ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE MIGRATION

PREPARING FOR UNEA-2

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1. Climate policy responses
2. Migration policy responses
3. Other relevant policy processes
4. Recommendations for UNEA
A change in paradigm

Recognition of Significance of Environmental and Climatic Factors for Human Mobility
Framing a complex issue

- Environmental migration: a complex multi-causal phenomenon
- Impacts of both sudden and slow onset events
- Climate change as an exacerbating factor
- Gender contextual dimensions
Terminology challenge

Environmental migrants IOM definition 2007

Climate environmental refugees

Internally displaced people

Forced voluntary migration

Planned relocation

Climate induced migration

Trapped populations

Human mobility

Environmental exiles
Who is an environmental migrant?

A Working Definition, IOM 2007

“Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad.”
1. Climate Change Policy Focus
At the climate policy level: Paris Agreement
Human Mobility at UNFCCC

Source: XX...XX...XX...XX

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Paris Agreement 2015

- Adaptation
- Loss and damage
- Mitigation
- Financing
- Technological Transfers
- Migrant centred approach

• 185 intended nationally determined contributions: 20% mention migration
ADOPTION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Preamble:

“Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity”
ADOPTION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

COP Decision on page 7

“50. Also requests the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism to establish, according to its procedures and mandate, a task force to complement, draw upon the work of and involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention including the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention, to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change”
ADVISORY GROUP AND ONE-UN
Practices on NAPs and Migration
- A partnership focused on land degradation, rehabilitation, management and with inclusion of migrants and diasporas
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD COP Turkey October 2015
- Project IOM Rome with Senegal, Niger and Burkina Faso on innovative funding, diasporas and land based adaptation
Disaster Risk Reduction Focus

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

- involving migrants in the design and implementation and planning of DRR (para 7 and 36.a.vi) (27.h)

- displacement, one of the main consequences of disasters (para 4), policies encouraged to manage disaster-induced movements (30.l).

- Preparedness for and response to displacement (33.h), recovery measures (33.j), and transboundary cooperation in the case of cross-border displacement (28.d)

- Planned and managed relocations as an option (25.k).
Practices on DRR and Migration
A partnership with CVF driven by the countries most vulnerable to climate change focused on building capacities


- Bangladesh commitment on migration, one of the six pillars of action

- Philippines current Chair
Climate change is a cause of human mobility.

Human mobility can increase risks and vulnerabilities.

Human mobility is an adaptation strategy to climate change.

Human mobility can increase resilience.

Climate change policy should consider human mobility.

Capacities to address migration, displacement and planned relocation need to be enhanced.
2. The Migration Policy Focus
States selected MECC as a topic for discussion

Broad range of partnerships and activities

2015: New MECC Division

2016: More than $52 million already earmarked on projects with a disaster, land, environment and climate dimension

Climate migration thematic area mainstreamed in IOM’s governance and structure
Strategic Objectives on migration governance for IOM

1. To prevent forced migration resulting from environmental factors
2. To provide assistance and protection to affected populations and seek durable solutions where forced migration does occur
3. To facilitate migration as a possible adaptation strategy to climate change.

TRANSVERSAL ACTIVITIES

Solutions for people to stay,
Solutions for people to move

Haiti © IOM 2015 (Alessandro Grassani)
Capacity Building for Policy Makers on MECC

• Climatic and environmental drivers pose new migration management challenges and require capacities to address them across policy areas
  - 40 countries benefitted from national or regional trainings since 2013
  - About 300 trained policymakers
  - Morocco training March 2016
Publications

More than 70 titles dedicated to Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC)

https://publications.iom.int/
EVIDENCE FOR POLICY (MECLEP)
Protection Focus

- Nansen Agenda, Global Consultation (Oct 2015)
- Germany: chair, Bangladesh vice chair
- Institutional Arrangements under development
- Implementation of the Nansen Protection Agenda
- IOM and UNHCR contributed as Standing Invitee of the Steering Group
A few examples of regional policy processes mentioning migration, environment and climate change*

*Note: this is a non-exhaustive selection of examples of regional state-led policy processes mentioning migration in the context of environmental and climate change.

The size of circles is based on the number of member countries for each process.

Other Relevant Processes
Other policy responses

1. Development
2. Humanitarian policy
3. Security policy
4. Human Rights Policy
5. Urban/UN-HABITAT
# How Migration is Reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

## Migration in the Declaration

- Highlights impact of humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people on development progress.
- Calls for the empowerment of vulnerable groups, including refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants.
- Calls for access by all – including migrants – to life-long learning opportunities.
- Commits to eradicating forced labour and human trafficking and to end child labour.
- Recognises the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

## Migration in the Goal and Target Framework

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<td>8 Decent Work and Economic Growth</td>
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## Other Entry Points

- 1.5: Resilience to Climate Events and Economic, Social and Environmental Shocks
- 11.5: Reduce Deaths & Number of Affected People & Economic Losses caused by Disasters
- 13.1-3: Resilience to Climate Hazards and Natural Disasters
Recommendations

1. Take stock of available policy, practices, knowledge
2. Partner to enhance action
3. Link up operational activities and policy
4. What funding for research and projections
5. Migration as a vulnerability and resilience barometer
6. Migration in its positive and negative dimensions
Environmental events and processes

Natural hazards:
- Meteorological (extreme temperature, fog storms)
- Hydrological (floods, landslides)
- Climatological (drought, glacier lake burst, wild fire)
- Geophysical (earthquakes, tsunami)
- Impact of natural hazards is influenced by human activity (deforestation, dams, over use of land)

Disasters:
- Serious disruption of the society/community functioning and losses that exceed the ability of a community or society to cope
Environmental events and processes

Climate change:
- identified change in the climate over extended periods

Climate extremes:
- Sea level rise; Change in tropical storms and cyclone emergency; Change in rainfall patterns; Increase in temperatures; Melting of mountain glaciers

Slow onset events include:
- Sea level rise; Increasing temperatures; Ocean acidification; Glacial retreat; Land salinization; Forest degradation; Desertification; Loss of biodiversity
Regional Policy

- **African Union** (Executive Council in Banjul 2006: Migration Policy Framework recognizes environment & migration
- **Council of Arab States** (Strategy for DRR 2010) recognizes environment & displacement
- **African Union Charter of Human and People’s Rights** article 24 (right to a satisfactory environment)
- **AU Conference for Protection and Assistance of IDPs** (Kampala 2009) article 5 (protect and assist persons displaced by natural and human made disasters
- **Lomé Declaration on Protection Challenges to Climate Change in West Africa** (2009) UN & ECOWAS
- **Organization of African Unity Convention** governing specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa
I cope ... you cope ...
we cope ... you cope ...

They cop!