by migrants went to developing countries, many of which were affected by climate change and environmental degradation (e.g. Haiti, the Philippines and many countries in Central America). Moreover, successful social entrepreneurs such as Belal Altiné (Sow Ranch, Senegal) were proof of migrants' capacity to bring positive change and contribute to resilience and sustainable development in their communities of origin. In destination countries, migrants contributed their knowledge, talents, motivation, energy and skills. They facilitated the functioning of key services and industries, and contributed to

⁴³ See IOM, Migration and Sustainable Development, at www.iom.int/migration-sustainable-development-and-2030-agenda.

cultural diversity. Their role during the COVID-19 pandemic had been key in the food and retail sectors, in care homes and hospitals. Domestically, internal migrants also added to diversity and supported local development. For example, Lanto Rahajarizafy (Madagascar) said that migration from dry areas in the south of the country to more humid zones in the centre and north had contributed to local agricultural development.

In the words of Amadou Diaw (Senegal), migrants had knowledge and they had needs. It was important to create opportunities for them to participate in decision-making and share their knowledge, and to provide them with a platform where their voices could be heard and their needs addressed. As stressed by Runa Khan (Friendship NGO), “Good health, education, skill training, access to finance, understanding of legal processes and knowledge of where to go to get support are key to migrants’ ability for restarting their lives.”

Examples were given throughout the session of effective policies and practices aimed at supporting migrants and promoting their social, economic and political integration. In Senegal, for instance, according to Amadou Diaw, returning migrants received support from the government and migrant associations to facilitate their economic integration and to encourage migrant-led microenterprises. In Uruguay, according to a country representative speaking from the floor, migration policies and regulations sought to ensure access to health and education for migrants arriving in the country. In Colombia, according to Faryde Carlier González, migration was seen as an opportunity for economic development, and the economic and financial inclusion of migrants, including through the promotion of entrepreneurship, was one of the areas identified for local institutional capacity-building. According to Grata Endah Werdaningtyas, the Government of Indonesia had developed a national action plan to improve coordinated migration governance and support implementation of the Global Compact on Migration through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. According to other participants, municipal governments and local entities had also been supporting the social and economic integration of migrants through job creation programmes, including in the green sector, for example in Sierra Leone or the Caspian Sea basin.

Migration was a key coping strategy for households looking to diversify their incomes or to move away from areas at risk on a temporary or permanent basis and thus reduce the likelihood of displacement. However, if not well managed, it could exacerbate vulnerabilities and undermine human security and human rights. In addition, people in vulnerable situations often lacked the resources needed to migrate as a coping strategy and could become “trapped” in high-risk areas. It was therefore important for governments to support regular migration pathways, while ensuring that people moved by choice rather than out of desperation, and to protect people who were on the move. Examples of effective measures that governments could adopt to promote safe migration and reduce vulnerability in the context of climate change included labour migration schemes, as in the Pacific region;⁴⁴ freedom of movement protocols, as in East Africa and West Africa;⁴⁵ or programmes enabling

⁴⁴ See, for example, the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme and its Seasonal Worker Programme, at <https://pacificlabourmobility.com.au/>.

⁴⁵ See T. Wood, *The Role of Free Movement of Persons Agreements in Addressing Disaster Displacement – A Study of Africa* (Geneva, Platform on Disaster Displacement, 2018). Available at <https://disasterdisplacement.org/portfolio-item/free-movement-of-persons-africa>.

young migrants to access education and decent employment opportunities. In the words of Runa Khan (Friendship NGO), “Safety in migration needs to be ensured so that people for whom [migration] is happening do not see it as a failure, a fear or a tragedy, but as a tool to restart their life.” In that regard, the efforts of Global Compact Champion countries,⁴⁶ such as Bangladesh, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Morocco and the Philippines, whose representatives made strong calls at the IDM for implementation of the Global Compact, constituted an inspiring model in terms of commitment to effective migration governance.

Recommendations

- Governments and other stakeholders must promote a positive narrative of migration and migrants, and of their contributions to sustainable development and climate action, for example through communication campaigns and education, and by promoting the voices of migrants.
- Governments must promote safe, orderly and regular migration pathways to support climate change adaptation and sustainable development. In particular, they should ensure respect for the rights of migrant workers, and implement proactive measures supporting their inclusion and contribution to the economy in countries of destination and origin. The implementation and application of key international instruments, such as the Global Compact on Migration and the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, must be ensured.
- Public–private partnerships should be encouraged to support the creation of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for migrants in the green sectors of the economy.

⁴⁶ For more information on the Champion countries Initiative for implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, see <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/champion-countries-initiative>.

5. Mobilizing global collective action, cooperation, innovation and finance

Overview

Climate change is a global crisis that knows no borders. To address the challenges that it presents and to manage the migration dynamics associated with it, governments cannot act in isolation. Effective responses can only be achieved through global, collective action based on cooperation and solidarity, and through innovative partnerships.

Discussion – Promoting cooperation and innovation

In a highly interconnected world, the repercussions of climate change are felt across all sectors of society and the economy. As pointed out by Elizabeth Ferris (Institute for the Study of International Migration), global crises such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic affected every individual, and actions in one country could have consequences across the globe. In parallel, international migration had implications not only for countries of origin and destination, but also for countries of transit, as several participants pointed out. Such global issues, on which the attainment of the SDGs depended, could not be dealt with by countries individually. In the words of the IOM Director General, “More than ever, multilateralism is needed to address the changing nature of our world.”

Addressing the complex challenges associated with the migration, environment and climate change nexus and its links to health, conflict and development required multilateral efforts and cooperation for the implementation of global frameworks. As many participants noted, combating climate change was a matter of shared responsibility. It must also be acknowledged, however, that climate change did not affect every country in the same way, and that national capabilities to address it varied. International cooperation was therefore essential if the most vulnerable countries and communities were to be provided with the financial, technical and capacity-building assistance they needed. The management of international migration flows also required cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination, as noted *inter alia* by the representatives of Morocco and Spain.

Holistic, multi-pronged approaches were required to address the complex underlying vulnerabilities and root causes of migration, conflict and poverty in the context of environmental and climate change. Such approaches should build on partnerships across different areas of expertise, levels of governance and sectors of society. During the session, the participants shared several examples of innovative partnerships and initiatives involving governments, humanitarian and development agents, the private sector, migrants, women and young people. For example, Nasser Bourita (Morocco) said that, in Africa, several intergovernmental initiatives proposed innovative solutions to address the root causes of migration in the context of climate change and natural resource degradation. They included the Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S) Initiative⁴⁷ and the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture⁴⁸ launched by Morocco in partnership with other countries in the region. Amadou Diaw (Senegal) said that his Government was working with civil society

⁴⁷ For more information on the Initiative, see <https://3s-initiative.org/en/home/>.

⁴⁸ For more information on the Initiative, see www.aainitiative.org/en/initiative.

organizations, migrant associations and international partners to support returning migrants and involve them in climate change adaptation projects combating salinization and land degradation. Katja Schaefer (UN-Habitat) said that United Nations organizations were working in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Azerbaijan with local communities and internal migrants to promote nature-based solutions for sustainable water management, the circular economy in cities and local job creation.⁴⁹ Cristopher Ballinas Valdés (Mexico) said that civil society organizations had played an important role in supporting the Government's efforts to provide shelter and assistance to people displaced across the Mexican border following tropical storm Eta and hurricane Iota in 2020.

In the area of mitigation, private sector companies were helping humanitarian practitioners transition to clean, renewable energy solutions. For example, the Norwegian company Scatec, which was presented by Enja Saethren and which produced renewable power and developed solar, wind and hydropower plants and storage solutions, was supporting numerous projects with humanitarian organizations in developing countries.⁵⁰ In South Sudan, thanks to support from the United Kingdom Department for International Development, Scatec had partnered with IOM in 2020 to install a hybrid solar power plant in the Malakal Humanitarian Hub, which hosted over 34 humanitarian organizations working in the area.⁵¹

In terms of international migration management, Grata Endah Werdaningtyas (Indonesia) said that regional initiatives such as the Bali Process brought countries of origin, transit and destination together with intergovernmental agencies to address migration crises. A regional task force set up under the Bali Process ensured effective communication between countries, early warning and detection of migration flows, and search and rescue cooperation around shared maritime borders. At the local level, UNICEF had partnered with Microsoft to support mobile learning and vocational training (the Learning Passport) for children and young people on the move.⁵²

Finally, donor countries and organizations also had an important role to play in supporting adaptation and disaster risk reduction in developing countries. Many had already made climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, gender mainstreaming and support for implementation of the Global Compact on Migration a priority, as indicated by representatives of Canada, Japan, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Commission speaking as panellists and from the floor. For example, Anne-Marie Trevelyan said that the United Kingdom had allocated funding for Global Compact implementation and was providing support to climate-vulnerable countries through its contributions to the Green Climate Fund. Japan's assistance for developing countries took the form of funding for adaptation and mitigation programmes, including through the Green Climate Fund. Canada supported climate change mitigation and adaptation measures as part

⁴⁹ See Adaptation Fund, Urbanization and Climate Change Adaptation in the Caspian Sea Region, at <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/project/azerbaijan-and-iran-urbanisation-and-climate-change-adaptation-in-the-caspian-sea-region/>.

⁵⁰ For more information on Scatec, see <https://scatec.com>.

⁵¹ See IOM, The Humanitarian Hub in Malakal, South Sudan Goes Green, 5 June 2020. Available at www.iom.int/news/humanitarian-hub-malakal-south-sudan-goes-green.

⁵² For more information on the Learning Passport, see <https://news.microsoft.com/2020/04/19/unicef-and-microsoft-launch-global-learning-platform-to-help-address-covid-19-education-crisis/>.

of its Feminist International Assistance Policy and was committed to assisting people displaced in the context of climate change as part of its humanitarian and development assistance. Sweden promoted integrated humanitarian and development approaches as part of its international cooperation priorities. A representative of Ecuador, speaking from the floor, added that international financial institutions also had a major role to play in promoting investment in action on migration challenges in the context of climate change and providing technical expert advice on innovative financial mechanisms.

In the words of A.K. Abdul Momen (Bangladesh), “Climate change and related disasters are a development and economics issue, and must be addressed in the context of international development cooperation.” Innovative, collaborative and multi-pronged approaches such as those presented during the IDM would be key to meeting complex global challenges, targeting the root causes of vulnerability and simultaneously addressing climate change, migration, conflict and poverty concerns through comprehensive human security-based approaches.

The participants identified several priority areas for global action, cooperation and innovation:

- Climate change mitigation, for example by introducing clean energy and transitioning to a green economy and more sustainable production and consumption models;
- Disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and vulnerability reduction, including by building stronger institutions and infrastructure, public health systems and nature-based solutions, and by involving communities, including migrants;
- Poverty and inequality reduction and local development, including through well-managed migration-based solutions;
- Protection of the most vulnerable populations, including migrants and displaced people, women, children, indigenous groups, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups;
- Support for building the resilience of vulnerable communities and individuals by empowering them and including them in decision-making and action, and by promoting safe, orderly and regular migration pathways.

As the representative of the Holy See said, quoting Pope Francis, “There exists an ecological debt that we owe to nature, as well as to peoples affected by human-induced ecological degradation and loss of biodiversity. These issues are not simply political or economic; they are questions of justice, a justice that can no longer be ignored or deferred. Indeed, they entail a moral obligation towards future generations, for the seriousness with which we respond to them will shape the world we leave to our children.” Collective action to address these complex challenges was needed without further delay.

Recommendations

- Governments and other stakeholders must commit to global, collective and transformational action and cooperation to address the migration, environment and climate change nexus and its links to health, conflict and sustainable development.
- The international community must step up mitigation efforts through green investments, transition to a green economy, clean energy and significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including within the humanitarian and development sectors and with the support of the private sector. Good practices must be showcased, and their dissemination and replication must be supported.
- Effective responses to the challenges at hand require multi-pronged, holistic and innovative approaches that address the complex interlinkages between migration, the environment, climate change, conflict and poverty, and their root causes, and that promote adaptation, risk reduction, peace and sustainable development in an integrated manner. Such approaches must build on innovative partnerships across all sectors of society.
- Cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination in managing complex migration dynamics in the context of climate change must be strengthened, for example through regional partnerships and initiatives.
- Funding gaps must be addressed to support global climate action, disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, including by leveraging the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Joint SDG Fund.

6. Prioritizing regional, national and local action

Overview

Regional, national and local stakeholders are key to translating global commitments into action on the ground and supporting the implementation of concrete measures related to poverty reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and migration management.

Discussion – Opportunities and challenges

As evidenced by the examples shared by the session's participants, regional partnerships and dialogue were a key step towards implementation of global frameworks and the development of regional instruments more adapted to the regional context. Examples of regional approaches included efforts to promote cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination on regional migration dynamics, for example through regional consultative processes on migration in West and North Africa, Eastern Africa, Central and South America, and Asia.⁵³ In some regions, countries had actively cooperated in the areas of disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response.⁵⁴ Others had engaged in dialogue and cooperation on mobility challenges in the context of disasters and climate change. For example, a new regional programme funded by the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund⁵⁵ in East Africa, presented by Lena Brenn (IGAD), sought to address the climate drivers of migration and to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration in the context of climate change among IGAD member countries. Other activities under the programme would include regional and bilateral disaster displacement simulation exercises, to help countries in the region prepare for potential cross-border displacements and develop standard operating procedures for disaster situations.⁵⁶

María Florencia Carignano (Argentina) shared another example, from the South American region: a new regional network dedicated to migration, the environment and climate change sought to strengthen regional coordination, data collection and communication on those issues.⁵⁷ Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama (Fiji) shared an example from the Pacific region, where governments had adopted the regional Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific,⁵⁸ which promoted integrated approaches to climate change and disaster risk management and to disaster displacement. Andreas Papaconstantinou (DG ECHO) said that climate change was

⁵³ See IOM, Regional Consultative Processes on Migration, at www.iom.int/regional-consultative-processes-migration.

⁵⁴ For example, member States of the Caribbean Community have set up a regional intergovernmental agency for disaster management, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (see <https://www.cdema.org/>).

⁵⁵ See Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, at <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/mptf>.

⁵⁶ See IGAD, Joint Programme, Addressing drivers and facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration in the contexts of disasters and climate change in the IGAD region. Available at https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/default/files/resources_files/regional_igad_1.pdf.

⁵⁷ See South American Conference on Migration, Migración, Medio Ambiente, Desastres y Cambio Climático, at <https://csmigraciones.org/es/grupo/migracion-medio-ambiente-desastres-y-cambio-climatico>.

⁵⁸ See Pacific Islands Forum, The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, at www.forumsec.org/the-framework-for-resilient-development-in-the-pacific/.

also a priority for the European Union, both within Member States and as part of its external action, as evidenced by the recently adopted European Union Green Deal⁵⁹ and the Union's efforts to mainstream climate change and disasters into humanitarian aid. Naser Nuredini (North Macedonia) added that, at the subregional level, the European Union promoted climate action, the circular economy and biodiversity protection in the Western Balkans through its Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.⁶⁰ In Central America, the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south and south-east Mexico, which had been adopted with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, aimed to enhance understanding of and address the root causes of migration, while promoting sustainable development and fostering resilience to climate change.⁶¹

Closer to the ground, national and local agents played a particularly important part in policy development and implementation, addressing local climate change-, migration- and development-related challenges, needs and vulnerabilities. Around the world, examples of national efforts aimed at strengthening the evidence base, designing solutions for migrants and temporary protection mechanisms, and mobilizing partnerships to address the migration, environment and climate change nexus were multiplying, offering an opportunity for replication and experience-sharing. The participants provided numerous examples of effective national practices. Anicet Nibaruta, for example, said that Burundi had strengthened national institutions and frameworks for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience. Burundi's capacity-building programme for disaster risk reduction included a comprehensive national strategy that incorporated gender considerations and was aligned with both the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the National Development Plan for 2018–2027. In Fiji, the Government had adopted national Planned Relocation Guidelines in 2018, to guide governmental and other stakeholders in the design and implementation of planned relocation solutions for communities affected by disasters and the slow-onset effects of climate change.⁶² In Mexico, according to Cristopher Ballinas Valdés, the Government was supporting data collection to better understand migration flows and the impacts of disasters and climate change on human mobility. A national survey had been conducted to identify the multiple factors of migration from neighbouring countries, including violence, disasters and climate change, in order to inform relevant policies and measures to protect migrants. Mexico had also provided shelter and assistance for citizens of neighbouring countries affected by recent storms and hurricanes, focusing on assisting the most vulnerable populations, including women, children and the elderly. In Colombia, according to Faryde

⁵⁹ See European Commission, A European Green Deal, at https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en.

⁶⁰ See European Commission, Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (SWD(2020) 223 final of 6 October 2020). Available at https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/green_agenda_for_the_western_balkans_en.pdf.

⁶¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Hacia un nuevo estilo de desarrollo. Plan de Desarrollo Integral El Salvador-Guatemala-Honduras-México. Diagnóstico, áreas de oportunidad y recomendaciones de la CEPAL* (Mexico City, 2019). Available at www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/462720/34.Hacia_un_nuevo_estilo_de_desarrollo___Plan_de_De_sarrollo_Integral_El.pdf.

⁶² Government of Fiji, *Planned Relocation Guidelines – A Framework to Undertake Climate Change Related Relocation* (Suva, 2018). Available at www.refworld.org/docid/5c3c92204.html.

Carlier González, efforts were being made to strengthen the capacity of local governments to support the social and economic inclusion of migrants. In parallel, the Government had adopted a national strategy for adaptation that would extend climate action to the entire territory of the country, prioritizing community-level solutions. Frank Tressler Zamorano said that Chile had recently adopted legislation on humanitarian visas for disaster-displaced foreigners. Ecuador was working on similar provisions for temporary humanitarian visas, according to a representative who spoke from the floor. In Argentina, according to María Florencia Carignano, national migration legislation had for the past decade provided a framework for supplementary protection of migrants in the context of disasters, with several provisions issued by the National Directorate for Migration addressing the entry and stay of foreigners from countries affected by disasters.⁶³ Those provisions had been applied, for example, following the 2010 earthquake in Chile and to assist Haitians affected by the 2010 earthquake and the 2016 hurricane, who had been granted temporary residence in Argentina for two years. Yasmine Fouad said that Egypt was developing interactive mapping to support more climate-resilient urban planning. The mapping served to assess the impact of climate change on specific locations and communities before the development of new urban infrastructure, and to define a strategy for adequate service provision to the population. Sino Tokhirzoda (Tajikistan) spoke about the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change for the period up to 2030,⁶⁴ which the Government had adopted in 2019. The Strategy, which would guide the development and implementation of policies and measures in Tajikistan to support climate change adaptation and to strengthen key vulnerable sectors such as energy, water, transportation and agriculture, identified migration as a cross-cutting issue and mainstreamed gender considerations. Ecuador, for its part, had committed to implementing measures protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and integrating gender concerns as part of its National Climate Change Strategy⁶⁵ and its Nationally Determined Contribution. It had also adopted several policies to that end, including the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, the National Strategy for Climate Financing⁶⁶ and the Decarbonization by 2050 Plan.

Finally, local players in both rural and urban areas were at the forefront of climate change mitigation/adaptation and poverty reduction efforts. Local governments and stakeholders played a direct role in addressing local needs, engaging with communities and resolving structural challenges related to living standards, housing, access to water, sanitation, medical care, employment opportunities and education. At the same time, they directly experienced the impact of climate change, environmental degradation, demographic change and migration, and had to develop capacity to quickly adapt and respond to those challenges. As noted by Katja Schaefer (UN-Habitat), cities provided opportunities for local sustainable development, but they also faced multiple challenges – unemployment, informal urban growth, and availability and access to services – simultaneously. Yvonne Aki-Sawyer (Sierra

⁶³ Migration Law of Argentina No. 25.871 and Regulations No. 20399/05 and No. 1143/2017.

⁶⁴ See United Nations Environment Programme, National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030, at <https://leap.unep.org/countries/tj/national-legislation/national-strategy-adaptation-climate-change-republic-tajikistan>.

⁶⁵ See Ministry of the Environment, *Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático del Ecuador 2012–2025* (Quito, 2012). Available at www.ambiente.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2017/10/ESTRATEGIA-NACIONAL-DE-CAMBIO-CLIMATICO-DEL-ECUADOR.pdf.

⁶⁶ Ministry of the Environment, Ecuador realizó exitosamente el lanzamiento oficial de su Estrategia Nacional de Financiamiento Climático (EFIC) (23 February 2021). Available at www.ambiente.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2021/02/BoletinPrensa_Efic.pdf.

Leone) also shared examples of challenges associated with population growth and urbanization in the context of climate change and disaster risks. The city of Freetown had experienced rapid population growth after the civil war and as a result of climate change, driving migration from rural areas and leading to the development of informal settlements. In its efforts to ease the growing pressure on key services, housing, water and sanitation, and employment opportunities, it had implemented inclusive policies and programmes to upgrade living standards and provide jobs to migrants in the green sector. The Waste Management Micro-Entreprise Programme, which was also mentioned by Verena Knaus (UNICEF), had provided jobs for migrant youth and strengthened waste collection services in informal settlements in Freetown.⁶⁷ In Bangladesh, according to Mizan Khan (ICCCAD), the concept of climate-resilient and migrant-friendly secondary cities had been developed in response to increasing rural–urban migration associated with climate change.⁶⁸ Frank Tressler Zamorano said that Chile had focused its efforts on mitigation and achieving carbon neutrality, taking measures to protect urban wetlands and promote electric public transport in cities.

Rural inhabitants also faced specific challenges in many countries, owing to the high dependency of rural populations on natural resources. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, according to one country representative speaking from the floor, the Government was taking measures to support rural populations severely affected by climate change, including through education. Among examples of projects in rural areas, a representative of FAO spoke about the Organization’s work to strengthen the resilience of rural livelihoods to climate change and enhance natural resource management to reduce the risk of forced migration, for example in Nepal and Uganda.⁶⁹

In their efforts to accelerate action on migration, the environment and climate change, regional, national and local agents faced major obstacles, including limited access to dedicated funding and limited technologies and expertise. Fund mobilization was cited as a particularly significant challenge at both national and local level by several participants. For example, in Burundi, according to Anicet Nibaruta, a national fund for disaster risk reduction set up in 2020 had secured no funding and community resilience projects were currently being funded through partnerships with intergovernmental agencies and NGOs. Several other countries had launched national funds: Josia Voreqe Bainimarama spoke about the fund set up in Fiji to address disaster displacement, and A.K. Abdul Momen about the trust fund for climate change action set up in Bangladesh. As Ignacio Packer (ICVA) pointed out, the International Institute for Environment and Development had found that adaptation funds for local players currently represented less than 10 per cent of global climate funding.⁷⁰

⁶⁷ For more information, see www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/gcf-res/freetown-sierra-leone and <https://rodakar.iom.int/news/sustainable-waste-management-freetown-new-opportunity-youth-and-city-0>.

⁶⁸ Sarder Shafiqul Alam et al., *Building Climate-Resilient, Migrant-Friendly Cities and Towns*, Policy Brief (ICCCAD, Dhaka, 2018). Available at www.icccad.net/publications/policy-briefs/building-climate-resilient-migrant-friendly-cities-and-towns/.

⁶⁹ See FAO, *Migration, Agriculture and Climate Change: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Enhancing Resilience* (Rome, 2017). Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/i8297en/i8297EN.pdf>.

⁷⁰ International Institute for Environment and Development, *Climate finance not reaching the local level*. Available at www.iied.org/climate-finance-not-reaching-local-level.

As many participants noted throughout the session, more resources must be directed to local action, in the form of dedicated funding and technical support, but also in the form of support for data collection, to enhance understanding of local trends, challenges and risks and to design tailored solutions. For Ignacio Packer (ICVA), the endorsement of the Global Commission for Adaptation's Principles for Locally Led Adaptation by 40 governments, global institutions and local and international NGOs at the 2021 Climate Adaptation Summit, and their welcome by the G7, constituted an encouraging sign of greater commitment by the international community to engage in locally led, inclusive and context-relevant adaptation action.⁷¹

Recommendations

- Local, national and regional action should be prioritized, and local and national capacity to implement existing policies and tools should be strengthened through global and regional cooperation and solidarity-based approaches.
- Efforts must be directed towards building evidence and capacities at the local level to support informed, context-specific and needs-based action on migration, the environment and climate change.
- Climate, development and disaster risk reduction funding and resources should be directed to communities at the local level, to support local resilience-building initiatives and projects.

⁷¹ See World Resources Institute, Principles for Locally Led Adaptation Action, at www.wri.org/initiatives/locally-led-adaptation/principles-locally-led-adaptation.

7. Promoting inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches

Overview

Alongside multilateral, regional and national governmental entities, it is essential to ensure the inclusion and participation of communities and individuals in efforts to address the complex challenges around the migration, environment and climate change nexus and build a sustainable and resilient society.

Discussion – Addressing vulnerabilities, recognizing and promoting agency

Migrants, women, young people and children were directly, and often disproportionately, affected by changes in the environment, by conflicts, and by economic and health crises. Policies and measures implemented on the ground had a direct impact on them, but often failed to take into account their particular needs and capacities. Yet, at the community level, they were at the forefront of climate and development action, and key agents of change, innovation and progress.

While migrants, particularly in irregular situations, experienced specific vulnerabilities because they had more limited social networks and safety nets, suffered discrimination or had unequal access to key services, it was important to remember that they were major contributors to the economy and to cultural diversity, in both countries of origin and of destination. Their experience, skills, resourcefulness and resilience could greatly contribute to climate action, to the transition to a green economy, to post-pandemic recovery efforts and to achievement of the SDGs. The participants gave many examples throughout the session of the positive role that migrants continued to play in supporting local economies, contributing to local climate change adaptation efforts or providing critical services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Belal Altiné Sow (Sow Ranch) recounted his experience as a migrant returning from the United States of America to Senegal, where he founded a sustainable farm promoting agroecology, sustainable resource management, recycling and local solidarity. The farm provided occupational training and jobs to local youth and returning migrants, thus encouraging them to stay in Senegal, respect the environment and support their community.⁷² A delegate from the Philippines, speaking from the floor, spoke about the critical role played by migrant workers in countries of destination as domestic carers, nurses and doctors; at the same time, migrants had been excluded from access to adequate health care and from vaccination campaigns.

Women were also particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, health crises and conflicts. Gender inequalities continued to prevail in terms of access to resources, land and decision-making bodies. Amina Mohammed (United Nations) pointed out that, although women made up the majority of smallholders, few owned their land. At the same time, women played a crucial role in local climate change adaptation and sustainable resource management, health care, education and community well-being. As Andreas Papaconstantinou (DG ECHO) said, women and girls were the primary users of natural resources and played an essential role in local resource conservation and climate change

⁷² For more information, see <http://sowranch.org/>.

adaptation efforts, yet they were often prevented from taking part in decision-making processes on those issues. As emphasized by Anne-Marie Trevelyan (United Kingdom), the international community must listen to the voices of women and girls, and ensure that their needs were reflected in global policy discussions.

Young people and children were also often among those who suffered most from the adverse effects of climate change, disasters and displacement.⁷³ Verena Knaus (UNICEF) invoked “the canary in the coal mine” phenomenon: the challenges currently facing children living in flood- or drought-prone areas were the precursors of development and human rights concerns to come. As was obvious from the testimony of 13-year-old Mila from the Marshall Islands, presented in a video shot for IOM’s global Do the Right Thing! campaign on migration, the environment and climate change,⁷⁴ children and young people in many countries, particularly in least developed countries and small island developing States, were already affected by the direct impact of climate change and faced deep uncertainty as to their future and their ability to continue to live on their ancestral lands. At the same time, as noted by Irfan Ullah Afridi (United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth), young people and children were not just passive victims; at times they demonstrated greater flexibility and resilience than adults in the face of disasters and change. They played an active role in promoting environmentally friendly practices, protecting resources, supporting nature-based solutions and taking care of their communities. Many youth organizations around the world were on the front lines of the fight against climate change and COVID-19, and actively engaged in building a more sustainable future at local, national and global level. For example, in Bangladesh, a youth network for climate justice was helping to prepare communities for disasters and monitoring disaster risk reduction efforts. In Guatemala, a local youth organization was working with UNICEF to strengthen local resilience to climate change. As the main beneficiaries of today’s policy choices and decisions, and as the decision-makers of tomorrow, young people should be listened to, included in sustainable development and climate action, and empowered to become part of local solutions and the green recovery. In the words of Joost Klarenbeek (Netherlands), young people “can become leaders, or they can become displaced” – they must be supported.

It was important for the voices of migrants, women and young people to be heard and promoted, to involve them actively in decision-making processes and to leverage their contributions in support of mitigation and adaptation efforts, the creation of decent employment opportunities, and local development and resilience. As Cecilia Jimenez-Damary (United Nations Special Rapporteur) emphasized, the participation of internally displaced persons and migrants was essential in order to protect their rights, and it was important to establish the conditions enabling them to become agents of change. Equal participation in political and public affairs was a human right enshrined in many international instruments, including the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,⁷⁵ and must be enjoyed by migrants and displaced people as well.

⁷³ See IOM, Children and Youth, Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM Environmental Migration portal, at <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/children-and-youth-migration-environment-and-climate-change>.

⁷⁴ See footnote 1.

⁷⁵ See United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General,

The participants provided interesting examples of policies, programmes and initiatives aimed at involving different stakeholders, including migrants, young people and women. For example, Naser Nuredini said that the Government of North Macedonia was investing in renewable solar, wind and hydro energy to support climate change mitigation, with a view to addressing air pollution, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 51 per cent compared to 1990 by 2030, and creating employment opportunities for citizens and for migrants. In so doing, the country also aimed to prioritize local production and to support a shift towards more sustainable consumption, including by facilitating access to clean energy for small businesses and vulnerable households.⁷⁶ In Africa, according to Balgis Osman-Elasha (African Development Bank), the Bank was supporting business innovation, sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship opportunities specifically for young people, to address youth unemployment as a driver of migration in Africa.⁷⁷ To support the empowerment of women, several countries, such as Burundi, Chile, Ecuador and Tajikistan, had integrated specific gender considerations into their national adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans and programmes. In Tajikistan, according to Sino Tokhirzoda, a project funded by the IOM Development Fund⁷⁸ aimed to help women bolster their financial literacy and climate change adaptation capacities.

The private sector was another important participant in development and climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. In particular, local community entrepreneurship was a powerful driver of innovation that could contribute to a more sustainable and greener economy and society through agroecology, clean energy and nature-based solutions. Examples such as the Sow Ranch or Scatec offered interesting models for public–private partnerships and local social entrepreneurship.

To support the inclusion and participation of these key players and enable a whole-of-society approach to sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation, a number of barriers needed to be overcome. For example, Irfan Ullah Afridi (United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth) cited several barriers to youth leadership, such as the lack of institutional space and support for youth organizations, limited financial and technical resources, or lack of coordination between different stakeholders. Greater transparency, capacity-building, and the creation of opportunities for partnerships, dialogue and the

Mr. Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 1997/39, Addendum, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2 of 11 February 1998). Available at <https://undocs.org/E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2>.

⁷⁶ See the Green Financing Facility to Improve Air Quality and Combat Climate Change in North Macedonia, a joint proposal submitted by IOM and the United Nations Development Programme to the Joint SDG Fund in partnership with several public and private partners, which aims to offer innovative financing solutions for small businesses and targeted households to support their transition to renewable energy (information at <https://sdginvest.jointsdgfund.org/proposals/green-financing-facility-improve-air-quality-combat-climate-change-north-macedonia>). In parallel, the IOM Development Fund is supporting another initiative in North Macedonia, A Systems Approach to Assess the Nexus between Air Pollution and Human Mobility in North Macedonia, which aims to highlight the vulnerability of migrants to air pollution and their possible contributions to the National Clean Air agenda.

⁷⁷ See African Development Bank, Work on Jobs for Youth in Africa, at www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/jobs-for-youth-in-africa.

⁷⁸ For more information, see IOM, Focus on Women, Climate Change and Migration in Tajikistan (24 September 2019). Available at www.iom.int/news/focus-women-climate-change-and-migration-tajikistan.

exchange of experiences should be supported to help empower key members of society and benefit from their contributions to development efforts and climate action.

Recommendations

- Governments should partner with migrants, women and young people as key development players, to leverage their contributions to climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development.
- Migrants, women and young people must be listened to and involved in decision-making processes, and their voices, experience and knowledge must be brought to key policy forums.
- The private sector should be more closely involved in efforts to build a more sustainable and resilient society, for example through public–private partnerships and incentives supporting local social entrepreneurship.
- Donors need to support gender-sensitive and inclusive programming, involving and promoting the agency of women, migrants, young people and other disadvantaged populations, and helping to build their capacities.

8. Seizing global policy opportunities for accelerated action

Overview

Since the topic of migration, the environment and climate change was first addressed in international policy forums more than a decade ago, including at the 2011 IDM, significant progress has been made in terms of political awareness and global policy development on this issue. Opportunities for enabling action and promoting cooperation on migration, the environment and climate change at the global and regional levels are numerous and must be seized.

Discussion – Opportunities for action

As mentioned by speakers at the opening session and in Panel 1, many international policy instruments and frameworks adopted since 2015 explicitly recognized, and made commitments of relevance to, the migration, environment and climate change nexus. As part of the UNFCCC process, the 2015 Paris Agreement specifically referred to the rights of migrants and had prompted the creation of the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage,⁷⁹ which was mandated to develop recommendations to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change and to promote their implementation. The Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda, which had been endorsed by 109 States in 2015, offered a toolbox of measures to help governments address disaster displacement. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 recognized the risks associated with displacement and the role of migration in strengthening the resilience of people and communities. The Global Compact on Migration recognized environmental degradation, climate change and disasters as drivers of migration, and contained provisions supporting action to minimize them and to strengthen regular migration pathways when in situ adaptation was not possible. Other global policy frameworks offering relevant entry points for addressing the challenges associated with migration and displacement in the context of disasters and climate change included the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact on Refugees, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,⁸⁰ the New Urban Agenda⁸¹ and Human Rights Council Resolution 35/20 on Human Rights and Climate Change.⁸²

These global policy developments were mirrored and complemented at the regional level by dialogue, action and commitments. Innovative global intergovernmental partnerships such as the Climate Vulnerable Forum, currently chaired by Bangladesh, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, currently chaired by Fiji, had helped strengthen regional and global cooperation between countries on specific issues related to disaster displacement, migration

⁷⁹ UNFCCC, Task Force on Displacement, United Nations Climate Change portal (2021). Available at <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/TFD>.

⁸⁰ Available at <https://www.unccd.int/>; see also IOM, Human Mobility in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Environmental Migration portal. Available at <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy/human-mobility-unccd>.

⁸¹ United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/256 on the New Urban Agenda (23 December 2016). Available at <https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/256>.

⁸² Available at <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/35/20>.

and climate change adaptation. Significant progress had been made as part of regional consultative processes on migration, for example in Central America (Regional Conference on Migration, or Puebla Process) and the Caribbean (Caribbean Migration Consultations), in South America (South American Conference on Migration), in the Pacific (Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference), in East Africa (IGAD Regional Consultative Process on Migration) or in West Africa (Migration Dialogue for West Africa). As part of those regional processes, governments had worked together to develop guidance and strengthen collaboration on international migration and cross-border displacement in the context of climate change and disasters, developing, for example, temporary protection mechanisms for people affected by disasters or adopting free movement protocols. Governments in East Africa, for instance, had recently adopted the IGAD Free Movement Protocol, which included specific provisions for people affected by disasters. Governments in South America had adopted non-binding regional guidelines for the protection of people displaced across borders and of migrants in countries affected by disasters, with the support of IOM and the Platform on Disaster Displacement,⁸³ as noted by María Florencia Carignano (Argentina).

As many participants remarked, instruments, tools and opportunities for action to address the migration, environment and climate change nexus abounded.⁸⁴ Many dedicated resources, guidance and tools were currently available to governments to support policy development and implementation in areas such as migration and development, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction or planned relocation. As noted by the representatives of Algeria and Portugal, speaking from the floor, it was important that existing frameworks be used, or adjusted as necessary. Indeed, while the existence of such tools and instruments clearly reflected growing recognition of the issue's importance, implementation of commitments made at the international level had been slow and insufficient. The IDM participants mentioned several barriers to implementation, including limited national and local capacity, insufficient funding and knowledge gaps at the local level.

To support national and local implementation efforts, it was imperative that global funding pledges made under the climate change, disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and migration agendas were met and directed towards local action. In that regard, commitments to support global climate action, disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Global Compact on Migration – through funding or otherwise – were expressed by several donor countries and organizations participating in the IDM, including Canada, the European Commission, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, whose administration had recently commissioned a report on the impacts of climate change on migration. The Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, which was a key instrument to support implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, had great potential to address the funding needs of governments seeking to respond to migration challenges in the context of

⁸³ See South American Conference on Migration, *Lineamientos regionales en materia de protección y asistencia a personas desplazadas a través de fronteras y migrantes en países afectados por desastres de origen natural*. Available at [https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/lineamientos-regionales-en-materia-de-proteccion-y-asistencia-personas-desplazadas-través-de](https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/lineamientos-regionales-en-materia-de-proteccion-y-asistencia-personas-desplazadas-través-de-fronteras-de).

⁸⁴ See UNHCR, *Mapping of existing international and regional guidance and tools on averting, minimizing, addressing and facilitating durable solutions to displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change*, Task Force on Displacement Activity II.4 (Geneva, 2018). Available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/WIM%20TFD%20II.4%20Output.pdf>.

environmental degradation, climate change and disasters. As recommended by the co-leads of United Nations Network on Migration Thematic Priority 4, on Migration in the Context of Disasters, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation, a concerted effort was needed to expand resource mobilization efforts under the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, so as to enable responses to current and future mobility scenarios in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, and to address the adverse impacts of climate change. Other funding opportunities existed as part of the global climate finance architecture, for instance the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility or the Adaptation Fund, or in the form of development funding, including the Joint SDG Fund and traditional development aid. As many participants said, existing climate and development funding should be scaled up and used in a more efficient, innovative and complementary way to address the complex challenges associated with migration in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation as part of efforts to achieve the SDGs.

The participants highlighted several policy events that constituted an opportunity to report on the progress made, reinforce commitments and advance cooperation on the issues. These included the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which would focus on sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and on reviewing progress made by the international community in the context of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs. Another key milestone would be COP 26, which would take stock of the progress made on implementation of the Paris Agreement and would review the revised Nationally Determined Contributions submitted by governments. The latter would be key in determining whether the goals of the Paris Agreement could be reached. As indicated by Anne-Marie Trevelyan, action on adaptation and to avert, minimize and address loss and damage (including displacement) was a priority for the COP 26 Presidency, and the United Kingdom had commissioned an assessment of existing evidence of how climate change affected migration in order to inform the discussion, policy and action. A representative of Canada, speaking from the floor, added that the International Migration Review Forum in May 2022 would build on the regional reviews to conduct a first review of implementation of the Global Compact on Migration and would provide an opportunity for countries to showcase effective practices and measures, including in relation to addressing environmental drivers of migration and promoting regular migration pathways in the context of climate change. Other opportunities included the 2022 Global Forum on Migration and Development and the 2022 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, both of which would focus on that topic.

All those events constituted milestones in measuring the progress made by the international community in major policy areas and an opportunity to commit to even more ambitious action. As noted by several speakers, it was essential that governments and key stakeholders delivered on the pledges made under the Paris Agreement, the Global Compact on Migration and in the context of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs, and demonstrated their commitment and readiness to engage in radical and transformative change.

Recommendations

- Governments and other stakeholders must deliver on the pledges made under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C, including through the submission of ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions ahead of COP 26 in Glasgow.

- Governments and donors should address funding gaps and silos, and increase investments to support the implementation of commitments made on climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, migration governance and sustainable development under the 2030 Agenda for Development, the UNFCCC, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Compact on Migration and other key global processes.
- In particular, it is important to ensure access to funding and technical support for the most vulnerable countries and communities.
- The international community as a whole must commit to more ambitious action and work collectively to address key challenges associated with climate change, disasters, migration, conflict and poverty, and promote sustainable development.
- The voices of migrants, women, young people and marginalized communities must be brought forward in key global and regional forums, and their inclusion in key policy processes and implementation efforts must be supported.

Conclusions

Climate change and environmental degradation are undoubtedly major concerns, and their impact on migration, health, peace and sustainable development are already manifest in all regions of the world. Accelerated, collective and integrated action is urgently needed to address the human security and human rights concerns arising from the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

The first session of the 2021 IDM highlighted key priority areas for action to address climate change and its impacts on migration and displacement, as well as the root causes of vulnerability. They include channeling more investments into climate change mitigation/adaptation and disaster risk reduction, promoting better migration governance, averting, minimizing and addressing disaster displacement, enhancing public health systems, and strengthening humanitarian and development cooperation.

The session participants referenced numerous opportunities at the local, national, regional and international levels to enhance collective action and promote more resilient, sustainable, inclusive and peaceful societies. As the IOM Deputy Director General noted in her closing remarks, the post-COVID-19 recovery efforts offered an opportunity to radically rethink the approach to managing today's challenges and take innovative, multidimensional and inclusive action prioritizing prevention, preparedness and the transition to a more sustainable economic model. Governments, intergovernmental agents, civil society stakeholders, communities and individuals must all work together and step up action to deliver on commitments made towards climate action, migration governance, sustainable development and peace.

The coming year, with its major global policy milestones, will be a key opportunity to set even higher ambitions for a sustainable and safe future. In the words of the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, quoted by Joost Klarenbeek, "Let this not be the year that triggered a lost decade for sustainable development and for building a climate resilient world."

Recommendations for the way forward

The rich discussions during the first session of the 2021 IDM helped to identify several recommendations in relation to the eight key messages that emerged as a result. These recommendations are summarized below and may be shared and adapted as necessary to inform key policy processes, including the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, COP 26 in November 2021, the International Migration Review Forum in May 2022, the 2022 Global Forum on Migration and Development and the 2022 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

A global challenge with differentiated impacts

The impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on migration and displacement are already manifest in all regions of the world, and disproportionately affect the most vulnerable countries and populations.

- Governments must urgently step up climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts and address the drivers of vulnerability and forced migration.
- The differentiated impacts of environmental and climate change, and the associated unequal vulnerabilities and migration outcomes, must be recognized, and more research should be done to better understand existing inequalities at the local level.
- Context-specific, people-centered, gender-sensitive, human security and human rights-based approaches must be prioritized to address the local needs and challenges that the most vulnerable communities face in the context of the migration, environment and climate change nexus.

Recognizing the links between health and migration, the environment and climate change as part of the post-pandemic recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated vulnerabilities and inequalities, but post-pandemic recovery efforts offer an opportunity to build more resilient and inclusive societies.

- The current focus on the global health crisis and post-pandemic recovery should not divert the international community from the urgent need to address the effects of climate change. On the contrary, recovery plans must support a transition to a more sustainable, green economy and a more resilient society.
- The co-benefits of effective climate, health and migration management policies and measures must be recognized, and multidimensional approaches addressing these interconnected challenges jointly must be promoted.
- As part of the COVID-19 recovery efforts, governments should prioritize efforts to improve environmental and biodiversity management practices, mitigate climate change, strengthen health systems, and protect and include the most vulnerable,

including migrants, in order to reduce the risks of future health crises while also making societies more resilient and helping to address the drivers of forced migration and displacement. Specific guidance and tools to support such efforts are available and should be used.

- Commitments made in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration regarding safe, non-discriminatory access to health care for migrants must be implemented. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries and other stakeholders should partner to facilitate equal distribution of and access to vaccines, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, including migrants and displaced people.
- Further research is needed to generate evidence on the links between climate change, migration and health, taking into account the effects of policies and interventions.

Linking migration, the environment and climate change with the humanitarian, development and peace nexus

The interconnectedness of climate change and disasters, migration and displacement, human security and conflict, and development must be recognized and addressed in an integrated manner.

- The root causes of poverty, conflict and displacement are closely intertwined and must be addressed in an integrated manner to support global and national commitments to sustainable development and peace.
- The humanitarian, development and peace nexus must be strengthened and operationalized to address complex crises at the intersection of climate change, disasters, conflict, poverty and displacement. It is important to promote cross-sectoral partnerships and address silos through better coordination between different stakeholders and across the levels of decision-making.
- International human rights instruments must be ratified and applied to support protection of the rights of the most vulnerable populations, particularly in migration crises, where migrants are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and people smuggling.
- Funding gaps and silos must be addressed to help mobilize the necessary resources for disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, early warning systems and long-term development programmes. For example, humanitarian programming and funding could better prioritize disaster preparedness and climate resilience.

Harnessing migration for a sustainable future

While the focus on vulnerabilities and challenges associated with migration, the environment and climate change is crucial, it is also important to consider the opportunities related to migration and its potential positive outcomes.

- Governments and other stakeholders must promote a positive narrative of migration and migrants, and of their contributions to sustainable development and climate action, for example through communication campaigns and education, and by promoting the voices of migrants.
- Governments must promote safe, orderly and regular migration pathways to support climate change adaptation and sustainable development. In particular, they should ensure respect for the rights of migrant workers, and implement proactive measures supporting their inclusion and contribution to the economy in countries of destination and origin. The implementation and application of key international instruments, such as the Global Compact on Migration and the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, must be ensured.
- Public–private partnerships should be encouraged to support the creation of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for migrants in the green sectors of the economy.

Mobilizing global collective action, cooperation, innovation and finance

Migration and displacement in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation constitute a global challenge that requires global, collective, holistic and innovative action.

- Governments and other stakeholders must commit to global, collective and transformational action and cooperation to address the migration, environment and climate change nexus and its links to health, conflict and sustainable development.
- The international community must step up mitigation efforts through green investments, transition to a green economy, clean energy and significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including within the humanitarian and development sectors and with the support of the private sector. Good practices must be showcased, and their dissemination and replication must be supported.
- Effective responses to the challenges at hand require multi-pronged, holistic and innovative approaches that address the complex interlinkages between migration, the environment, climate change, conflict and poverty, and their root causes, and that promote adaptation, risk reduction, peace and sustainable development in an integrated manner. Such approaches must build on innovative partnerships across all sectors of society.

- Cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination in managing complex migration dynamics in the context of climate change must be strengthened, for example through regional partnerships and initiatives.
- Funding gaps must be addressed to support global climate action, disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, including by leveraging the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Joint SDG Fund.

Prioritizing regional, national and local action

Regional, national and local action is key to addressing migration, environment and climate change concerns, and should be supported and strengthened.

- Local, national and regional action should be prioritized, and local and national capacity to implement existing policies and tools should be strengthened through global and regional cooperation and solidarity-based approaches.
- Efforts must be directed towards building evidence and capacities at the local level to support informed, context-specific and needs-based action on migration, the environment and climate change.
- Climate, development and disaster risk reduction funding and resources should be directed to communities at the local level, to support local resilience-building initiatives and projects.

Promoting inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches

Whole-of-society, inclusive approaches are fundamental to ensure the success of collective efforts, leveraging the capacities and contributions of migrants, young people and women as agents of change.

- Governments should partner with migrants, women and young people as key development players to leverage their contributions to climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development.
- Migrants, women and young people must be listened to and involved in decision-making processes, and their voices, experience and knowledge must be brought to key policy forums.
- The private sector should be more closely involved in efforts to build a more sustainable and resilient society, for example through public–private partnerships and incentives supporting local social entrepreneurship.

- Donors need to support gender-sensitive and inclusive programming, involving and promoting the agency of women, migrants, young people and other disadvantaged populations, and helping to build their capacities.

Seizing global policy opportunities for accelerated action

Global opportunities for enabling action and promoting cooperation on migration, the environment and climate change are plentiful and must be seized.

- Governments and other stakeholders must deliver on the pledges made under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C, including through the submission of ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions ahead of COP 26 in Glasgow.
- Governments and donors should address funding gaps and silos, and increase investments to support the implementation of commitments made on climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, migration governance and sustainable development under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFCCC, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Compact on Migration and other key global processes.
- In particular, it is important to ensure access to funding and technical support for the most vulnerable countries and communities.
- The international community as a whole must commit to more ambitious action and work collectively to address key challenges associated with climate change, disasters, migration, conflict and poverty, and promote sustainable development.
- The voices of migrants, women, young people and marginalized communities must be brought forward in key global and regional forums, and their inclusion in key policy processes and implementation efforts must be supported.

APPENDICES



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

First session of the International Dialogue on Migration 2021

Accelerating integrated action on sustainable development: migration, the environment and climate change

25-27 May 2021, Zoom, 9:00-12:00 (EST)

Final Agenda

Day 1	
9:00-10:00	<p>Opening session</p> <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director General, IOM <p>Keynote remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honourable Prime Minister Rear Admiral (Retired) Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Fiji (video message)• Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans living abroad, Kingdom of Morocco• Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th session of the General Assembly (video message)• Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations (video message)• Ms. Runa Kahn, Founder and Executive Director, Friendship
10:00-12:00	<p>Panel 1: The Road to COP 26- Accelerating action to address migration and displacement in the context of climate and environmental change</p> <p>This panel discussion will provide an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the international community, member states and key players to address migration, displacement, environment and climate change issues, in the lead up to the 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP26). The panel will provide a comprehensive view of progress made in advancing knowledge, awareness and action on migration, displacement, environment, and climate change. It will take stock of advances made over the past ten years and outline what can be achieved in this new decade. The panel will provide insight into current actions being implemented by a wide range of actors, in particular countries most vulnerable to climate change, focusing on human rights-based and gender sensitive approaches. This will showcase</p>

avenues for current and future action on migration and displacement in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters due to natural hazards to fulfill the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. It will invite a discussion on how the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) could best address migration, environment and climate change to contribute to the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), in line with commitments made under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Questions proposed to guide the discussion:

- What can be achieved at the forthcoming COP26 as far as advocacy, evidence and action on migration and displacement in the context of the adverse impacts of climate change are concerned?
- How are key players ensuring a coherent implementation of the commitments made under the Paris Agreement on climate change and the commitments made under the GCM?
- What are current and planned climate actions that may be leveraged in the implementation of GCM to further promote safe, orderly, and regular migration, taking into consideration diversity and gender dimensions?
- How can innovative migration governance and practice at global, regional, national and sub national levels be further integrated into international environmental and climate frameworks, sustainable development, in global climate action and other relevant forums?

Moderator: **Mr. António Vitorino**, Director General, IOM and Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration

Speakers:

- **Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP**, Honourable Foreign Minister, Bangladesh (video message)
- **Dr. Yasmine Fouad**, Minister of Environment, Egypt
- **Ms. Anne-Marie Trevelyan**, Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, United Kingdom International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP 26 Presidency (video message)
- **Mr. Frank Tressler Zamorano**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva
- **Mr. Ovais Sarmad**, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- **Mr. Andreas Papaconstantinou**, Director for Neighbourhood and Middle East, Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Commission

Day 2

9:00-10:30

Panel 2: Understanding the linkages between migration, environment and climate change (MECC) and migration health in the context of COVID-19, and promoting the inclusion of MECC dimensions in COVID-19 recovery efforts

Issues pertaining to migration, environment and climate change remain underdiscussed in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic and in the ongoing global recovery efforts. Building on the discussions and findings from the 2020 IDM session dedicated to “COVID-19 crisis: reimagining the role of migrants and human mobility in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”, this panel aims to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on migrants and internally displaced persons in the context of the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation. It will invite an exchange on how climate-migration dimensions can be leveraged in the COVID-19 recovery plans, as well as discuss the linkages between migration health in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The panel will explore the connections between SDG 10.7 “facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” and SDG 3.8 “achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all”.

Questions proposed to guide the discussion:

- How can we use lessons learned from this pandemic in relation to migration health and the environment to prevent future pandemics and to contain future outbreaks?
- How can we mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health of migrants and internally displaced persons in the context of climate change and environmental degradation?
- How can the global COVID-19 pandemic experience contribute to furthering migration governance regarding migration and displacement in the context of the adverse effects of climate change, disasters and environmental degradation?
- How can COVID-19 recovery efforts address migration, environment, and climate change and migrant health, considering adequate gender focus?

Moderator: **Ms. Monica Goracci**, Director, Department of Migration Management, IOM

Speakers:

- **Dr. Maria Neira**, Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, WHO
- **Dr. Ibrahim Abubakar**, Chair, Lancet Migration, and Climate Change and Migration Lead, Director, Institute for Global Health, University College London
- **Mr. Kristof Tamas**, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Justice, Division for Migration and Asylum Policy, Sweden
- **Dr. Elizabeth Ferris**, Research Professor, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University
- **Ms. Verena Knaus**, Global Lead, Migration and Displacement, UNICEF

10:30-12:30

Panel 3: Examining the linkage between Migration, Environment and Climate Change and the Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus (HDPN)

This panel will address environmental and climate change related questions linked to the Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus (HDPN). It will focus on the challenges of diminishing resources, degradation of biodiversity, impacts on human security and conflict, in order to highlight opportunities and solutions. The panel will discuss how governments and stakeholders are implementing measures including in the areas of disaster risk management and long-term capacity building, assessing the role of migration in mitigation and adaptation efforts, to fulfill the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the panel will include insights from current operations in these areas and their impacts.

Questions proposed to guide the discussion:

- How do humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors work together to find durable solutions to protracted displacement, in the context of the adverse impacts of climate change?
- Which kinds of capacity development efforts in countries of origin and at community level could be made in the areas of climate and environmental action, to tackle displacement and enhance the positive outcomes of migration throughout the HDPN?
- What do we know about the relationship between migration and displacement in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, disasters due to natural hazards, human security, security, and conflict?
- What are opportunities and challenges for the integration of human rights and gender sensitive based approaches into climate action and disaster risk reduction (DRR)?
- How can climate action be leveraged across the HDPN to promote sustainable development for the benefit of migrants and their communities?
- What is needed to ensure better gender equal and climate smart solutions to deliver across the HDPN as far as migration and displacement issues are concerned?

Moderator: **Ms. Angelica Broman**, Senior Advisor, Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus, IOM

Speakers:

- **Mr. Joost Klarenbeek**, Special Envoy for Migration, Netherlands
- **Ms. Grata Endah Werdaningtyas**, Ambassador/Chargé d’Affaires, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva
- **Gral. Anicet Nibaruta**, Head of National Platform for Disaster Risk Management, Burundi
- **Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary**, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons
- **Ms. Faryde Garlier Gonzalez**, Director of Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia
- **Mr. Andrew Harper**, Special Advisor on Climate Action, UNHCR
- **Mr. Ignacio Packer**, Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies

Day 3

9:00 – 10:25

Panel 4: Developing multi-stakeholder approaches to leverage opportunities and support the inclusion of migrants and internally displaced people to build a sustainable future

The breadth of environmental challenges necessitates the development of multi-stakeholder responses that bring together different communities of practices and policy areas. This discussion will support the commitment to the climate and environment-related priorities outlined by the UN Secretary-General and contribute to other UN environmental and climate discussions, such as the High-Level Committee on Programmes common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the UN's policy and programme planning and delivery, currently under development. Furthermore, it will provide the opportunity to present concrete existing activities implemented in partnerships with private sector and civil society and activities led by stakeholders' coalitions and to draw lessons learned to amplify existing work. It also aims to give voice to youth representatives and to discuss how best to leverage the positive contribution of migrants, internally displaced people and diasporas to climate action and sustainable development.

Questions proposed to guide the discussion:

- Which nature-based livelihoods solutions for migrants, youths and their communities must be supported to strengthen their climate resilience?
- What is the potential of the private sector to contribute to and /or leverage climate finance?
- How can private sector work together with humanitarian agencies to support the clean energy transition in displacement settings?
- How can migrants be integrated into climate adaptation and mitigation sectors to promote sustainable economic growth?
- How can COVID-19 recovery efforts leverage migrant contribution to sustainable development to increase the effectiveness and growth of "green" sectors?

Moderator: **Ms. Dina Ionesco**, Head, Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, IOM

Keynote Speaker: **Mr. Naser Nuredini**, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia

Speakers:

- **Dr. Amadou Diaw**, Technical Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, Senegal
- **Dr. Balgis Osman-Elasha**, Chief Climate Change and Green Growth Specialist, Regional Coordinator, North Africa Development and Business Delivery Centre, African Development Bank
- **Ms. Enja Saethren**, Senior Business Development Analyst, Scatec, Norway
- **Mr. Irfan Ullah Afridi**, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
- **Mr. Belal Altiné Sow**, Co-founder, Sow Ranch, Senegal

<p>10:25-11:45</p>	<p>Panel 5: Promoting and supporting regional, national and local action on migration, environment and climate change</p> <p>This panel discussion will identify challenges and gaps linked to migration, environment, and climate change, including the specific challenges faced by countries most vulnerable to climate change (small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, and least developed countries) with a focus on regional, national and local action. It will also highlight examples of practices adopted by states, IOM and other stakeholders on migration, environment, and climate change, at regional, national and sub-national levels. The panel will present lessons learned to amplify the work currently in action. This panel will also elaborate on sustainability and climate focused actions in cities globally as well as urbanization in the context of climate change. It will open discussion on how regional, national and local action and the shared practices can be leveraged with migration to achieve the sustainable development goals.</p> <p>Questions proposed to guide the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are good practices in engaging regional, national and local stakeholders and strengthening capacities, including gender sensitive approaches? • What are remaining challenges facing the most vulnerable to climate change that require local/regional/international action? • How can local, national and regional action be leveraged in GCM implementation in relation to migration, the environment, and climate change? • What are the advantages of local and regional actions in addressing climate and environmental challenges in promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration? <p>Moderator: Ms. Michele Klein-Solomon, Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean, IOM</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Worship Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone • Dr. Cristopher Ballinas Valdes, Director General for Human Rights and Democracy at the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mexico • Mr. Sino Tohirzoda, Director, Sayru Sayohat, Committee for Environmental Protection, Tajikistan • Ms. María Florencia Carignano, National Director of Migration, Argentina • Ms. Fathia Alwan, Director, Health and Social Development, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Intergovernmental Authority on Development • Ms. Katja Schaefer, Inter-Regional Advisor, UN Habitat
<p>11:45-12:00</p>	<p>Closing session</p> <p><i>Closing Remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Laura Thompson, Deputy Director-General, IOM



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

First session of the International Dialogue on Migration 2021

Accelerating integrated action on sustainable development: migration, the environment and climate change

25-27 May 2021, Zoom, 9:00-12:00, New York local time (EST)

Concept Note

Initiated in 2001, the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) is the prime migration policy dialogue of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), open to States and a wide range of migration stakeholders worldwide. The IDM has enabled the IOM “to provide a forum for States as well as international and other organizations for the exchange of views and experiences and the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts on international migration issues, including studies on such issues in order to develop practical solutions”, as stated in the Organization’s Constitution.

Objectives of the first session of the IDM 2021

In 2011, one session of the IDM was dedicated to the emerging nexus between migration, environment and climate change. Ten years later, IOM is revisiting the topic at a time of increasing political urgency, and in view of the deep impacts of the COVID-19 global health crisis linking climate and migration to current and future development issues. In this first IDM session of the year, IOM aims to contribute to the political momentum building towards the 26th

Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP26), taking place in Glasgow, in November 2021.

The IDM will offer a space to discuss some of the key dimensions of the migration, environment and climate change nexus, such as developing synergies between the implementation of relevant international and regional frameworks, integrating migration and climate questions in COVID-19 recovery efforts, leveraging migrants' contributions to climate action and identifying challenges faced by countries most vulnerable to climate change (small island developing states, landlocked countries, least developed countries). The dialogue will explore how the issue is connected to the Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Nexus (HDPN). This event will also be an opportunity to build on the current momentum around the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), reinforce the progressive language in the GCM on migration, environment, and climate change, galvanize support from Member States and other - stakeholders, and showcase initiatives that the UN system, GCM champions and stakeholders are taking in this field.

The discussions will assess actions to mitigate the impacts of climate and environmental change, linked to the broader implementation of global frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the GCM, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In that respect, this IDM session will examine how upcoming international forums, such as the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the 2021 UNFCCC COP26, and the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), can best integrate migration, environment and climate change issues in their work programmes and enhance synergies and partnerships across policy areas.

Context

Climate change and environmental degradation are profoundly reshaping contemporary migration patterns worldwide in diverse ways. In the context of a changing environment, people engage in different forms of migration within their countries or across borders. These forms of migration exist on a continuum, from displacement to more voluntary forms of migration.

Migration in the context of climate change and environmental degradation is often multicausal and most people migrate due to a combination of social, political, economic and demographic conditions, all of which are and will be affected by climate and environmental change. Migration in turn can impact the environment and the availability of natural resources. However, migrants can also be actor of the fight against climate change and can contribute to making communities and societies in places of origin and destination more resilient and able to adapt to the negative impacts of environmental and climate change.

In 2019, 24.9 million new internal displacements across 140 countries were linked to sudden-onset disasters, such as flooding and extreme weather events, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).¹ Slow onset processes such as desertification, sea level rise and land degradation can also influence directly and indirectly the decision to migrate. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency, intensity and geographical impacts of these phenomena, and will drive future humanitarian crises and displacement.

Looking at the future, some projections indicate that millions more people could be on the move because of the adverse effects of climate change, with an estimated 143 million internal climate migrants by 2050 if no action is taken.² Climate change and environmental degradation will also lead to impoverishment and destitution, resulting in people being unable to leave at-risk areas, thereby creating additional vulnerability for so-called “trapped populations”.

Policy advances

Since 2015, key international commitments of relevance to migration in the context of climate change and environmental degradation have been internationally agreed upon. The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development features migration explicitly and seven of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focus on climate and environmental issues (SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, and SDG 15). The 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change led to the creation of the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement and the development of recommendations in 2018 that were a policy milestone. In 2018, the GCM recognized under its Objective 2 on Minimizing drivers, the significance of “natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation” and the challenges they pose in terms of migration. The GCM also contains references to “sudden-onset natural disasters, slow-onset environmental degradation” under Objective 5 on Enhancing availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

COVID-19 and the migration, environment and climate change nexus

Issues pertaining to the migration, environment and climate change nexus remain underdiscussed in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing global recovery efforts. The dialogue will therefore build on discussions and findings from the 2020 IDM session dedicated to “COVID-19 crisis: reimagining the role of migrants and human mobility of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”. Recovery efforts should contribute to the

¹ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Global Report on Internal Displacement 2020

² World Bank, Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration

transition to a green economy and build climate resilience, create green jobs and support effective climate action and efforts to reach carbon neutrality. Opportunities should be created so migrants can contribute to and benefit from green recovery efforts. The inclusion of migration health considerations in environmental and climate policies and dialogues could contribute to building health resilience in communities facing adverse effects of environmental and climate change that impacts migration decisions.

This IDM session will also emphasize the linkages between the migration, environment and climate change nexus and migrant health, looking at the connections between SDG 10.7 “facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” and SDG 3.8 “achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all”. The discussion will contribute to global initiatives that promote a sustainable recovery to COVID-19, such as the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the European Union’s Green Deal and the 2021 United States Leaders’ Climate Summit.

Structure of the IDM session

The session will be structured around several areas of focus, including:

- 1) Accelerating action to address migration and displacement in the context of climate change and environmental degradation, towards the preparations of the 26th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP26);
- 2) Understanding the linkages between COVID-19, migrant health and the migration, environment and climate change nexus and promoting the inclusion of the environmental migration dimensions in COVID-19 recovery efforts;
- 3) Examining the linkages between the Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus (HDPN) and the migration, environment and climate change nexus;
- 4) Developing multi-stakeholder approaches, including with the private sector, to leverage opportunities and support the inclusion of migrants to build a sustainable future;
- 5) Promoting and supporting regional and local action on migration, environment and climate change.

In line with existing practices, IOM invites all concerned parties working on migration, climate change and environment issues, including high-level government representatives, migrant

representatives, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations, to contribute their views, best practices and recommendations on the topic.

On the 70th anniversary of IOM and the 20th anniversary of the IDM, IOM is more than ever committed to foster greater cooperation and enhance cross-sectoral partnerships to develop and implement collective actions that concretely address the increasingly complex and interconnected migration challenges of today. The outcomes of this session are expected to highlight good practices, lessons learned and recommendations that can support governments and other stakeholders to develop and implement inclusive policies and programmes to address issues linked to the migration, environment and climate change nexus and maximize opportunities. The results and recommendations of the Dialogue will be published in the IDM Red Book which will be made available to all contributors and participants. These recommendations will also feed into upcoming events and forum, including the UNFCCC COP26 and the International Migration Review Forum.

