



## **The reality and challenges of climate induced mobility today**

### **Opening High Level Panel**

**CICG, Geneva, Salle A, Geneva,**

**23 January 2024 - 11:30-13:00**

The GFMD opens opportunities to discuss major trends of migration patterns and build on the progress made by States and stakeholders towards the implementation of global commitments, as well as adequate and durable policies and solutions for displaced persons and migrants. To best reflect on the evolution of global trends in migration patterns, GFMD French Chair chose to put at the core of its chairmanship the topic of: “the impact of climate change of human mobility”.

Within this broad theme, the impact of climate change and environmental degradation has been one the major defining factors driving human mobility in the past decade. IPCC 6th Assessment Report, 2022, pointed out the “increased evidence that climate hazards associated with extreme events and variability act as direct drivers on involuntary migration and displacement and as indirect drivers through deteriorating climate sensitive livelihoods”. The number of environmental and climate induced displacements constantly increased in the past decade to reach 32,6 Million new internal displacements induced by climate disasters in 2022 (IDMC 2023), now representing more than 52 % of all displacements all over the world.

On the one hand, climate change is clearly undermining development, peace and security in a growing number of regions around the world, especially affecting the most vulnerable ones, and communities already vulnerable to climate related stressors and shocks, or affected by fragile economic situations, or conflict. On the other hand, migrants' and diaspora engagement for climate action can be a powerful force for adaptation, reducing the risks linked to factors of fragility and contributing to sustainable development.

Given GFMD unique dialogue capacity and role on the international scene, it has now become essential for GFMD member states to share views among leaders on these trends, to assess the undermining impacts on sustainable development, as on peace and security, and to discuss the best policies and practices associated with these challenges at local, national and global levels.

Finally, it is urgent to reflect on how to strengthen durable solutions to increase resilience, climate action and financial delivery to those mostly in need, including on the basis of COP 28 decisions. The 14<sup>th</sup> Summit to be held in Geneva on 23-25 January 2024, which will gather human mobility and climate experts, presents a unique opportunity to share knowledge in this field through the lens of eminent speakers from across the world and dedicated international organizations.

## Panel's Objectives are to:

- **Increase awareness of the impacts and challenges of environmental degradation and climate change, including disasters, on fragile communities, including displacement.**
- **Contribute to the identification of best policies** to avert, minimize and address displacement linked to climate change (in the global context); as well as to enhance contributions of migrants and diaspora for climate-change adaptation, mitigation, nature-based solutions and to support sustainable transition.
- **Share best practices for including human mobility and climate change nexus** in local, national and regional climate change and migration policies, as well as at the global level.

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## Agenda

### Opening Remarks

- **Amb. Aurélien Lechevallier**, Director General for Global, Economic and Cultural Affairs, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (GFMD 2022-2023 French Chairmanship)

### Moderator:

- **Amb. Caroline Dumas**, French Chairmanship

### First point - Climate induced mobility is now a reality; what are the impacts of climate change, including disasters, on displacement and human mobility all over the world, especially in vulnerable communities (What meteorological data, science and research say)?

- **Ms. Alexandra Bilak**, Director of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)
- **Ms. Celeste Saulo**, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- **Ms. Paola Albrito**, Acting Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

### Second point - What are the challenges of this situation seen from the field ? Discuss specific situations in Africa, the Pacific and SIDS regions (Small Island developing States), keeping in mind the risks for specific populations, such as women, girls, indigenous people, displaced persons and migrants themselves.

- **Mr. Henry Puna**, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
- **Hon. Ms. Beatrice Atim Odwong**, Minister of State for Environment, Ministry of Water and Environment, Republic of Uganda

### The floor is opened to the room (*ministers only*)

**Third point - What are the options to accelerate the implementation of adequate and sustainable solutions ? both in terms of climate action (including for most vulnerable communities), and at policy level, in order to ensure safe, regular and orderly migration pathways**

- **Mr. Robert Piper**, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement
- **Ms. Ugochi Daniels**, Deputy Director General for Operations, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- **Ms. Marta Youth**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, USA

**The floor is opened to the room.**

**Closing Remarks**

- **Amb. Caroline Dumas**, French Chairmanship