

STATEMENT

International Organization for Migration

Thematic session 2: Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crisis, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication conflict prevention and resolution.

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

23 May 2017, UN Headquarters, New York

Co-facilitators, distinguished panelists, ladies and gentlemen,

IOM is pleased to take the floor in the interactive debate for this panel on climate change and natural disasters drivers of migration.

There has been increased policy recognition of the necessity to address environmental and climate impacts on the migration of people; notably in the framework of the United Nations climate negotiations. It is also important to recall that the New York Declaration formally acknowledges that climate, environmental and natural disasters are key drivers of migration and that population movements can also adversely impact the environment.

I would like to raise three key points:

1. The Global Compact on Migration (GCM) represents a strategic and significant opportunity for the international community to progress in terms of the overall international migration governance and management and, within that framework, to bring climatic and environmental factors in a migration policy focused process. The GCM should formally recognize the importance of environmental and climatic factors in the set of common principles and understandings that Member States will develop regarding international migration. We have the opportunity to discuss these issues today but also throughout the whole GCM process, including the other informal

thematic sessions, the multi-stakeholders consultations, and the regional and national consultations.

- 1) In order to ensure global policy coherence on climate migration, it is important to create at the outset strong synergies with other policy processes that work on questions of climate, environment and migration; especially the work currently being developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Paris Climate Agreement mandated the creation of a dedicated Taskforce on climate displacement that is currently working towards developing recommendations on how to minimize, prevent and address population displacement linked to climate change. It is important to ensure that work under both the GCM and the UNFCCC mutually feed one another.

- 2) The development of a whole-of-government approach to develop policy frameworks and implement action should be encouraged. It is widely acknowledged that climate and environmental migration is a multi-causal phenomenon that can only be tackled through comprehensive responses involving institutions working on issues as diverse development, humanitarian response and aid, migration, climate change, land, oceans, environment and disaster risk reduction, *inter alia*. Such an inclusive approach can also contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by promoting a larger vision across policy areas.

Thank you