

Background Paper¹

Roundtable 1 :

The impact of climate change on human mobility: preventive action, humanitarian action and development

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¹ This background paper outlines discussion areas for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Round Table One (RT1) – The impact of climate change on human mobility: preventive action, humanitarian action and development. It has been written in consultation with members of RT1 by the International Organization for Migration (Ileana-Sinziana Puscas as penholder), under the leadership of the co-chairs Argentina, Fiji (Anare Leweniqila), and the GFMD Civil Society Mechanism (Colin Rajah, Elana Wong). Please note that the content of this paper does not necessarily reflect the views and official positions of the penholder, the GFMD Chair or the governments or international organizations involved in the GFMD process.

Contributors (40): (Government of) Australia, (Government of) Belgium, Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, (Government of) Canada, (Government of) Ecuador, European Commission, FAO, (Government of) France, GFMD Business Mechanism, GFMD Civil Society Mechanism, GFMD Mayors Mechanism, (Government of) Canada, Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), (Government of) Guatemala, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), IOE, UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), ILO, IOM, Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP), Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), OECD, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), Secours Catholique - Caritas France, Secours Islamic, (Government of) Switzerland, Solidarity Centre, International Trade Union Federation (ITUC), Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), The Populace Foundation International (TPFI), (Government of) Türkiye, (Government of) United Kingdom, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, (Government of) United States, Welcoming America (Welcoming International initiative), Women in Migration Network (WIMN), (Government of) Zimbabwe.

1. Introduction

Human mobility has always been linked to the environment. From pastoralists traveling with their cattle to better pastures, to people displaced by disasters, the environment has played a role in the decision of people to migrate for centuries. However, climate change is unequivocally exacerbating the frequency and intensity of both slow and sudden-onset events and processes, threatening sustainable development gains and influencing the patterns of human mobility across the world.

As reiterated in the 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), our window for decisive action is narrow if we want to secure a livable and sustainable future for all. Migration has the potential to play an important role in offering people an adaptation strategy to climate change whilst achieving sustainable economic growth.

The success of migration as adaptation is contingent on safe and regular migration pathways and climate-resilient development. Underpinning this is adequate data as well as enhanced financial resources in order to respond to the scale and urgency of needs. The implementation of the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, along with the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change and the *Paris Agreement*, and the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, is pivotal in order to address the human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.

This paper supports the 2024 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit Roundtable 1 discussions on human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. It builds on the evolution of this topic in the GFMD, since its first edition in 2007, as well as the plethora of related policy and research discussions (see annex on GFMD topic history, and on a thematic bibliography). It was also informed by multiple consultations and written inputs within the 2022-2024 GFMD process (November 2022, April 2023, October 2023) and two GFMD thematic workshops on "The Impact of Climate Change on Labour Migration" (29 March 2023), and on "Climate and Human Mobility" (28 June 2023) (see annex on summaries of GFMD conclusions).

2. Key issues – Setting the scene

People have always moved in the context of the environment; however, the impacts of climate change on human mobility are a growing and documented reality all over the world. The IPCC explained in its first report in 1990, and reaffirmed in its latest 2022 report, that climate change acts as a risk multiplier, increasing the intensity and frequency of sudden and slow onset disasters and interacting with other social and economic factors, shaping human mobility.

The Synthesis Report of the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement (2023) shows that **the world is behind** on limiting warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. As temperature changes affect agriculture productivity, and rising sea-levels render territories uninhabitable, already vulnerable communities will be increasingly under threat, such as the particular risks to small island states (IPCC 1.5 Report). This will see more communities already affected today reach the hard limits of adaptation within their lifetime.

The Complex Links Between Displacement, Migration and Planned Relocation and Disasters, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

Durable, rights-based and long-term solutions for internally displaced persons (IDP) remain important to development efforts. Some 8.7 million IDPs were in protracted disaster displacement at the end of 2022, while 2022 saw 32.6 million displacements in the context of disasters (IDMC 2023). On average, between 2008 and 2022, some 25 million new **internal disaster displacements** took place per year (IDMC, 2023). Internal movements are set to increase in the current context. Projections suggest that by 2050, 216 million people could become **internal climate related migrants** in six regions of the world (World Bank 2022). This number could be reduced by as much as 40 per cent, to 86 million, if accelerated climate and development action is taken (World Bank 2022).

Planned relocation strategies, when utilized, are only sustainable when proactively developed together with affected communities and understood as a measure of last resort. These have become more prominent options, with recent research identifying planned relocation cases spanning all inhabited regions and occurring in 75 countries and territories (PDD 2021, IOM 2021). Governments may undertake relocation as an anticipatory measure where hazards threaten to render certain areas uninhabitable, thus reducing the risk of disasters. Whilst this may also serve as an effective adaptation strategy, it can only achieve desirable outcomes if designed and implemented in close consultation and partnership with affected communities, with respect to their livelihoods and socio-cultural priorities.

Labour migration is important in building climate resilience for both states and communities and in helping them adapt. Labour migration enables people affected by climate change impacts to diversify income sources and strengthen their resilience. For this, skilled workers are needed, and studies show that the demand for green talent is outstripping supply. This green skills gap exists at all skills levels and plagues employers in every region of the world. Efforts need to be directed towards better anticipating skills needed for the just transition and capacitating workers with such skills.

Remittances and diaspora investments can also support the resilience of both home and host communities. Recent research indicates that remittance-receiving families are more likely to adopt strategies that promote climate resilience in farm and non-farm activities (IFAD 2020, IFAD 2022). These range from the diversification of productive activities to the increased use of financial services. However, for such positive impacts to be felt, labour migration must take place through regular and rights-based pathways ensuring fair recruitment and decent work for migrant workers.

Migration, if safe and regular, has the potential to play an important role in the efforts to move towards economically sustainable growth, and support the **just transition**. A just transition can be understood as a process that “promotes environmentally sustainable economies in a way that is inclusive, by creating decent work opportunities, reducing inequality and by leaving no one behind” ([ILC.111/Record No. 7A](#)). Climate change affects markets and skill needs, impacting the stability of employment for today’s **youth** and future generations. A lack of social dialogue between governments, employers and workers in developing labour migration pathways as well as the compounding effects of rigid labour markets, skills shortages, lack of skill recognition, and a shrinking workforce in many countries, pose

challenges to the just transition. **Partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration could thus be crucial in developing labour and employment- resilience.**

Further attention has been called for pastoralism and other resource-based adaptive strategies. Pastoralism remains one of the most resource-based adaptive strategies and can be found on all continents from the drylands of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula to the highlands of Asia and Latin America. However, environmental changes undermine usual patterns of livelihood-dependent pastoralist mobility (IOM 2019). As pastoralists have limited options for and access to income diversification, their vulnerability to climate change and intercommunal conflict has increased over the past years.

Structural Factors Play a Role in the Mobility-Environment Nexus

Climate change impacts are accelerating existing trends of urbanization, i.e. rural to urban migration. People moving in the context of the adverse effects of climate change mainly settle in cities, which are already the primary destination of international and internal migrants, and home to 70 per cent of the world's refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless people (MMC 2022). For example, in Freetown, the population might double over the next ten years, in great part due to climate-induced migration from rural areas of Sierra Leone; Dhaka North already welcomes almost 2,000 people every day, largely due to climate events that hit other regions of Bangladesh; whilst in Latin America, climate change alone could drive more than 10 million people to Mexican and Central American cities by 2050 (MMC 2022). As the world population will continue to urbanize over the next three decades to a projected 68 per cent in 2050 (UN Habitat), populations will be further exposed to higher disaster risk and thus displacement. Nearly 84 per cent of the fastest growing cities face extreme disaster risks; the vast majority of which are in Asia and Africa (UNDP). Many high-risk cities are not only located in challenging development contexts, such as least developed countries, low-income countries and Small Island Developing States, but also face considerable governance deficits and resource constraints.

Human insecurity, including the destruction of livelihoods, compromise of culture and identity, and increased displacement is and will continue to be a major challenge to the ability of states to provide stable conditions (IPCC 2014). For example, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, amongst others, are existential threats for some island States, threatening their populations with **displacement** and potential **statelessness**. Such phenomena might also lead to new or reignited disputes over territorial and maritime claims. In situations already affected by conflict or fragile contexts, climate change is also exacerbating risks of instability.

In addition, **food security** is intrinsically linked to the environment and to migration, being both a cause and an effect. Food insecurity in 2022 was aggravated globally by the joint impacts of conflict, disasters and displacement (IDMC 2023). Communities dependent on climate-sensitive livelihoods for food and income, mostly in rural settings, are particularly vulnerable to this, such as in East and Horn of Africa. **Livelihoods** are also affected indirectly, as enterprises in key sectors of the economy are impacted by the adverse effects of climate change. The sustainability of enterprises is central to ensuring the viability of local economies challenged by climate change and key to meeting the labour market demands and skills urgently required for the just transition. Ensuring a proper enabling environment for businesses, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), can facilitate,

accelerate, and incentivize resilient and sustainable enterprises to remain at home. It will also facilitate the production of green goods and technologies.

The compounded effects of climate change and human mobility on health are often dramatic for the population on the move, while bringing along both opportunities and challenges for host communities. Climate change is the biggest global health threat as it affects health directly through heat waves, droughts and heavy storms, and indirectly through increased propagation of vector- and water-borne diseases, food and water insecurity and undernutrition.

Women, children, youth, Indigenous Peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community are disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change through the deepening of pre-existing situations of vulnerability and marginalization. For both those who remain and those who move, different levels of access to information, resources and opportunities before, during and after moving continues to exacerbate inequalities and disproportionate risk. For example, **women** may face a plethora of overburdening factors resulting from the lack of social and legal protection, which in turn intensifies the gendered experiences of poverty, discrimination and inequality. Many representatives of these communities are agents of change, yet still remain unrecognized for their roles, and lack access to safe and inter-sectionally-sensitive resources. For example, involving **Indigenous youth** directly in designing and implementing climate resilience and adaptation strategies, and acknowledging their traditional knowledge and sustainable practices can prove critical in addressing climate change.

Data and Evidence on the Mobility-Environment Nexus has Limitations and Needs to be Strengthened

Several gaps remain in our knowledge on human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, which are important for both policy planning and operational response. They mainly stem from a lack of standardised data collection and analysis on human mobility, coordination challenges between migration and environment actors, and the complexity of multi-causal phenomenon like human mobility, and climate change. The above trends show the evolution of research on this topic, but also that more and better data and evidence on this topic is needed.

Firstly, robust data on the scale, duration, and severity of current human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation is needed. In particular, we need to better understand the impact of displacement on development gains and trajectories of affected countries and the conditions and criteria to determine if someone has sustainably benefited from durable solutions. We also need to better assess the impacts of slow-onset processes on human mobility, including for rural livelihoods, and identify losses and damages associated with such movements. We are also in need of more data on the impact of climate change prior to, during and following migration on the lives of women, children, youth, older people, persons with disabilities, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and on people already experiencing displacement such as refugees and IDPs.

We also need to know more about the future human mobility patterns in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. Current models trying to predict such movements support some general statements on climate-related effects on human mobility (IOM 2023). However,

a recent review of ‘climate mobility models’ indicates that results cannot yet reliably inform policy decisions related to future migration, including for matters related to labour markets, regional development, border policy, migrant protection and assistance (IOM 2023). To improve our projections, we need to promote the development of models using state-of-the-art methods, combined with standardised modelling protocols that account for the high complexity of migration processes.

Evidence is needed on the impacts of regular migration pathways in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. Information should be collected and analyzed on the types of regular migration pathways and their impacts on development and rights, including impact to reduce the risk of exploitation and human trafficking. It would be useful to assess the most strategic migration corridors for opening safe, regular and orderly pathways in connection to the most affected labour sectors and the most vulnerable regions to disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. In addition, analysis of the engagement and contributions of migrants in the green sectors and occupations as well as how climate mitigation efforts may affect future labour migration flows, skills needs and migrant workers’ employment and working conditions, is also largely missing.

Finally, the need to better understand the profile of those on the move in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation is also increasing. This would allow immigration offices to better assess migration flows and prepare migration legislation. Having more information about the skills of migrants would also support ensuring their access into to the labour market.

3. Main policy considerations

Policy Development and Coherence Related to Regular Migration Pathways and Climate-Resilient Development Has Progressed

With over 30 years of evidence, international policy is now acknowledging the links between human mobility and the environment across the major policy sectors. The GFMD has discussed this topic since its first edition in 2007 in Brussels, Belgium and has continued ever since, tackling the multiple facets of human mobility linked to the environment and in a development context (IOM 2018, see textbox in the Annex).

In the migration sector, the **2018 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**, the first ever international comprehensive migration governance framework, saw States commit to address disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation as drivers of migration (Objective 2) and to strengthen regular migration pathways in the context of both sudden and slow onset events and processes (Objective 5). At the **2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)**, monitoring the progress made on the GCM, States reiterated these commitments and acknowledged that accelerated action is needed to address climate change as a driver of migration, to develop regular migration pathways, and to establish indicators of success towards this action. States have also made commitments to implement the GCM in full coherence with the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (Objective 23).

Complementing the GCM, the **Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)**, acknowledges that root causes of refugee movements interact with environmental concerns around climate and disasters. This emphasizes the need for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in refugee settings, in addition to protection needs. In addition, the **New Agenda for Peace (NAP)** adopted in 2023 acknowledges the links between the climate emergency, instability and displacement. It calls for climate-related investments in conflict contexts to reduce the exacerbating effects of climate change.

The **UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement** aims to better resolve, prevent and address internal displacement crises, including in the context of disasters and climate change. It takes an integrated approach, combining development, peacebuilding, human rights, climate action and disaster risk reduction efforts. The priority on preventing and resolving displacement through development efforts is of particular interest for GFMD.

In the environmental sector, the adoption of the 2015 **Paris Agreement under UNFCCC** was a historical step for decarbonization and the first climate agreement to acknowledge the human rights of migrants. Three years later in 2018, UNFCCC Parties went a step further and welcomed the Task Force on Displacement recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change. At the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the UNFCCC in 2022, Parties took decisions on several areas relevant to human mobility (implementation, loss and damage, adaptation, financing). In particular, the COP27 [decision](#) to establish funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage, coupled with the historical COP28 decision on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage and the fund, has created a potential opportunity to support more adequate and predictable climate finance for human mobility.

In addition, at the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15), States re-acknowledged desertification, land degradation and drought as a driver of forced migration and [decided](#) to address the drivers of migration via sustainable land management, land restoration as well as green jobs and livelihoods for vulnerable populations.

The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** acknowledges displacement as a consequence of disasters and calls for people-centered DRR approaches. The 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP22/GPDRR), the forum monitoring the implementation of the Sendai Framework, reiterated this and [recommended](#) addressing displacement risk and including it in disaster risk reduction policies and strategies.

The **New Urban Agenda (2017)** recognizes the role of migrants in urban economies and the challenges that climate change poses for cities. It calls for respecting the human rights of migrants, refugees, and IDPs and supports access to climate finance for cities to support urban climate action, which can improve conditions for people on the move in cities.

Overarching all these is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which establish the principle of leaving no one behind. The links between mobility and the environment are not directly addressed by the SDGs. Nevertheless, several SDGs are

relevant to the topic: SDG 8 (on decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (on reduced inequalities) and, more specifically, SDG Target 10.7 (on facilitating orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies), SDG 11 (on sustainable cities and communities), SDG 13 (on climate action), and SDG 17 (on partnerships for the SDGs).

At the **regional** level, policy progress has been made too. Notably, the **Pacific** Regional Framework on Climate Mobility, the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change for **East and Horn of Africa States**, the **European Union** Working Document on Addressing displacement and migration related to disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, and the **Americas** Regional Guidelines in Central America and South America, respectively, are some of the most advanced. **Regional free movement** policies are also increasingly adapted to respond to population movements in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, such as the newly developed **IGAD** Free Movement Protocol, while others have been used for decades in this context, such as the **ECOWAS, EU or the Central America-4** free movement agreements. In addition, policies to manage **transhumant pastoralism** are in place in certain regions already, such as **ECOWAS and IGAD**, contributing to food security, sustainable livelihoods and economic development in the context of the environment.

At the **national** level, countries have addressed the mobility-environment nexus in various policies and legal frameworks, including on migration, internally displaced persons, climate change, disaster risk reduction and development.

When it comes to regular migration pathways, for example, Italy, Switzerland and the United States developed **temporary protection status** for people facing disasters in their home country. Other countries are considering extending existing **labour migration** schemes for circular and seasonal migration in the context of disasters and climate change too, such as in the Pacific between Tuvalu and Australia. Several countries have also developed dedicated policies to human mobility and the environment, such as Fiji and the Solomon Islands for **planned relocation**, or Bangladesh and Vanuatu for **internal disaster displacement management**, or Argentina and Brazil's **humanitarian visa** for specific country nationals displaced by disasters. Some countries have also developed and implemented measures for **migrants caught in disasters**, in line with the *Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster* (MICIC Guidelines).

Several other processes are ongoing at all levels, such as the Colombia draft law on climate migration, the expansion of the Kampala Declaration to the African continent, the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on States' obligations concerning climate change, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights advisory opinion on the scope of the state obligations for responding to the climate emergency, including its impacts on human mobility, or the MERCOSUR regional binding normative in discussion about disaster displacement.

In terms of climate-resilient development, multiple countries have integrated migration considerations in their **national climate change policies** (NAPs, NDCs), such as the Fiji, Ethiopia, and Guatemala NAPs and the Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and Zimbabwe NDCs; or in their **disaster risk reduction plans and strategies**. Multiple national **development plans** are also considering the

implications of human mobility linked to the environment, including the **climate prosperity plans** of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, through the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF). In other countries, **migrants are driving climate action**, such as returning migrants working in agroecology and agroforestry in Senegal (IOM, 2023c), and displaced persons in Cameroon and Central African Republic engaging in sustainable land and agro-pastoral management (I Yeke Oko Project).

All in all, as highlighted by a recent review of existing instruments addressing human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, policy development can be identified, but it is uneven across countries and regions and most of it has focused on addressing drivers than on facilitating human mobility i.e. regular pathways (PDD IOM, 2022). It also highlighted that the transition from policy development to implementation is only in the beginning, and more efforts need to be directed towards action. There is a **clear need to enhance the availability and flexibility of pathways in areas and regions already facing the limits of adaptation**.

Finally, **policy coherence** is progressing too. The ***CLIMB Database on Human Mobility in the Context of Disasters, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation*** (UNNM, 2023), compiles over 1578 national policy instruments in 172 countries and over 230 bilateral and/or regional policy instruments between 140s and 2022 across sectors of human mobility, disasters, climate change and sustainable development. This database shows the increasingly higher extent of references and provisions to the distinct dimensions of human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change, and environmental degradation in existing and diverse policies.

But more can be done to further strengthen policy coherence. There are opportunities in this regard for GFMD Member States to take advantage of, including to: contribute to the GCM regional reviews in 2024 and build upon the 2023 Global Refugee Forum outcomes; build upon the UNFCCC COP28 key decisions related to loss and damage, the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement, and contribute to UNFCCC COP29; and contribute to the Summit of the Future, the Sixteenth session of UNCCD Conference of the Parties (COP 16) in Riyadh, the 8th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the Fifth UN World Data Forum, all in 2024.

4. Ideas for action: Enhancing regular migration pathways and climate-resilient development

In line with the key facts and figures presented and the policy development to date, two major priorities emerge: the **need for further inclusive policy development and implementation on regular migration pathways and climate-resilient development**. These priorities are contingent on resolving some of the data and evidence gaps mentioned above as well as on new, additional, predictable and adequate financial resources.

Policy Development and Implementation on Regular Migration Pathways and Climate-Resilient Development Need to be Accelerated to Meet the Scale of Needs

The GCM has seen States commit to ensure the protection of migrants and their rights via **pathways for regular migration**, including new and expanded regular pathways to admission and stay. Many migrants lack access to regular migration options, but are compelled to leave their countries of origin

due to disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation as well as lack of access to rights, separation from families, gender-based violence and inequalities. With the increasing adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation adding on to the existing impacts of natural hazards, more people could find themselves compelled to leave their home and thus, in need of safe and regular pathways.

As explained by the UN Network on Migration *Guidance Note on Regular Pathways for Admission and Stay for Migrants in Situations of Vulnerability* (2021) and building on GFMD conclusions, “providing migrants with access to entry and/or residence through regular channels reduces their need to move, live and work in unsafe circumstances. Regular pathways contribute to reducing the risk of migrants becoming vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence, abuse, exploitation and exclusion, and ensure the protection of their human rights, including labour rights, decent work and social protection, and access to services while facilitating integration into the community of the destination country. Pathways for regular migration also benefit all countries, helping them to build strong communities, contributing to sustainable development, responding to labour market needs, strengthening their capacity to identify who enters, transits through and remains in the territory, as well as supporting the rule of law by reducing human trafficking and other exploitation, and curbing migrant smuggling across their borders. (...) Expanding the availability of accessible pathways for admission and stay on the basis of labour migration, family reunification, education and other considerations and working towards their long-term sustainability is an effective means to prevent migrants from entering into situations of vulnerability,” including due to disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

As such, **States should develop and strengthen existing local, national and regional practices for admission and stay based on compassionate, humanitarian, and rights-based considerations.** Regular migration pathways are legal, policy and/or administrative mechanisms that provide for regular travel, admission and/or stay in the territory of a State (regardless of whether the initial entry was regular and/or temporary) (UNNM, 2021). These include: medium to long-term labour migration schemes with pathways to permanency, temporary or permanent residence and work permits, transhumance/pastoralism certificates, free movement agreements, temporary protection statuses, long-term humanitarian visas, student and family reunification visas, private sponsorship, non-return policies in the context of sudden-onset disasters, and adjustment, extension or regularization of migration status. Planned relocation processes and planned evacuations, if based on human rights and designed jointly with the communities, are also considered by some as a regular way of moving people living in at-risk areas.

Regular migration pathways must be inclusive and rights-based in order to avoid further vulnerabilities and marginalisation. Temporary labour migration schemes can be highly exploitative of workers, putting them in situations of vulnerability, including human smuggling and trafficking and risking mal-adaptation. Therefore, decent work should be the driving principle for regular migration and development. Such safe and regular pathways should also be aligned with strategies to fill labour and skills shortages that are urgently required to speed up the just transition, including at the local level. What is more, pathways for regular migration should also consider people’s ties to their ancestral homelands and allow people to move temporarily, repeatedly, between home and

destination communities. In the context of climate change increasingly rendering parts of the world uninhabitable, regular migration pathways should also facilitate permanent solutions.

The 2022 Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC identifies “**Climate Resilient Development** to have a crucial role in merging the different strings into future-oriented and progressive scenarios for sustainable development”. “[The approach] aims at integrating adaptation measures and their respective enabling conditions with mitigation practices in a way that incorporates the co-dependence of people and ecosystems on local scale levels whilst simultaneously advancing ecosystem functions at a planetary scale. IPCC thus stresses the importance of including questions of equity and emphasizes the need for various system transitions in land, ocean, ecosystems, urban and infrastructure, energy, industry, and society. Most importantly, the report stresses the inextricable interdependency of human, ecosystem, and planetary health and argues that action must be taken on many levels at once to succeed. [The] climate-resilient development pathways are concrete development trajectories for action that fruitfully merge the mitigation and adaptation practices to achieve sustainable and equitable development for all” (IPCC, 2022; IOM, 2023).

Most notably, Chapter 18 of this IPCC report addresses human mobility in the context of climate change. It refers to examples of displacement, pastoralism, labour migration, and planned relocation. For example, in small islands, labour migration is increasingly recognized as a significant factor that can contribute to climate-resilient development pathways (Schipper et al. 2022:31). The chapter also recognises that the “low-cost adaptation to saline ingress [e.g., salt-tolerant rice varieties], that increase food productivity and reduces the risk of outmigration for this vulnerable agricultural region (Schipper et al. 2022:47)”.

Therefore, **it is essential that migrants and the potential movement of people are further integrated in national climate change plans**, including NAPs and NDCs, national disaster risk reduction strategies, national development plans, climate prosperity plans and nature-based solutions, and their implementation. This would ensure that action can be taken to prevent, anticipate and respond to needs, but also that migrants can act as actors of change, contributing to climate action and sustainable development.

People on the move can boost global value chains and meet the needs for climate and development finance (IOM, 2023a). They drive entrepreneurship, including sustainable enterprise development in the context of a just transition, and bring knowledge and skills as well as innovation, social, and cultural capital that they acquire and develop abroad or at home, and that is transferred to communities of origin and destination. They contribute to building resilient and peaceful societies capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change (IOM, 2023a; Migrants4Climate, 2023).

As such, **the contribution of remittances to climate adaptation should be recognized, including as catalysts of resilience**. Remittances are already financing climate adaptation needs, and the demand for climate adaptation and mitigation finance is on the rise as climate changes and its impact worsen. Providing new options and incentives that could enable remittance families to more effectively build resilience to climate-related shocks and economic and social fragility is therefore more important than ever. The international community could also stimulate new strategies and initiatives to enhance the

impact of remittances in support of families and rural communities affected by disasters and develop specific products that can be used by remitters and their families.

What is more, **diaspora investment for climate adaptation should be leveraged.** Migrants' investments can be – and in some cases are already – used by rural entrepreneurs to promote climate adaptation solutions, thereby improving food and economic security, fostering the adoption of sustainable agriculture, greater water efficiency, drought resilient crops and land restoration practices, among other adaptive actions. Diaspora investors are often aware of changing conditions facing agriculture and related activities and of the necessity to adapt to these changes, but they may not be adequately informed about the opportunities to invest in climate adaptation and resilience activities. Therefore, a better understanding of diaspora investments is needed as well as increasing awareness on the importance and means to invest in climate adaptation strategies.

New, Additional, Predictable and Adequate Financial Resources are Urgently Needed for Tackling Human Mobility Linked to the Environment

Despite the recognition of the links between human mobility and the environment and the advancement of policy development, the current financial landscape is not aligned with the needs and scale of present and projected human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.

While solutions to human mobility linked to the environment are usually three-fold (i. migration governance, ii. emergency preparedness and response, and iii. sustainable development and climate action), financial support has mainly come from the migration and emergency field, with the climate and development sources lagging behind. A 2018 study done by the Task Force on Displacement (TFD) under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) showed that few of the programmes funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) at the time were addressing human mobility. A 2020 analysis done by the UN SG's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement corroborates the same finding. In 2023, the situation is similar, with most financial support for climate change-induced human mobility coming outside of climate financing, as an analysis from the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) shows.

The GCM/Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (M-MPTF) has already allocated resources to programmes related to GCM Objectives 2 and 5 in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. Whilst the Migration MPTF aims to continue investing in context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, it remains the only pooled funding instrument in the field of migration and there is a global lack of similar instruments.

This remains worrying as the global crisis response for human mobility is currently estimated by IOM to be at [USD 5.3 billion](#) across 43 countries with 68.5 million people affected by multi-causal crises in 2023. The economic impact of internal displacement worldwide was estimated at more than [USD 21 billion](#) in 2021 by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Both these figures include both conflict and disasters settings, as there are no disaggregated figures available at time of writing.

Therefore, given the humanitarian and development financing gap, coupled with the ever-increasing impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, existing funding streams are not sufficient. If

the international community is to significantly work on regular migration pathways and climate-resilient development, **robust financial sources and mechanisms are required**, including to:

- **Make funds available and accessible directly to migrants, communities and local authorities, and to the actors responding to the needs of countries and communities** in the context of human mobility linked to disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. In order to reach the most vulnerable, funds need to be flexible, multi-year, and inclusive of grassroots and ground-level realities.
- **Strengthen responses, including national planning, that are inclusive of migrants and displaced persons, to ensure access to relevant funding mechanisms for origin and host countries and communities.**
- **Replenish and scale up existing funding arrangements**, including through voluntary contributions of Member States to the Migration MPTF, the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund, and migration stakeholders; the climate funds: Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Global Environmental Facility; and the Joint SDG MPTF, among others.
- **Scale up climate financing** to reach the annual USD 100 billion pledge with a balance between adaptation and mitigation, to ensure at scale work towards climate resilient development, adaptation and displacement prevention
- **Ensure continuous funding for the newly operationalized fund and funding arrangements on loss and damage**, including to tackle human mobility in the context of climate change, in line with the scope of the fund and funding arrangements.
- **Integrate human mobility linked to the environment in the development financing reform of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)**, such as via the Bridgetown Initiative and through new concessional lending for attaining the SDGs everywhere and building climate resilience in climate-vulnerable countries.
- **Integrate human mobility in the implementation of the Paris Pact for People and the Planet (4P)**, such as in the private sector leveraging USD 100 billion of private money each year in developing and emerging economies, and when increasing by USD 200 billion the MDBs' lending capacity over the next ten years.

Funding going towards human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation should be **new, additional, predictable and adequate**, when possible. This means: i. enhancing funding, its predictability and aligning funding priorities with countries' needs; ii. simplifying and streamlining processes and requirements for accessing climate financing; iii. ensuring flexible eligibility criteria to overcome risk aversion that currently represents a barrier to the availability of diverse funding for national and local response plans; and iv. encouraging diversification of funding sources.

5. Three guiding questions for the GRT-debate

1. What is needed to develop and ensure rights-based regular migration pathways in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation? What are some examples?
2. What are the main actions needed to accelerate inclusive, context-specific climate-resilient development at local, national, regional and global levels for mobile and immobile communities? What commitments have governments already made?
3. What mechanisms, including related to data and funding, need to be in place to support stakeholders, including migrants themselves, to respond to the impacts of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation on mobility?

6. Annexes

Annex 1 | GFMD – WORKSHOP ON LABOUR MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE (29 MARCH 2023)

Panel 1 key take-aways

o Shifting the narrative. The narrative around climate action should change from climate vulnerability to climate prosperity. It is imperative to focus on the opportunities and the positive investments needed for long-term development, while closing protection gaps experienced by migrants and displaced people. More broadly, this workshop adopted a positive approach on labour migration, considered as a sustainable development driver.

o Policy coherence across labour, migration and climate. Labour migration policies and programmes need to be aligned with broader adaptation and just transition agendas. For example, Nationally Determined Contributions and Climate Prosperity Plans should be consistent with migration policies, including with the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Livelihoods and skills are common threads that can potentially tie these policy areas together.

o Protection. When people are compelled to move, they become more vulnerable to risks of forced labour, indebtedness and human trafficking. It is necessary to guarantee minimum standards of protection in line with international labour standards to ensure equal rights for all workers regardless of migratory status. These should include protection in the workplace from climate-induced heat stress, rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining. It is also key to provide reliable information throughout the migration cycle from pre-departure to return.

o Permanent pathways. Most legal pathways available for climate-affected populations fall under temporary protection regimes. This increases the risk of exploitation and the treatment of migrants as a subclass of workers, limiting development outcomes. Permanent pathways allowing family reunification can promote more resilient communities, facilitate socioeconomic integration, and harness a broad range of benefits in terms of skills, intercultural dialogue, remittances, economic growth, etc. Besides creating new pathways, existing ones could be expanded.

o Social dialogue. Meaningful consultations with a wide range of stakeholders including trade unions, the private sector and migrants themselves are crucial. Moving out of silos, synergizing efforts and empowering grassroots initiatives lead to a strong national ownership of responses. The important role of diasporas'

socio-economic and human capital in climate action is also largely untapped and should be actively supported and promoted.

o Capacity development, data and financing. Increased cooperation is needed to develop userfriendly tools to implement technical guidance on climate-related migration and displacement, such as those developed by the UNFCCC Taskforce on Displacement. Quality data is also needed as a basis for any intervention and the use of modern sources such as drone mapping technologies and satellites. The involvement of youth in data collection should be explored. Pre-arranged financing mechanisms for climate-related human mobility with a focus on slow onset events could be established, including in the loss and damage fund created as an outcome of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Sharm el-Sheikh. o Addressing root causes. Labour mobility is just one tool in the toolbox of climate adaptation. It is equally essential to provide solutions for those who want to stay and more importantly, addressing root causes and inequalities to make migration a choice instead of a necessity.

Panel 2 key take-aways

o Youth empowerment and diaspora engagement. Investing in green skills for young people and creating decent jobs for them in countries of origin is of high importance. Without these, a lot of youth with green skills move to countries where green transition is a priority, thereby contributing to brain drain. To mitigate this, more countries like Argentina are attracting its diaspora to bring back new expertise and facilitate technology transfers that could be instrumental in just transitions.

o Integrating humanitarian access and long-term sustainable development. Protection mechanisms for migrants affected by climate change should include perspectives for longer term settlement and socioeconomic integration to support wider sustainable development goals. The humanitarian visa in Argentina shows how this approach can be implemented.

o Rights-based regular labour migration schemes. Growing demand for green talent to support just transitions can be met by putting in place rights-based and targeted labour mobility schemes, bilateral labour migration agreements, and regional migration schemes. This allows employers to benefit from predictable and efficient mobility frameworks that foster intra-company transfers and respond to fast-changing needs and business models. At the same time, international labour standards, including fair recruitment policies should be mainstreamed to ensure respect for migrants' fundamental human and labour rights and guarantee migrant workers' access to social protection.

o Skills recognition and development. Bilateral or regional labour migration agreements should include qualifications and skills recognition and development (including technical and vocational education and training) before and after departure in line with labour market demands. Migrants should enjoy accessible, non-discriminatory and equal opportunities as nationals in terms of career progression and access to life-long learning opportunities. This does not only empower and protect migrants, but also promotes green transitions.

o Transition to formal employment. In many countries, including Bangladesh and cities like Accra, there is heavy migrant presence in the informal economy. Migrants provide essential services, for instance in health care, waste management, recycling, yet face exclusion from financial systems and social protection frameworks, among others. This weakens their adaptative capacity. Upskilling and reskilling programmes

across all sectors and skill levels, as well as skills recognition of prior learning can help diversify employment opportunities and contribute to the transition from informal to formal employment.

o Policy coherence and social dialogue. National labour migration and skills development policies should be fit for purpose and aligned with national adaptation planning and just transition plans and, in the case of disasters, reconstruction plans. To better anticipate skills and identify labour market shortages in rapidly evolving workplaces, social dialogue, engaging employers' and workers' organizations, in designing policy responses are essential.

o Gender-sensitive approach. Skills development policies can and should promote a gender sensitive approach, taking into consideration specific challenges faced by women in accessing decent work opportunities. For example, to ease the increased burden of care work, childcare services in workplaces and training centres and maternity benefits should be made available.

Annex 2 | GFMD - WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN MOBILITY (28 JUNE 2023)

Key Take-Aways

Multiple factors interplay with climate change and human mobility and significantly affect prospects for sustainable development. Data shows that climate hazards associated with extreme events act as drivers of migration and displacement. Though most climate-related mobility occurs within national boundaries, with international migration movements occurring primarily between countries with contiguous borders, multiple interconnected factors are at play including demographics and a web of socio-economic factors which increase risks and vulnerabilities of populations.

Limiting global warming to reduce the impact of climate change on communities. The implementation of the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions remains a key challenge. While progress on reducing gas emissions is stalling, the impacts of climate change on communities are tangible and it is necessary to address vulnerabilities of affected populations in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and minimize the structural factors that displace populations or induce them to migrate, as stipulated by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Recognizing migration as an adaptation strategy to vulnerabilities created by climate change. Climate-induced mobility may be forced or be a proactive adaptation strategy that allows affected populations to minimize harm and improve their life conditions. Labour migration for instance can play a positive role for affected populations and countries of origin and destination through, among others, entrepreneurship, diasporas engagement, innovation in the green and blue sectors. The engagement of the private sector and development financial institutions in this field is key.

Migrants and refugees are strong contributors to the economy and culture of countries of origin and destination. Often successful entrepreneurs, thinkers and innovators, migrants play a key role for sustainable development. It is important to stress the positive contribution of migration to societies also when discussing challenges and crises linked to climate change and human mobility.

A Summit for a New Global Financing Pact was held in Paris on 22-23 June 2023 to rethink the global financial architecture and mobilize financial support for developing and low-income countries (DLICs) facing the challenges posed by excessive debt, climate change and poverty. The Summit recalled the

centrality of migration for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the importance of fighting inequalities and the shared responsibility to protect the planet.

Displacement related to climate change is currently increasing. While conflict remains the major driver of long-term displacement around the world, climate-induced displacements are starting to increase in dangerous ways. Last year more people were displaced due to disasters (32million), the highest number ever recorded, 98% of such displacements were weather related due to floods, droughts or storms. Currently, over 70% of people internally displaced by conflict live in highly climate-vulnerable countries.

Managing today's dynamics and migration challenges can help reduce the risk of displacement tomorrow. Migration is in many cases about people seeking better opportunities and can be a force for prosperity. Displacement is about being forcibly uprooted from one's home, often long-term, and it is about leaving one's assets, livelihood and community behind. The World Bank's Groundswell Reports warned that 216million people could be displaced by2050 due to climate. According to the same analysis, over 80% can be avoided with the right development interventions and Government leadership.

There is a need for structural responses, joined approaches and the inclusion of local governments in planning for development. Climate is one of the long-term factors driving displacement and migration, with accelerated urbanization, insecurity and loss of livelihoods. It is necessary to start planning for long-term changes and collaborating among humanitarian actors, climate adaptation and mitigation actors, migration and development actors, peace, security and financial institutions, and embracing the key role of mayors and local governments.

[The mandate of the new funding arrangements, including a fund for responding to Loss and Damage Fund, operationalized at COP 28, includes a focus on addressing loss and damage to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events.] Trends show that the more unstable a state is, the less climate finance it receives. It is necessary to make climate financing accessible to countries facing waves of displacement due to climate-related events.

The French Chair's GFMD 2022-2023 overarching priority -Climate change and human mobility- is to be addressed in line with the other priorities, such as human rights, taking into account the key role of diasporas as agents of development, the importance of labour migration, promoting well-informed public discourse on migration, and through a multi-level governance approach. Within these priorities, the importance of data for policy development (panel 1) plays a central role, as well as the local dimension (panel 2) and the need for strong partnerships for action (panel 3).

Annex 3 | GFMD - DISCUSSIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION WITHIN THE GFMD (2009-2020)

Discussions on climate change and migration within the GFMD (2007-2020)

1. The GFMD has acknowledged disasters and climate change as drivers of migration since its inception in **2007 at the first GFMD Summit in Belgium**, as outlined in the Report of Proceedings:

Access: www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd_brussels07_final_report_en.pdf

*“2.3.1. Root causes of migration, 2.3.1.1. Background and main observations: **Root causes of migration are diverse and complex.** They are not all sources of concern, but those that are, generally relate to major economic, demographic and social disparities. They range from extreme poverty to unemployment, institutional weakness, political instability, insecurity and conflict, undemocratic regimes and non-respect of human rights, ineffective health systems, non-profitable agriculture, **climate change and environmental degradation or disasters.**”*

Following this initial Summit, the GFMD has held regular discussions on the links between migration, climate change and disasters on several instances, in both governmental and civil society fora. The analysis and debates ranged from the integration of migration considerations in climate change policies and negotiations, the need for more and better data on the effects of climate change on migration, and to the need for protection measures, especially for the most vulnerable.

2. The Philippines GFMD 2008

Access:

https://www.gfmd.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd11801/files/documents/gfmd_manila08_report_of_the_proceedings_en.pdf

Climate change was acknowledged as a driver of migration in both the governmental and civil society deliberations, including in the dedicated session, Roundtable 3.1, on Strengthening data and research tools on migration and development:

*“Our deliberations took place at an extraordinarily challenging time: as the world’s governments struggle for responses to the global financial crisis, and the threat of **climate change**, and as migration policies in many regions became more restrictive.”*

*“Capacity building was needed to equip border control bodies to collect more reliable data; **and for research on the impact of climate change.**”*

3. Greece GFMD Summit 2009

Access: www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd_athens09_report_of_the_proceedings_en.pdf

A. From the **Opening Plenary Session**, climate change was acknowledged as a driver of migration by, at the time, UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon:

“Climate change is another major challenge and is already affecting and displacing millions in Asia and Africa, so far mostly internally; international migration, however, is likely to increase if climate change goes on unchecked.”

and by the representative of the Comoros:

“(…) migration and climate change to be the biggest challenges for his country. The Third GFMD comes at a time of concurrent crises, which are particularly severe for Africa. North-South cooperation needs, therefore, to be strengthened beyond traditional development aid.”

B. The dedicated **Session 1.3: Addressing the root causes of migration through development, specifically in light of the current global economic crisis**, co-chaired by Bangladesh and United Kingdom, also touched

on this topic and suggested to continue discussions in the context of the Forum, while also recommending direct action:

*“Linking the crisis to **the root causes of migration**, delegates stressed that these can also relate to conflict or climate change. The latter should be taken into serious consideration in this discussion, as adaption to climate change may be inevitable and also to avert “climatic” migration. Some delegates suggested that root causes could be the topic of a separate session in a future GFMD meeting.”*

*“The final recommendations of the session were: **Give serious consideration to the impact of climate change on migration and to joint efforts to face this challenge.**”*

C. The Session 3.1: Policy and Institutional Coherence – Latest Data and Research Findings, co-chaired by Morocco and Switzerland, recommended for migration to be integrated in national climate change adaptation policies:

*“Recommendations and Follow-up Actions: Sustained attention needs to be paid to **mainstreaming and integrating migration into** development planning processes, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), activities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and **National Adaptation Plans of Action concerning climate change (NAPAs).**”*

4. Mexico GFMD Summit 2010

Access: www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd_mexico10_report_of_the_proceedings_en.pdf

Following up on the recommendations of Session 1.3 at the Greece GFMD 2009, **Roundtable Session 3.2: Assessing the relevance and impact of climate change on migration and development** in Puerto Vallarta, at the Mexico GFMD, co-chaired by the same Governments, Bangladesh and the United Kingdom, addressed the issue at hand directly and from various angles. The final recommendations recognized the need for more data and knowledge on the topic as well as multi-stakeholder dialogue, including in the context of UNFCCC:

*“Outcomes and recommendations: 1. **Expedite data and analysis exchange and sharing of first experiences and best practices**, and for this purpose create a Virtual Library that would become a global public good on the available and soon-to-be-available data and analyses on the topic. 2. **Strengthen the dialogue at the local, regional and global levels on the interconnections of climate change, migration and development**, including exchanges on best practices and critical first experiences of policy intervention that might not be finalized or definitive but might point the way forward for urgent action. **Encourage the GFMD to contribute to such dialogue in the future.** 3. **Recognize the need for all concerned stakeholders to begin discussions on an appropriate legal and institutional framework to address these important issues, including in the context of the UNFCCC.**”*

5. Mauritius GFMD Summit 2012

Access: www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd_mauritius12_report_of_the_proceedings.pdf

A. As in Athens at the Greece GFMD 2009, the back then UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, through his **Special Representative for International Migration, Peter Sutherland**, called the attention of States to the role of climate change and disasters in human mobility:

“He believed that the complex factors driving migration are the same problems at the top of the global agenda – war, natural disasters, economic calamities and climate change.”

- B. In the **Common Space Panel 2: Common ground and partnerships to protect migrants in distress**, participants recognized the need for guidance on protecting migrants in situations of crisis and recommended the development of a global initiative to support the elaboration of practical guidance, which later on materialized into the **Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC)**, launched at the Sweden GFMD 2014 in Stockholm, and its **Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster** of June 2016, analyzed below:

*“Recognizing the need to assist all migrants in distress, it was suggested, nevertheless, that a **global initiative could in a first stage most usefully focus on the specific situations of migrants who are, through no fault of their own, caught in humanitarian crises, either because of an outbreak of conflict in their host country or a natural disaster.**”*

*“Next steps: It was suggested that in preparation for the High Level Dialogue 2013 a working group composed of all the stakeholders, including civil society, be established to bring together all the experience, expertise and good practices in terms of **protecting migrants in times of crisis**. This working group could, **based on good practices, produce practical guidance on how states’ responsibilities under international law could be best implemented in these situations to ensure more systematic and predictable responses**. Different international instruments and mechanisms define state responsibility for the protection of migrants. The challenge lay in translating and linking the different applicable legal regimes. A matrix of legal instruments could be developed, which could identify the international instruments applicable to a specific situation, states’ responsibilities and the international organizations responsible.”*

- C. The **Roundtable 2.2: Addressing South-South Migration and Development Policies**, co-chaired by Bangladesh and Ghana, with Argentina as Rapporteur, also discussed the **Influence of environmental change on migration in developing countries**. Participants recognized the impact of climate change on migration, the vulnerability of trapped populations, and recommended as in Greece GFMD 2009 to bring these discussions into the UNFCCC and ensure human mobility is integrated in national climate change adaptation policies, while also engaging at the policy level, including through the Nansen Initiative:

“Participants recognized environmental change and its impact on migration and development as an issue of growing importance. They noted the need to focus not only on directly affected populations able to move away from environmental threats, but also on those who do not have the means to leave these areas or move towards other environmentally hazardous areas.”

*“Some participants also referred to the need to build on the lessons learned from **National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)** which should more consistently include references to the impact of environmental change on population movements, and highlight the role of migration as an adaptive strategy, promote risk assessments and resilience building, enhance preparedness and response capacities, and integrate migration into the NAPAs as part of national development strategies.”*

*“Such discussions should also take account of the Cancun Adaptation Framework of the **UN Framework Convention for Climate Change, and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20.**”*

*“Finally, some delegates suggested to create an ‘environmental observatory on migration’, while others referred to the recent **Nansen Initiative launched by Norway and Switzerland**, which addresses key principles on protection of people affected by natural disasters, including those caused by climate change.”*

6. Turkey GFMD Summit 2015

- A. At this occasion, governments recognized disasters, climate change and environmental degradation as drivers of migration and displacement, and encouraged international cooperation on this matter, including through the Nansen Initiative, as well as future specialized discussions the Forum.**

Access: www.gfmd.org/files/documents/report_of_the_gfmd_2014-2015_turkish_chairmanship_en.pdf

The Report of the Turkish Chairmanship, Turkey GFMD 2015 says:

*“The first panel elicited an interesting exchange of views on the concept of displacements, i.e., on whether or not ‘forced migrants’ should include refugees, and to what extent the discussion of refugees should be covered in the GFMD. **It also sparked the sharing of actual government experiences and initiatives in assisting migrants who were forced to move for various reasons, e.g., climate change and environmental degradation**, collapse in the economy, end or lack of food, water of decent work in country of origin, wars and other conflicts. Most of these efforts and state policies are carried out based on strong humanitarian principles and international commitments to human development and human security. **Many have built-in migrant development programs spearheaded by the government, with support from international actors, notably the IOM, UNHCR, UN Human Security and other relevant UN family members.** (...)”*

*The second panel looked at how to use mobility channels to harness the developmental potential of **migrants who are forcibly displaced due to a host of factors, including market failures, disasters and climate change.**”*

*“Recognizing that forced displacement is happening across regions of the world for various reasons, the need for developing global and regional guiding principles was underscored. A range of protection solutions must be inclusive for all those affected by forced migration at all points along the migration’s cycle. In this regard, delegates expressed support for ongoing international cooperation on specific groups of displacements. **One excellent example is the ‘Nansen Initiative’ led by Switzerland and Norway, which has developed a framework for assisting people forced to flee due to disaster or climate change effects. Already, 110 countries have signed up for this initiative. The US Philippine led ‘Migrants in Crisis Initiative’ is another cooperation framework that is focused on assisting migrants who are caught in conflict situations or crises in the country of destination. The African Union, meanwhile, has developed a common instrument for the protection of internally displaced persons.**”*

- B. Roundtable 3.1 “International cooperation and responsibility-sharing and human security for people forcibly displaced across international borders”,** chaired by Moldova and Eritrea, brought the topic in the 2015 GFMD, where the Nansen Initiative and MICIC were promoted as good examples of international cooperation on this topic, and encouraged further discussions on this matter, leading to the Bangladesh Roundtable:

Access: www.gfmd.org/files/documents/Report_on_Roundtable_3_1_Outcomes.pdf

*“There is growing support for ongoing international cooperation on specific groups of displacements, some excellent examples of which include **the Swiss-led ‘Nansen Initiative’ which has developed a framework***

for assisting people forced to flee due to disaster or climate change effects. Already, 110 countries have signed up for this initiative. The US-Philippine led "Migrants in Crisis Initiative" is another cooperation framework that is focused on assisting migrants who are caught in conflict situations or crises in the country of destination. Existing programs for refugees undertaken by the relevant UN agencies and international body continues to be supported by donor countries.

Finally, RT3.1 called for continued discussion in the GFMD on particular groups of people -- those who are extremely vulnerable, including those "in between", and to recognize that they are brought to their situation because of a host of factors, for instance market failure. The GFMD is asked continue to discuss the conditions of people forcibly displaced across international borders, address policy gaps, and explore solutions with great urgency in the context of sustainable development, under the next Chair, Bangladesh."

7. Bangladesh GFMD Summit 2016

- A. In GFMD in Dhaka, the issue of migration and displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change was on the agenda and referred to by several delegations, with **Roundtable 3.1 Migrants in situations of crises: conflict, climate change and natural disasters**, specifically addressing the topic.

States such as Germany, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Mexico and Senegal referred to the work of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and its predecessor, the Nansen Initiative, in their interventions and recommended for the topic to be included in the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Other countries, such as Argentina, Algeria, Chile, Ethiopia, India, Norway, Russia, Togo, Tuvalu and the United States of America also spoke to the issue of environmental migration and disaster displacement and highlighted several initiatives, including: the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC); a draft UN Resolution (Tuvalu) on the legal protection of persons displaced by the impacts of climate change or natural disasters; plans for developing a Guide to admission and stay in South America (Chile); and humanitarian visas, among others.

A mention on the work of MICIC and PDD were included in the overall **Summary of the GFMD Chair**, H.E. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, as well as in the **Roundtable 3 Summary** presented by Belgium. Both statements recommended to draw on the work of MICIC and PDD/the Nansen Initiative in developing the GCM and encouraged the dissemination and application of this work.

Summary of the Chair:

Access: www.gfmd.org/files/documents/9th_gfmd_chairs_summary_12_dec_2016.pdf

"Roundtable 3.1 Migration in Situations of Crisis The international community must ensure that migrants caught in such situations have access to safety; another is to protect them from exploitation and abuse. The Migrants in Crisis (MICIC) initiative and the Platform for Disaster Displacement provide both valuable policy options and examples of effective practice. We should encourage their dissemination and application in situations of crisis. Together with the work of the GMG on the protection of vulnerable migrants, these efforts could inform the state-led process to develop guiding principles and guidelines on migrants in vulnerable situations, which is envisaged in the New York Declaration."

Roundtable 3 Summary:

Access: www.gfmd.org/files/documents/report_by_the_general_rapporteur_of_rt_3.pdf

“This Roundtable built on the outcomes and recommendations of RT 3.1 in Istanbul. A lot of progress has been achieved since 2015. There was a clear consensus on the importance of the topic of RT 3.1. It was underlined that no country is immune to crisis. (...) The MICIC Initiative and the Platform for Disaster Displacement support these efforts by providing guidance and highlighting effective practices. There was a call to fully integrate their principles in the Global Compact on Migration and be practical (concrete recommendation of this roundtable).”

B. Other Roundtables reflected the messages of Roundtable 3.1 on climate migration issues and on the already existing mechanisms such as PDD/Nansen Initiative and MICIC (RT 3.2). Others emphasized the vulnerability of migrants due to the negative consequences of climate change as well as the unprecedented focus on human mobility in the context of climate change at the climate change negotiations in Morocco at COP22 (RT 2.2).

8. Germany and Morocco GFMD Summit 2017-2018

A. Rabat 2017 GFMD thematic workshop on climate change and human mobility entitled "Towards dignified, coordinated and sustainable solutions"

Access: www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/analytical-report-gfmd-workshop

The objective of this workshop was to contribute to the elaboration of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in the context of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development; and to contribute to providing concrete tools for States to respond to the challenges created by all forms of human mobility associated with climate change.

The first panel *“Understanding and taking action”* focused on actionable knowledge and evidence sharing. Speakers shared the practices implemented in their represented organization or country. The second panel *“Toward responsibility sharing: collaborating to strengthen action”* was dedicated to pursuing greater consistency at the levels of global and national strategic frameworks and to formulate recommendations for better access to climate funding.

The participants agreed that there was ample evidence of the link between human mobility and climate change, and that there was a need to move beyond the call for evidence and translate knowledge into action. A lack of adequate employment and livelihoods was raised as a particular area of concern in regions enduring the brunt of climate change impacts. The participants highlighted the urgent necessity to support the most vulnerable populations and states in the long run, as well as building upon various existing initiatives. Lastly, participants stressed that taking into account and respecting human rights was a prerequisite to successful initiatives and public policies.

B. Co-chairs Conclusions, Germany and Morocco GFMD 2017

Access:

Building upon the work undertaken during the Rabat meeting, the GFMD Summit in Berlin in December 2017 reaffirmed the GFMD engagement on climate change issues:

“Furthermore, the GFMD discussed the need for mainstreaming migration related SDGs in national action and development plans. To this end, Germany and Morocco also brought human mobility linked to

climate change into the discussion and addressed the drivers of migration including the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters. “

Given the informal nature the of the GFMD, as a state-led dialogue on migration, the GFMD could continue to be of value of states to regularly exchanged knowledge and expertise related to climate change and migration. The GFMD is clearly acknowledged as a useful resource in the final text of the GCM and it could be instrumental in the GCM implementation as well.

9. Ecuador GFMD Summit 2019

10. UAE GFMD Summit 2020

Annex 4 | BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE MOBILITY-ENVIRONMENT NEXUS

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