

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Climate change is a threat to human well-being and health of the planet.

Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all”.

This statement is not mine, but the one of the authors of the latest IPCC WG 3 Report, issued two weeks ago.

Starting from this assertion, and seen from an IOM perspective, I would like to raise 3 Points:

- 1. How the climate crisis is affecting people***
- 2. What kind of action can be undertaken at local and national levels***
- 3. What kind of action can be undertaken at global / international level***

I. The global climate and environment crisis is growingly affecting societies all over the world:

1. Coming back to the latest IPCC report, a few important considerations :

“Approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change”.

“Climate change impacts and risks are becoming increasingly complex and more difficult to manage. Multiple climate hazards will occur simultaneously, and multiple climatic and non-climatic risks will interact, resulting in compounding overall risk and risks cascading across sectors and regions...”

The report highlights that a 2 degrees temperature rise, would expose 65 million people to “exceptionally” extreme heat waves, with 3 billion people subject to water scarcity and some regions confronting 200 or more, days a year, where climate change makes outdoor work impossible.”

2. The IPCC report highlights that the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events have already contributed to migration and displacement.

The report says that :

“Climate change is contributing to humanitarian crises where climate hazards interact with high vulnerability.

Climate and weather extremes = are increasingly driving displacement = in all regions, with small island states disproportionately affected.

Flood and drought-related acute food insecurity and malnutrition have increased in Africa and in Central and South America”

Even if the Report confirms the very complex relationship between climate change and human mobility, given the importance of other non-climatic, mostly socio-economic drivers, still climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters due to natural hazards are already affecting every country on every continent, reshaping contemporary migration patterns worldwide in many ways.

Climate change disrupts national economies, affects lives and livelihoods of many people, compelling them to move out of harm's way or to consider migration as a way of adapting to the changing climate.

Climate and environmental changes build on pre-existing vulnerabilities of individuals and communities and can lead to displacement, which in turn undermines the Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs). But, at the same time, when migration allows for income diversification, for example, it can contribute to climate change adaptation and the fulfillment of SDGs.

The human mobility implications of this crisis are profound: foreseeable growing numbers of people will be displaced, many

forced to abandon their homes for ever; others will have little choice but to remain in increasingly dangerous and fragile places; well-established migration systems will be disrupted.

Figures are already appalling :

As it is well known, in 2020 alone for example, disasters accounted for 30.7 million new internal displacements in 149 countries in the world: the highest figure in at least a decade (IDMC, 2021).

Over 2/3 of these movements were recorded in Asia and the Pacific (ibid.).

The last World Bank Groundswell report predicts that by 2050, without concrete climate and development action, more than 216

million people in 6 regions could migrate within their own countries as a result of lower water availability and crop productivity. This includes 48.4 million in East Asia and the Pacific, 40.5 million in South Asia, and 5.1 million in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

II. What can we do ? What kind of action can be undertaken at local and national levels ?

The latest IPCC Report highlights the importance of focusing on disaster risk reduction to achieve climate justice and climate-resilient development. “There can be no sustainable development without disaster risk reduction, as explicitly recognized by the Sustainable Development Goals.”

The IPCC Report also flags that only climate resilient development can reduce risks of involuntary displacement, and conflict.

So, for IOM, unless we integrate human mobility issues in our climate action and development efforts, we will not achieve our common vision for a sustainable future.

Without strong climate action, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will become increasingly difficult and costly. The consequences will be particularly severe for communities most vulnerable to environmental and human impacts: those in small islands and low-lying coastal areas, mountain areas, and arid zones; and those in the least developed countries.

2.1 We need to rethink and reshape our policy and operational schemes :

*** The international community can no longer design migration policy without taking into account the environmental state of our planet. Similarly, climate change policy cannot be implemented without planning for migration.**

- **Regional and national governance frameworks on migration and displacement point the need to address the environmental drivers of population movements, = and to set up systems to assist and protect = people on the move in the context of disasters and climate change.**

- **We also need = coherence = between key global policy processes related to migration, climate change, disaster risk reduction, and SDGs, human rights and humanitarian assistance, to take climate = action = and reduce forced migration.**

2.2 It becomes clearer that the immediate humanitarian response is not enough and has to be completed by a much wider approach integrating a whole continuum with good information/data, prevention and development.

To achieve this goal, IOM promotes action in the framework of the = migration, environment, climate change and development = nexus.

We have already spoken of the impact of climate change on migration, now we need ...

A) More Adaptation

We are late in the race against climate warming.

Beyond mitigation, we have to increase action on = adaptation = whenever and wherever it is still time and possible in the world.

Both for

- **For countries/regions under the threat of slow onset processes,**
and
- **For countries/regions under the threat of fast onset events,** (as *Asia/ Pacific or Caribbean and Pacific small islands*), *the needed action has to be two-fold, both on the capacity building side and on the more technical dimensions = being careful of not producing mal adaptation in return =*

In both cases, IOM develops programs and projects aiming at a better preparedness of communities, as well as reducing these risks (DRR) and help communities to adapt and be more resilient

to these climate risks (everywhere in the world, in Africa, Asia, The Caribbean, MENA region, the Pacific islands ...).

In the MENA region for example, (which is the most water scarce in the world, and has been designated as specifically vulnerable to climate impacts, experiencing record temperatures, increased desertification and water stress which have prompted intensified pre-existing migration routes from rural to urban areas) **IOM is developing with IFAD and FAO, a Regional Program on Mobility, Climate Change and Water Scarcity** to conduct regional research to assess how factors including migration, climate change, environmental degradation, water scarcity and conflict interact and influence community resilience against climate and conflict shocks.

B) (And we need) more Development to help building more resilient communities

When mobility cannot be avoided, and is an adaptation strategy to the risks, IOM works at facilitating safe and legal pathways for all, trying to keep all options for adults but also children and young people on the move, including education, training and employment.

As a matter of fact, Migration can provide a means for livelihood diversification, increase household savings via financial remittances, lead to the acquisition of new adaptive skills such as climate smart agriculture, all while reducing pressures on natural resources in climate-vulnerable communities of origin.

For example:

- **IOM is conducting a project in West Africa, and a pilot project in Senegal, to promote = reintegration as an opportunity = for addressing climate change and other environmental challenges in countries of return (*employing returnees in agroforestry, using and enhancing skills and capacities obtained abroad*).**
- **As to communities of destination, they can also benefit through the fulfillment of labor market gaps, and the offset of skills shortages. Ex: IOM's = temporary and circular labor migration project = established between environmentally fragile areas in Colombia and the agricultural sector in the region of Catalonia in Spain.**

III. Beyond the local and national levels, at global level, climate action must be led respectful of the SDGs and the different commitments already taken by the international community

To work in the framework of the = migration, environment, climate change and development = nexus, it is also necessary to consider the role of global partnerships in climate action and achieving the SDGs.

1. Climate action and the SDGs

- Climate action cannot be addressed in silos.

Global partnerships, = cross-sectoral and cross-country collaboration = are needed to enable migration to be a powerful driver for adaptation, resilience building and development and a means to reduce vulnerabilities and inequalities exacerbated by climate change.

To move beyond silos and support the achievement of the SDGs, IOM, in collaboration with UNDP and UNEP and with the support of the EU, has recently released a Toolkit for Integrating Migration into Environment and Climate Change Interventions.

.. which provides concise, operational, and user-friendly information and tools to help international cooperation, and development actors, integrate migration into environment and climate change interventions.

Global partnerships and enhanced regional cooperation that focuses on = facilitating movement from climate-sensitive regions and countries = **will also play a key role in the achievement of the Paris Agreement, the Global green transition, as well as, the promise of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.**

IOM is committed to using platforms such as the Global Forum of Migration and Development to raise awareness and prioritize the migration, environment and climate change nexus.

2. Last but not least, these actions need to be consolidated at international level, by a global governance on climate change and its impacts on human societies

- **Different Initiatives, taken both at the regional and international levels, are already key in shedding light on the necessity to address climate change and minimize its impacts on societies.**

Let us think of a regional initiative as the ACMI one, for Africa supported by the African Union, or other policy initiatives taken by :

- the Caribbean countries,**
- The SIDS**
- The CVF**
- Asia and the Pacific**

The international community has indeed started mobilizing, at different levels, to address this situation:

- Since 2015, significant progress has been made in integrating migration in the context of climate change and environmental degradation, into key international frameworks and commitments, as :

the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the 2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted in 2018,

Still, a lot remains to be done:

After last November COP26, in Glasgow, the emphasis put on the urgent need for more = adaptation = action, measures and finance, (with an agreement on doubling adaptation means in climate finance) and the launching of the comprehensive two-year “Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work program on the Global Goal on Adaptation”, ...

... In 2022, we still need to :

- **Transform these promises / commitments into reality**
- **Transform risks into more resilience**
- **Transform engagements into action**

Two main occasions are to be used:

- **The Review process of the GCM, on the occasion of IMRF mid may**
- **Next COP 27, presided by Egypt, which could be a key opportunity to address the multiple impacts of climate change on human societies.**

This has to be our battle, now, for our children and for future generations.

And we need our Youth to help us reach this goal. !/.