

## Outcome Document

### Regional Perspectives, Global Convergence: A Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Human Mobility, Climate Change and Disasters

21 June 2023, Geneva

#### 1. Human Mobility in the context of Climate Change and Disasters

Disasters and climate change are profoundly shaping human mobility patterns. From shifting seasonal migration to protracted displacement, the climate crisis is both an indirect and direct driver of human mobility. In 2022 alone, disasters triggered an estimated 32.6 million internal displacements, primarily in the context of weather-related hazards such as floods, storms and droughts. Looking forward, these numbers are projected to rise as climate change exacerbates the frequency and intensity of both slow- and sudden-onset events and processes and their impacts on vulnerable populations, with increasing numbers of people likely to cross borders in search of protection, assistance, and livelihoods.

Addressing the protection needs of people on the move in a changing climate demands comprehensive and cross-cutting solutions. A variety of policy approaches exist to tackle these challenges. International recognition of this issue has for example been reflected in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), as well as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). As highlighted in the toolbox approach of the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda, regional efforts have particular importance for policy development and implementation on human mobility in this context.

#### 2. Background and Objectives of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

On 21 June 2023, a workshop titled “Regional Perspectives, Global Convergence: A Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Human Mobility, Climate Change and Disasters” was organized by the Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP), the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) in Geneva, Switzerland. This event built on a [series of regional dialogues](#) conducted throughout 2023 by the CMDP Steering Group in cooperation with FES.

The workshop served to give an overview of ongoing regional initiatives addressing cross-border human mobility in the context of disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation, to foster an exchange among different stakeholders to identify policy and implementation gaps and opportunities, and disseminate key messages to advance the protection of people on the move in disasters and climate change contexts. In addition, participants discussed national and regional priorities for action to address the most pressing climate mobility challenges identified.

Participants included civil society representatives from Latin America, Africa, the Pacific Islands, South and Southeast Asia, and Georgia. The PDD Secretariat presented an outline of regional policy development

based on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) baseline mapping, followed by interventions from IOM and UNHCR. Select Member State country representatives were also invited to the workshop.

This outcome document outlines the five key takeaways that emerged from the discussion.

### **3. Key Takeaways**

#### **I. Strengthen policy coherence across sectors and levels**

The relationship between human mobility and disasters, climate change, and environmental degradation is complex and context-dependent. Human-rights based governance of human mobility in these contexts involves many stakeholders, policies and instruments from different levels and policy areas. Participants identified a clear need to facilitate policy coherence, dialogue and action across these different policy areas. They emphasized the need for coherent responses and solutions across all levels of government, ensuring that policies protect the rights and dignity of those moving in the context of disasters and climate change. This requires breaking out of institutional silos and identifying unintended negative consequences of policies, and for actors at all levels to work across human mobility, climate change, disaster risk reduction, human rights and environmental sectors.

#### **II. Value local knowledge**

Even where policies and plans exist, failure to connect with and involve local communities is a major barrier to (i) enabling people to find ways to stay and communities to sustain themselves, and (ii) protecting people who are forced or compelled to move. Participants underscored the need to account for the valuable insights of affected communities, whether they are at risk of displacement or already on the move, in the context of disasters and climate change. Affected communities often hold local knowledge that can support adaptation and strengthen resilience. Participants suggested all relevant stakeholder groups, including Indigenous People, women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, and others, should be actively involved in all planning and decision-making processes from policy and strategy development to implementation and reaching durable solutions.

#### **III. Facilitate access and engagement on policy discussions, guidance and capacity building**

A coherent and rights based implementation of global policy frameworks and strategies for better protection of persons displaced in the context of disasters and climate change, requires capacity at the regional, national and local levels. Participants identified a need to disseminate guidance and open avenues for civil society to engage with policy makers and government counterparts in their implementation to ensure that existing international guidance is appropriately contextualized. The multi-stakeholder dialogue recommended to develop stronger relationships between governments and policy-makers with civil society, providing easier access to policy discussions and engaging in processes. Further, participants highlighted the importance of ensuring policy development is translated into actionable steps

on the ground with the help of relevant monitoring systems and by drawing on the principles of whole of government and whole of society engagement.

#### IV. Ensure sufficient resources at local level for implementation

Even where implementation is coordinated across policy areas and where the voices and perspectives of local communities are integrated, there is often an implementation gap of global or regional frameworks and policies on persons moving in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, which boils down to a lack of funding resources getting to the local level. Participants recommended that the international community allocate dedicated funding for the management of human mobility in the context of climate change. International organizations and donors should work to ensure that resources reach those affected at the local level and that regional, national and local stakeholders can access finance for climate change adaptation, loss and damage, as well as programming at all stages from early warning to recovery and durable solutions.

#### V. Engage in inclusive international mechanisms and fora

To support inclusive policy-making that really manifests whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, there is a need for international mechanisms providing flexible, multi-stakeholder spaces where governments, international organizations and civil society actors can come together to discuss the multi-dimensional aspects, opportunities and challenges related to human mobility, climate change and disasters. By bringing together the complementary expertise and capacity of different partners, these fora can facilitate finding solutions to common coordination challenges, build bridges between the various actors, improve the quality of policy discourse and help shape the global debate around the concerns of affected individuals. The spaces provided in the GFMD, the PDD Advisory Committee, but also the engagement mechanisms foreseen in the context of the Global Refugee Forum and the International Migration Review Forum (and Regional Migration Review Fora) can play important roles in this regard and were highlighted as useful ways of engagement during the workshop.

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