

Panel 3: Adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters of migration

- The EU and its MS welcome that this second preparatory thematic session is specifically devoted to drivers of migration, and this session is looking into climate change and natural disasters.
- Drivers of migration are multi-faceted and complex as they derive from a combination of long-term and structural socio-economic, environmental and demographic dynamics and more immediate triggers.
- We recognise that structural factors drive including the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and other environmental factors drive fragility and reduce individual self-reliance and societal resilience. A context-specific combination of human-made and environmental factors often results in regular and irregular large migratory flows.
- It is therefore critical that the potentially destabilising effects of climate change on migration are addressed, including through climate risk assessments and support to capacity building. As biggest contributors of public climate finance to developing countries and with significant action on disaster risk reduction and strengthening resilience, the EU and its MS demonstrate their determination to reduce and prevent the adverse effects of climate change and disasters.
- At the same time, let me underline that dynamics between climate change impacts and migration patterns are complex, and do not necessarily follow a direct, causal relation and are in some cases difficult to identify. Conducting research and expanding our evidence-base is therefore critical.
- We also reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of Paris Climate Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. We are committed to improve data collection and analysis to enhance knowledge on and strengthen protection and assistance frameworks for climate change and disaster-induced displacement, as well as to integrate human mobility within disaster-risk reduction policies, preparedness and early-warning mechanisms and climate adaptation strategies.
- In this regard, we recognise the Agenda for the protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change resulting from the Nansen Initiative and its follow up Platform for Disaster Displacement as an important platform to guide all stakeholders' actions in response to the needs of persons displaced by disasters.