

Second Informal Thematic Session, Panel 3

“Adverse effect of climate change and natural disasters as drivers of migration”

Joint Statement FAO, IFAD and WFP

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UN Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber

- Thank you for giving me the floor.
- Climate change affects significantly communities which are dependent on natural resources and it can exacerbate other drivers of migration, such as rural poverty, food insecurity and conflict stressors.
- Extreme weather events related to climate change, when compounded with broader institutional and socio-economic fragility can contribute to conflict risks and associated pressure on populations to migrate.
- Even though over 70% of the world’s poor and food insecure live in rural areas, the role of agriculture and rural development has largely been left out of the scene in the global debate on migration.
- On behalf of FAO, IFAD and WFP, I would like to underline that **the rural and agricultural sector play a pivotal role in addressing the drivers of migration, including climate change induced migration.**
- We advocate for safe and regular migration from rural areas, including through well managed seasonal migration schemes, and better working conditions for migrant workers in agriculture.
- In order to ensure migration is safe, regular and orderly, and to maximize the beneficial impacts of migration. We want to draw your attention to the intersection between aspects of forced and voluntary migration related to climate change. Particularly, to those people at risk or forced to move out of rural areas because of natural disasters, or who decide to leave as their livelihoods are affected by climate change and environmental degradation.
- Their needs are often overlooked. We encourage Member States to make explicit commitments to address their needs and vulnerabilities.
- We wish to offer our technical expertise to address the drivers of migration in rural areas, and to cope with the increasing frequency and intensity of climatic shocks.
- Different adaptation strategies to climate change, such as the promotion of sustainable and resilient agricultural practices, and on- and off-farm decent employment opportunities, can give rural families the option to stay in their communities.
- Safe, orderly and regular migration itself can also be an adaptation strategy as it helps diversify rural household incomes. However, migration can lead to increased hardship if it entails movements to more vulnerable locations and situations.
- In line with the commitments proposed in the Issue Brief for this Thematic Discussion, we should improve climate risk analysis and strengthen the capacity of governments and communities to invest remittances in agriculture and natural resource management. By doing so, we will support countries to improve disaster risk reduction and management, and to facilitate migration as an adaptation strategy.
- FAO, IFAD and WFP stand ready to support Member States in the development and implementation of the Global Compact on Migration.
- Thank you for your attention.