

## CONCEPT NOTE

# Regular Pathways in the Age of Climate Change: Blending Policy, People, and Art

*Side-Event at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)*

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*Interpretation ES/ENG/FR*

*Wednesday, 24 January 2024, 12:30 - 14:00*

*Room: CCV – Lausanne (with light lunch provided)*

*Geneva, Switzerland*



### **Organized by:**

Platform on Disaster Displacement  
Secours Catholique - Caritas France  
Climate, Migration, and Displacement Platform  
GFMD Civil Society Mechanism

### **Co-sponsors:**

Kenya  
Fiji  
Switzerland

## 1. Background

Every year, millions of lives and livelihoods are affected by the slow-onset impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, with many people leaving their homes and others remaining trapped in at-risk areas. Unless such population movements are safe, orderly, and regular, they can undermine human security, the effective enjoyment of human rights, and sustainable development gains. As climate change continues to exacerbate the frequency and intensity of these processes, this raises a critical question: in what ways can we adapt relevant policies to the realities and migration aspirations of individuals and communities affected by slow-onset climate change?

This GFMD side-event, co-organized by PDD, Secours Catholique - Caritas France, the GFMD Civil Society Mechanism, and CMDP, and sponsored by the governments of Kenya, Fiji and Switzerland, explores the multifaceted relationship between migration and development in the context of slow-onset climate change. Anchored in the overarching objective of enhancing the availability and flexibility of regular pathways, the event will discuss how the adverse impacts of slow-onset climate change, ranging from sea level rise in the Pacific to drought in West Africa, shape different mobility outcomes. In doing so, it will discuss the challenges that affected communities face and the choices they have when deciding whether to move or to stay, underscoring that policies must be crafted in response to their realities and needs.

## 2. Description of the Side Event

The side-event will convene policymakers, experts, and other representatives of Member States, civil society, artists, and representatives from affected communities to explore how policy can better incorporate and reflect the realities and needs, including potential plans to migrate, of individuals and communities affected by slow-onset climate change.

This will be facilitated through an interactive panel discussion exploring different human mobility situations or outcomes in the context of slow-onset climate change, with the aim to better understand how policies on specific regular pathways can best accommodate the varied migration aspirations of affected individuals and communities. This discourse will be complemented by several artistic components including Mary Mattingly's "Ebb of a Spring Tide" and Flatform's "That Which to Come is Just a Promise". By highlighting community stories, contextualizing migration narratives, and offering innovative solutions, these artistic elements will foster and promote a holistic perspective to understand and engage with these policy questions.

### Objectives:

The side event seeks to:

- Highlight how the diverse realities and needs of communities impacted by slow-onset climate change necessitate tailored approaches in the formulation and implementation of policies on regular migration pathways;
- Integrate the experiences of individuals and communities affected by slow-onset climate change into policy development;
- Promote a holistic perspective to these questions by linking policy discourse with art.

#### Guiding Questions:

- How can policies on regular pathways better account for the varied human mobility outcomes of communities affected by slow-onset climate change?
- In what ways can the experiences of individuals and communities impacted by slow-onset climate change be effectively integrated into relevant policy development processes to ensure their needs and perspectives are adequately addressed?
- How can policy discourse and art interact, to foster a more holistic understanding and approach to addressing human mobility challenges in the context of slow-onset climate change?

#### Format

The side event will be held in hybrid format. Interpretation will be available in English, Spanish and French for those joining online. Light lunch will be offered in front of the room.

### 3. Draft Agenda

<b>Side Event at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)</b>	
12:30 – 12:40	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>Moderation: Prof. Walter Kaelin, Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement</p> <p><i>The short film “That Which to Come is Just a Promise” will be screened in the background as participants enter the side event venue and take their seats.</i></p>
12:40 – 12:50	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassador Christian Frutiger, Assistant Director General, Head of Thematic Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</li> </ul>
12:50 – 13:30	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p>A panel discussion will explore three different pathways or human mobility outcomes in the context of slow-onset climate change, with the aim to better understand how policies on specific regular pathways can best accommodate the varied realities and needs of affected individuals and communities.</p>

	<p><u>Illustrating diverse experiences of human mobility in slow-onset climate change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ms. Bernie Goulding, PacificWIN (Pacific)</li> <li>● Mr. Mamadou Goita, PANiDMR (West Africa)</li> <li>● Ms. Mary Mattingly, Visual Artist &amp; Lecturer, Guggenheim Fellow</li> <li>● Mr. Shakirul Islam, OKUP (South Asia)</li> <li>● Ms. Helena Olea, Alianza Americas (Americas)</li> </ul>
13:30 – 13:50	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>The panel will be followed by a discussion with the audience about policymaking in the face of slow-onset climate change, migration and development.</p>
13:50 – 14:00	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Representative of the Government of Kenya</li> </ul> <p><i>The short film “That Which to Come is Just a Promise” will be screened in the background as participants leave the side event venue.</i></p>