

Panel 2: Human- made crises as drivers for migration

- The EU and its MS welcome that this second preparatory thematic session is specifically devoted to human-made crises as drivers of migration.
- Human-made crises are today among the primary root causes of forced displacement and have an important impact on population movements more generally. We recognize that structural factors, most of these human-made such as economic, social, security, political and human rights but also environmental factors, drive fragility and reduce individual self-reliance and societal resilience. This often results in regular and irregular large migratory flows. Similarly, the negative socio-economic impacts of conflict and its legacies may drive migration through negative impacts on labor markets, livelihoods, food and health security, and through political instability and social tensions and the growth of criminal networks.
- It is therefore of utmost importance that our interventions are conflict sensitive and respect the do-no-harm principle. Conflict prevention and peaceful resolution, support of state and societal resilience and promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies based on international human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law should be our key objectives.
- In doing so we need more coherent approaches to humanitarian assistance and development cooperation; policy dialogues should support peacebuilding and security; we should also recognise the need to be gender responsive and analyse and respond to different causes and effects of vulnerabilities.
- Addressing human-made crises also requires taking a migration perspective through an integrated approach to conflict and crises, as was prioritized by the EU's Global Strategy. In this regard migration related aspects should be duly taken into account when working on conflict prevention and crisis management planning and implementation.
- In this context, we also need to recognize that smuggling of migrants, often facilitated by organised crime networks, can further exacerbate the drivers of migration and foster irregular migration, by exploiting in particular migrants in vulnerable situations in host as well as transit communities, violating their human rights and putting at risk their lives and health; in this context the EU recognises the importance to combat trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants as well as to promote, as appropriate, measures to protect migrants, regardless of their migratory status, from violence from smugglers and traffickers and assist and protect victims of trafficking from all forms of exploitation; The EU has been active in supporting partner countries to address trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, e.g. in a joint EU-UNODC global action against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (2015-2019).
- In conclusion the EU would like to reaffirm its commitment to address drivers of migration in a way to make migration a choice and not a necessity, and highlight the need to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, by implementing in full the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).