

IOM CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

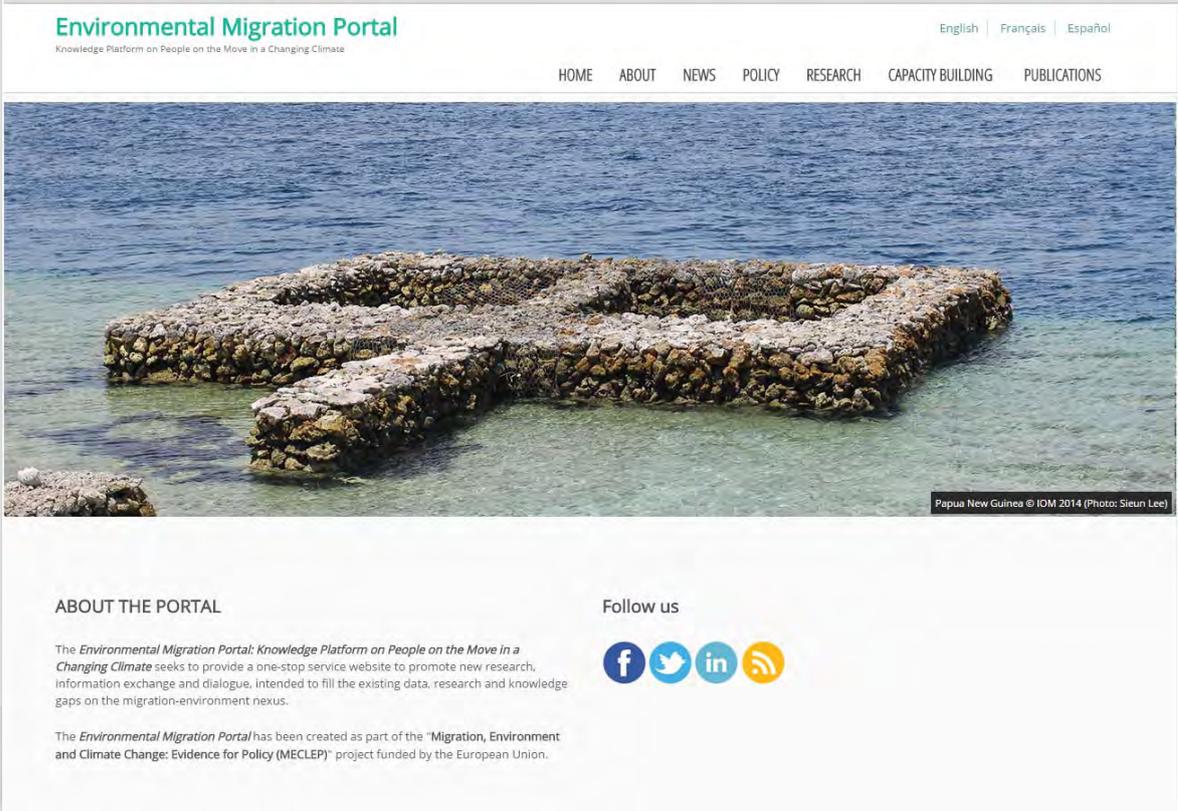
# 22ND CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)



IOM is committed to contributing to ambitious climate action and to supporting societies to adapt to existing and future climate change challenges. Global climate negotiations conducted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are a top priority for the planet. The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the Convention, which will be held in Marrakesh, Morocco, in November 2016, will be the opportunity for the 197 Parties to take stock of progress made after the historic adoption of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

For updated information on IOM work on migration, environment and climate change, please visit the IOM Environmental Migration Portal:

[www.environmentalmigration.iom.int](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int)



Cover photo: Courtesy of Sean Fitzgerald. To view his work, visit: [www.seanfitzgerald.com](http://www.seanfitzgerald.com)

# IOM CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

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### What is at stake at COP22 in Marrakesh?

**C**OP22 is the first global climate conference organized after the adoption in December 2015 of the historic Paris Agreement, which aims at limiting global warming. The agreement is open for signature from 22 April 2016 to 21 April 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. As entry into force of the Paris Agreement is expected on 4 November 2016, COP 22 will allow taking stock of Parties' political engagement and financial commitments, as well as concrete actions conducted since COP21, including those related to climate change-induced human mobility.

### Where is migration in the Climate Change Agreements?

Since COP14 in Poland, the importance of human mobility in relation to climate change is increasingly understood and supported. Prior to COP21, two decisions have recognized "climate induced migration, displacement and planned relocation": (a) Decision on adaptation adopted in Cancun 2010 (decision 1.CP/16 paragraph 14 (f)); and (b) Decision on loss and damage adopted in Doha in 2012 (decision 3.CP/18 paragraph 7 (a) (VI)).

The 2015 Paris Agreement represents a major step forward in recognizing the linkage between migration and climate change as it states in its Preamble:<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UNFCCC, *Paris Agreement*, Report of the Conference of the Parties on its 21st Session, 30 November–11 December (Paris, 2015). Available from [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris\\_nov\\_2015/application/pdf/paris\\_agreement\\_english\\_.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english_.pdf)

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 [...] (and that of) **migrants [...]**.

Furthermore, COP Decision 49 under Loss and Damage, adopted at COP21, states the following:

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.**

For more information, see <https://weblog.iom.int/cop21-paris-agreement-stepping-stone-climate-migrants>

## Why is IOM involved in the climate negotiations?

We are facing an unprecedented movement of migrants and refugees, and climate change is one of the main causes of the significant number of people compelled to move.

**William Lacy Swing**  
*IOM Director General*  
High-level Roundtable on Human Mobility  
and Climate Change,  
COP21, Paris

It is now recognized that the movement of people is intrinsically linked to evolutions in the climate, as emphasized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Fifth Assessment Report: “Climate change is projected to increase the displacement of people throughout this century”.<sup>2</sup>

IOM, being the only intergovernmental agency with a mandate on migration issues, plays a leading role in supporting its Member States to understand and manage climate migration, through a range of actions conducted at various levels: policy, capacity-building, research and operationalization of migration and climate activities. IOM has recently become the first intergovernmental organization to create a division entirely dedicated to develop the Organization’s work in this area – the Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division, at IOM Headquarters in Geneva – with a view to step up work in this topic.

IOM’s work on questions of climate migration dates back to the 1990s. The IOM Council, which acts as the Organization’s steering body, elected to discuss the Migration, Environment and Climate Change

theme for the first time in 2007. This was followed by further discussions during the International Dialogue on Migration<sup>3</sup> and the IOM Council High-Level Panel on Climate Migration<sup>4</sup> parallel to the release of numerous institutional documents. In 2016, IOM Member States decided once again to address the question of migration, environment and climate change at the IOM Standing Committee for Programmes and Finance.

IOM works with many other partners and Member States involved in the UNFCCC negotiations, with the aim to ensure the integration of migration and human mobility questions in global climate negotiations to support concrete actions.

## IOM’s areas of intervention

IOM’s work focuses on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in line with the Organization’s governance framework and mandate:

- **Adaptation:** Include migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change, as well as disseminate guidelines to support the integration of migration-related questions in national policies for adaptation (and especially in the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)) and implement activities.
- **Loss and damage:** Consider migration and displacement issues within the scope of the Doha Loss and Damage Agenda and the Warsaw International Mechanism with a view to implement activities.
- **Mitigation:** Mitigate the impacts of migration on environmental degradation and climate change, reduce the environmental impacts and strengthen the sustainability of IOM activities.

<sup>2</sup> IPCC, Summary for policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (C.B. Field et al., eds.) (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge and New York, 2014), pp. 1–32.

<sup>3</sup> IOM, International Dialogue on Migration Intersessional Workshop on Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration, Background Paper, 29–30 March 2011. Available from [www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/microsites/IDM/workshops/climate-change-2011/background\\_paper.pdf](http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/microsites/IDM/workshops/climate-change-2011/background_paper.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> IOM, Focus on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) at the 105th IOM Council (25–27 November 2014) (IOM, Geneva, 2014). Available from [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc\\_thematic\\_global\\_report.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc_thematic_global_report.pdf)

- **Financing:** Recognize and facilitate the potential of migrants and diasporas financial transfers to developing countries vulnerable to climate change and facilitate access to the Green Climate Fund for human mobility-related actions.
- **Technological development and transfers:** Include migrants and diaspora knowledge, know-how, contributions and investments to adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):** Understand how human mobility is included in the INDCs and NDCs and support countries in implementing INDCs and NDCs while taking into account migration-related issues.

## How is IOM contributing to the climate negotiations?

IOM's contributions to the UNFCCC process take several forms:

1. **High-level contributions to the process:** IOM Director General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing, is committed to supporting the negotiation process through his attendance to high-level events.
2. **One UN Action:** IOM takes an active part in the UN High-level Committee for Programmes Working Group on Climate Change and contributes to the UN system common action to help with climate negotiations. In particular, IOM is one of the leading agencies in the field of climate change and human mobility and have been organizing targeted events, conferences and exhibitions since the 2008 COP14. IOM notably organized the High-level Roundtable on Human Mobility and Climate Change at COP21, bringing together important speakers from different fields and a large audience.<sup>5</sup>
3. **Capacity-building:** IOM has identified capacity-building across policy areas as a key institutional priority. IOM has developed a full training curriculum and conducted regional and

national trainings for policymakers taking part in climate negotiations. Since 2013, IOM has trained over 250 policymakers in 40 countries on climate migration. The Organization also produced the first training manual focused on climate migration (available in English, French, Spanish and Russian). In March 2016, IOM submitted a technical document on migration, environment and climate change capacity-building to the UNFCCC.

4. **Technical support to the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism workplan:** IOM organized in July 2016 the first technical meeting dedicated to migration, displacement and human mobility, in cooperation with the Executive Committee and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the French Republic. The recommendations stemming from the meeting will inform the work of the displacement Task Force.<sup>6</sup>
5. **Technical support for the creation of a UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement induced by the adverse effects of climate change:** IOM supports the establishment of the Task Force on Displacement through technical advice and information sharing on the linkages between climate change, migration and loss and damage. The Organization submits official documents to both the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism.
6. **Policy-oriented research and assessment:** IOM provides expertise on the link between migration and climate change to feed into the climate negotiations. The Organization published the Atlas of Environmental Migration, a work that visually outlines the state of knowledge on environmental and climate-related migration.<sup>7</sup> Data is also collected through a research and policy coherence building EU funded project conducted in six pilot countries – “Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy” (MECLEP).<sup>8</sup> IOM also regularly releases policy

<sup>5</sup> [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/human-mobility-cop21](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/human-mobility-cop21)

<sup>6</sup> [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/technical-meeting](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/technical-meeting)

<sup>7</sup> [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/atlas-environmental-migration](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/atlas-environmental-migration)

<sup>8</sup> [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/migration-environment-and-climate-change-evidence-policy-meclep](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/migration-environment-and-climate-change-evidence-policy-meclep)

briefs, information sheets and publications on the topic such as IOM Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change.<sup>9</sup>

**7. Technical contributions:** In collaboration with the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility, IOM submits contributions to the UNFCCC Secretariat and negotiating parties that are focused on the development of technical guidelines and policy support on integrating migration into the NAPs and INDCs.

**8. Partnerships:** IOM is developing strategic partnerships for greater visibility and improved action on migration, environment and climate activities. IOM is working closely with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),<sup>10</sup> with a focus on the land and migration nexus, as well as the Platform on

Disaster Displacement (PDD - successor to the Nansen Initiative), with a focus on disaster-induced displacement across borders. Partnerships are also developed with other key actors, such as the IPCC, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Ocean and Climate Platform and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). The Organization is also involved in non-governmental and academic partnerships.

IOM has worked to bring visibility to migration and climate change issues in the lead-up to and during COP21. The following table outlines a selection of IOM contributions to COP21:

## UNFCCC COP21, 2015 (Paris) – IOM contributions to climate change negotiations

Event	Date	IOM contributions
Bonn Climate Change Conference	1–11 June 2015	IOM led the organization of a side event on Human Mobility and Climate Change (3 June 2015).
Bonn Climate Change Conference	19–23 October 2015	IOM organized a side event and a press conference on Human Mobility and Climate Change.
Photography Exhibition at Cité de l’Immigration, Paris	November 2015 – January 2016	IOM organized a photo exhibition with renowned photographer, Alessandro Grassani, to bring humanity at the centre of the climate debate, encouraging a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by environmental migrants through a series of striking images.
COP21, Paris	30 November 2015 – 11 December 2015	IOM led the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One UN side event on Human Mobility and Climate Change;<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• One UN Exhibition on Human Mobility and Climate Change;</li> <li>• Two press conferences (at high-level and technical level); and</li> <li>• IOM had speaking roles in various events and press conferences organized by key partners.</li> </ul>

a. [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/human-mobility-cop21](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/human-mobility-cop21)

<sup>9</sup> IOM, *IOM Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change* (IOM, Geneva, 2014). Available from [http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc\\_outlook.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc_outlook.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> IOM, *Contributions to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*, Infosheet (IOM, Geneva, 2015). Available from [https://publications.iom.int/fr/system/files/pdf/mecc\\_uncdd\\_infosheet.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/fr/system/files/pdf/mecc_uncdd_infosheet.pdf)

## UNFCCC COP22, 2016 (Marrakesh) – IOM contributions to climate change negotiations

IOM continues to support the negotiation process in 2016, particularly through the following actions:

Event	Date	IOM contributions
Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage	Throughout 2016	Provision of technical support in connection to the creation of the Task Force on Displacement. Technical submissions to the regular work programme of the Executive Committee.
Support to the host country of COP22, the Kingdom of Morocco	Throughout 2016	Publication of the following: (a) Infosheet on migration and climate change in Morocco; <sup>a</sup> (b) Policy briefs on climate migration in Morocco in English and French; <sup>b</sup> and (c) Comprehensive study on the links between human mobility and climate change in Morocco (October 2016).
Publication of the Atlas of Environmental Migration	March 2016 (French edition) <sup>c</sup> October 2016 (English edition) <sup>d</sup>	Publication of the Atlas of Environmental Migration, a tool to understand the links between migration, environment and climate change.
High-level Panel on Migration and Climate Change in Rabat: from COP21 to COP22	22 March 2016	High-level panel organized by IOM to bring together different national stakeholders concerned with climate migration.
Capacity-building Workshop on Migration, Environment and Climate Change in Rabat	23–24 March 2016	Multidisciplinary training for national and local policymakers in Morocco.
Training Manual on Migration, Environment and Climate Change	April - November 2016	Publication of the first-ever training manual on migration, environment and climate change in English, French, Spanish and Russian.
Bonn Climate Change Conference	May 2016	Organization of two side events and a press conference.
IOM/Excom Technical Meeting on Migration, Displacement and Human Mobility in Casablanca	27-29 July 2016	Organization of the first technical meeting dedicated to climate migration under the WIM/UNFCCC and development of discussion papers and recommendations <sup>e</sup>
COP22, Marrakesh	7–18 November 2016	Co-organization of the One UN event on human mobility and climate change; organization of an event dedicated to the role of African research networks in climate migration; speaking roles in a number of events dedicated to climate migration (the full calendar of events related to climate migration at COP22 is available from <a href="http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/human-mobility-cop22">www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/human-mobility-cop22</a> )

<sup>a</sup> IOM, Migration and Environmental Change in Morocco, Infosheet (IOM, Rabat, Morocco, 2016). Available from [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/migration-et-changements-environnementaux-au-maroc](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/migration-et-changements-environnementaux-au-maroc)

<sup>b</sup> J. Tangermann and M. Chazalnoel (2016), Environmental migration in Morocco: Stocktaking, challenges and opportunities, *MECC Policy Brief Series*, 3(2).

<sup>c</sup> [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/atlas-des-migrations-environnementales](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/atlas-des-migrations-environnementales)

<sup>d</sup> [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/atlas-environmental-migration](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/atlas-environmental-migration)

<sup>e</sup> [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/technical-meeting](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/technical-meeting)

For more information on IOM's activities in the area of migration, environment and climate change, please visit the Environmental Migration Portal [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/), IOM website [www.iom.int/migration-and-climate-change](http://www.iom.int/migration-and-climate-change) or contact:

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