

IOM CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE “YEAR OF CLIMATE” - PARIS 2015

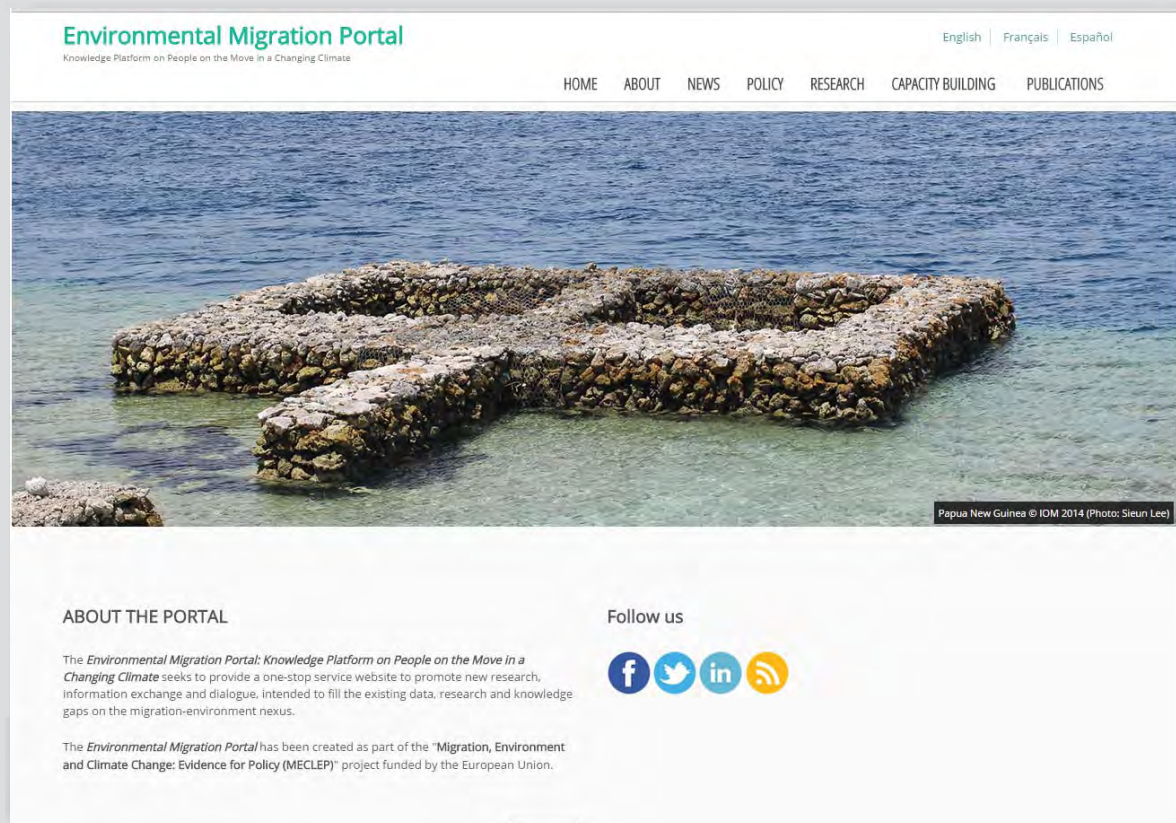
21ST CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)



IOM is committed to contribute to ambitious climate action and to supporting societies to adapt to existing and future climate change challenges. In 2015, our focus is on the global climate negotiations conducted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The 195 parties to the Convention are expected to reach a new universal and legally binding agreement (Paris Agreement) during the 21th Conference of the Parties (COP21) in December 2015 in Paris. The agreement is to enter into force in 2020, as a successor to the current Kyoto Protocol.

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

<http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/>



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What is at stake in Paris 2015?

COP21 will bring together around 40,000 participants representing countries, observers and civil society members. It is the largest diplomatic event ever hosted by France and the largest climate conferences organized recently.²

“The stakes are high: the aim is to reach, for the first time, a universal, legally binding agreement that will enable us to combat climate change effectively and boost the transition towards resilient, low-carbon societies and economies”.

www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/cop21-cmp11/cop21-main-issues

The future agreement will focus on both mitigation (efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to below 2°C) and adaptation of societies and communities to climate change.

Following the December 2014 20th Conference of the Parties (COP20), held in Lima, Peru, and the Geneva Climate Conference held in February 2015, discussions are ongoing throughout 2015 in order to refine the official [draft negotiating text](#) before the final meeting in Paris.

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. Two decisions have recognized “climate induced migration, displacement and planned relocation”: Decision on adaptation adopted in Cancun 2010 (decision 1.CP/16 paragraph 14 (f)) and Decision on loss and damage adopted in Doha in 2012 (decision 3.CP/18 paragraph 7 (a) (vi)).

The official [draft negotiating text](#) currently under review makes reference to the establishment of a “climate change displacement coordination facility” (paragraph 75). This proposal was put forward by Least Developed Countries (LDC) during the 20th Conference of Parties in Lima, in December 2014 and is maintained in the current version of the text.

Why is IOM involved in the climate negotiations?

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*

¹ This document was prepared by Dina Ionesco, Head of the Migration, Environment and Climate Division (MECC) at Geneva Headquarters, and Mariam Traore Chazalnoël, Associate Expert, MECC Division.

² www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/cop21-cmp11/cop21-main-issues.

displacement of people throughout this century”³ (IPCC, 2014).

IOM, being the only intergovernmental agency with a mandate on migration questions, is a key player on the management of climate induced migration, in particular on policy, capacity-building, research and operationalization of migration and climate activities. IOM has recently become the first international 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 order to step up work in this area.

IOM has been working with the UNFCCC since 2006. The Organization works in cooperation with numerous partners to engage with the UNFCCC, states parties and other stakeholders to bring the notion of human mobility on the climate negotiations agenda and have it recognized in the Paris Agreement.

Where can IOM contribute?

IOM is committed to bring human mobility concerns across all the substantive pillars of the expected Paris Agreement:

- **Adaptation:** Include facilitated migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change.
- **Loss and damage:** Consider displacement issues within the scope of the Loss and Damage agenda.
- **Mitigation:** Mitigate the impacts of migration on environmental degradation and climate change.
- **Financing:** Recognize and facilitate the potential of migrants and diasporas financial transfers to developing countries vulnerable to climate change.
- **Technological development and transfers:** Include migrants and diaspora knowledge, know how, contributions

and investments to adaptation and mitigation efforts.

- **Capacity-building:** Support policy makers to address the many challenges human mobility in the context of climate change.
- **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs):** Include human mobility issues in the INDCs that are the national contributions to the global effort against climate change.⁴
- **The Agenda of Solutions:** Contribute to the Agenda of Solution that encompasses cooperative initiatives from governmental and non-governmental actors (businesses, local governments, international organizations, NGOs, indigenous peoples) and individual commitments by local and regional governments and businesses.

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 support the negotiating 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 (HLCP) Working Group on Climate and contributes to the UN system common action towards the climate agreement. In particular, IOM leads interagency action on climate and human mobility with the organizations of side events and exhibits for COP21 as well as during preparatory meetings.
3. **Capacity-building:** IOM has identified capacity building across policy areas as a key institutional priority. IOM has developed a training curriculum and is conducting regional and national trainings for policymakers from various policy backgrounds involved

³ IPCC’s Working Group II Contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report, released in March 2014: IPCC 5AR, WG2, Volume 1, Chapter 12, (2014), available at: www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/.

⁴ INDC: http://unfccc.int/focus/indc_portal/items/8766.php.

in the UNFCCC negotiations and related implementation activities to further the understanding of the migration, environment, and climate change nexus.⁵

4. Policy oriented Research and Assessment:

IOM contributes with new evidence on the complex linkages between migration and climate change to feed in the negotiations. IOM produces the first global “Atlas of Environmental Migration”, a pioneering work that visually outlines the state of knowledge in environmental and climate related migration. Data is also collected through a research and policy coherence building project conducted in six pilot countries; “Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy” (MECLEP). IOM also releases Policy Briefs, Information Sheets and publications on the topic such as “IOM Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change” and the “State of Environmental Migration 2014”.

5. Technical contributions: In collaboration with the “Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility”⁶, IOM submits contributions to the UNFCCC Secretariat and to negotiating parties that are focused on the development of Technical Guidelines and policy support on Integrating Migration into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (IDNCs).

6. 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) with a focus on the land and migration nexus and with the Nansen Initiative with a focus on disaster induced displacement across borders. Activities are also developed with other key actors such the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

⁵ In 2015, policymakers’ trainings are conducted in the six pilot countries of the EU-funded MECLEP project: Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kenya, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam as well as in Morocco and Azerbaijan. Regional Trainings were conducted in the Republic of Korea in 2013, the United Republic of Tanzania in 2014, and in Chile in 2014.

⁶ The “Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility” includes the following entities among others: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and its Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (NRC/IDMC). The Group works to share most recent available knowledge with UNFCCC Parties to ensure that human mobility is taken into consideration in global climate negotiations and provides technical support to Parties.

2015 – IOM's contributions to climate change negotiations

Event	Date	IOM Contributions
Geneva Climate Change Conference	8–13 February 2015	Press conference on human mobility and the 2015 Paris Agreement.
Bonn Climate Change Conference	01–11 June 2015	IOM leads the organization of a side event on Human Mobility and Climate Change (03 June 2015). IOM will feature in media work conducted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) Reporting Services. IOM will be represented in press and media events to raise awareness on the migration and climate nexus.
High-Level Event on Climate Change convened by the President of the General Assembly, United Nations, New York	29 June 2015	Statement to be delivered by the IOM Permanent Observer to the United Nations in New York.
IOM 16th Standing Committee on Programme and Finance, Geneva	03 July 2015	IOM Member States will be briefed on IOM contributions to COP21.
IOM and Civil Society Organizations Consultations, Geneva	18 September 2015	Key civil society partners will be briefed on IOM contributions to COP21.
5th Global Regional Consultative Processes Meeting, Cairo	21–22 October 2015	IOM will present its institutional work on climate-related migration as well as its contributions to COP21.
Bonn Climate Change Conference	19–23 October 2015	IOM is scheduled to organize a side event on Human Mobility and Climate.
Photo Exhibition at Cité de l'Immigration, Paris	Mid-November–End December	IOM will organize a photo exhibition with renowned artists to bring the human at the center of the climate debate, encouraging a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by environmental migrants through a series of striking images.
Launch of the IOM Atlas of Environmental Migration, Paris	November 2015	The IOM Atlas represents a key contribution to the UNFCCC process as it outlines the current state of knowledge on environmental and climate migration.
IOM Council, Geneva	November 2015	Tentative organization of a high level event dedicated to climate-related migration.
COP 21, Paris	30 November 2015–11 December 2015	IOM will lead on: • The organization of the One UN Side Event on Human Mobility and Climate. • One UN Exhibition on Human Mobility and Climate. • IOM will have speaking roles in various side events and press conferences organized by key partners.

IOM Contributions to the UNFCCC process 2008–2014

2014 COP 20 LIMA				
Technical Submissions	Side events	Press/Media	Exhibit	Publications
Joint submission On the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change Joint Submission with the Human Mobility and Climate Advisory Group	Climate change, adaptation, resilience and human mobility: voices from the climate frontline. One UN Side Event co-organized with UN agencies.	Human mobility and climate change - What policymakers need to know on the road to Paris. Press Conference with UNU and UNHCR	One UN for Human Mobility and Climate Change: led by IOM, UN System common exhibition	Human mobility in the context of climate change - Recommendations from the Advisory Group on Human Mobility and Climate
Joint submission On National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Joint submission with the Human Mobility and Climate Advisory Group	Climate Justice and Human Rights - Focus on food security, nutrition, health, migration and gender. Co-organized by IOM with civil society partners.	Launch of the IOM Environmental Migration Portal		Climate justice and human rights: Focus on food security gender nutrition health. Joint Policy Brief
Joint submission to the Excom of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change. Joint submission with the Human Mobility and Climate Advisory Group	Taking food and nutrition security and migration into the negotiations. Co-organized by IOM with civil society partners.	Interview with UNFCCC Climate Change TV Studio		How the United Nations System Supports Ambitious Action on Climate Change. Joint Publication with the UN System
	Climate Change, Displacement and Migration: ensuring effective adaptation policies and solutions. Co-organized by IOM at the New York Climate Summit, September 2014.			
	Building evidence for policymaking on migration as adaptation. Co-organized with Human Mobility and Climate Advisory Group, Bonn, June 2014			

2013 COP 19 WARSAW		Technical Submissions	Side events	Press/Media	Exhibit
2013 COP 19 WARSAW		Non-economic losses in the context of the work programme on loss and damage	Climate Change National Frameworks in Latin America. Contribution from IOM	Interview with UNFCCC Climate Change TV Studio	Dissemination of information about IOM and presentation of IOM's publications
		Inputs on institutional arrangements for a UNFCCC technical paper in the context of the work programme on loss and damage			
		Adaptation Committee (AC) -Support for adaptation in developing countries			

2012 COP 18 Doha		Technical Submissions	Side events	Press/Media	Exhibit	Publications
2012 COP 18 Doha		National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) - Submission concerning draft decisions 23 and 24 of -/CP.17 -	How to Integrate Migration into Adaptation Strategies and Planning, organized by IOM in collaboration with a network of partners.	Interview with UNFCCC Climate Change TV Studio	Exhibit on Migration, Displacement and Adaptation, led by IOM	Launch of The State of Environmental Migration 2011
		Social Dimensions of Climate Change, organized by UNESCO and with IOM participation				

2011 COP 17 Durban					
Side events		High Level Contribution	Press/Media	Exhibit	
Innovative Approaches to Climate Change: Experiences from the UN System in South Africa, co-organized with South Africa UN Country Team		Speech delivered by IOM Director General during the High Level Plenary Meeting	Livelihood Security: Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel. Report launch co-organized with UNEP, IOM, OCHA, UNU and CILLS	IOM Exhibit on human mobility and climate	
Implementing the Cancun Adaptation Framework: Vulnerability, changing populations and human mobility, co-organized with UNFPA		Interview of IOM Director General with UNFCCC Climate Change TV Studio	Migration and Climate Change, Social Talk. Organized by IOM		
Social Dimensions of Climate Change (SDCC)- Interagency side event					

2010 COP 16 Cancun	Side events		High Level Contribution
	Displacement and Migration: Examples of Initiatives to Support Resilience and Adaptation, co-organized with UN-sytem		Intervention of IOM Director General
	Social Dimensions of Climate Change - A people-centred approach, co-organized with UN-sytem		
	Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance (CCEMA): Understanding impacts and finding solutions. Co-organized with UNU		
	Displacement and Migration: Examples of initiatives to support resilience and adaptation. UN System Side Event on Migration and Displacement COP16, Cancun		

2009 COP 15 Copenhagen	Technical Submissions	Side events	High Level Contribution	Exhibit	Press /Media
	Climate change, migration, and displacement: impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation options. Joint submission with UNCHR and UNU	Climate adaptation continuum, migration and displacement: Copenhagen and beyond. Co-organized with UNU-EHS, UNHCR, NRC and the RSG on the human rights of IDPs	Intervention of IOM Director General	Dissemination of information about IOM and presentation of IOM's publications	Climate Change, migration and displacement, Joint press briefing with UNHCR and UNU
	Comments and Proposed Revisions to the negotiating text, non paper submitted with UNHCR, UNU, NRC, SG on the Human Rights of IDPs	Climate change and human mobility: survival or adaptation strategy?. Co-organized with UNU-EHS			
	Climate Change and Statelessness: An Overview. Joint submission with UNCHR, NRC	Population Dynamics and Climate, with IOM participation			

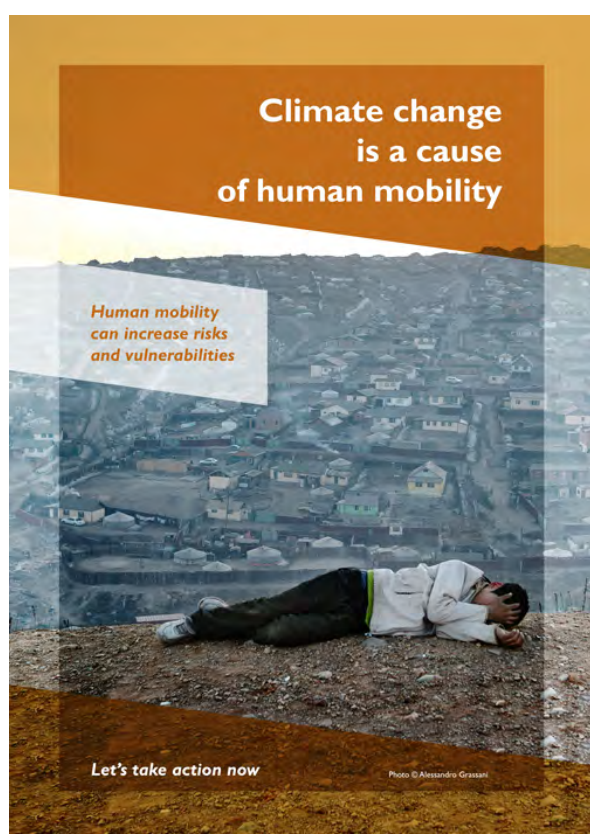
2008 COP 14 Poznan	Side events		Publications
	Climate change, migration and forced displacement: The new humanitarian frontier? Joint submission with UNCHR and UNU		Climate Change: Impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation in developing countries. Launch of publication
	Migration and climate change: from emergency to adaptation. Joint event with UNCHR and UNU		
	Climate-induced human displacement and migration. Joint submission with UNCHR and UNU		

KEY MESSAGES ON MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

21ST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP)
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)
PARIS, 30 NOVEMBER 2015 TO 11 DECEMBER 2015

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) works towards increasing awareness, understanding and action on the linkages between human mobility and climate. The UNFCCC negotiations provide an essential framework to foster policy action on human mobility and climate.

IOM is committed to bring human mobility concerns across all the substantive pillars of UNFCCC in the expected Paris Agreement: Adaptation, loss and damage, mitigation, financing, technological developments and transfers, and capacity-building.



Climate change is a cause of human mobility

Environmental and climatic factors are both drivers and pull factors of migration, and are influenced by economic, social, political and demographic aspects.

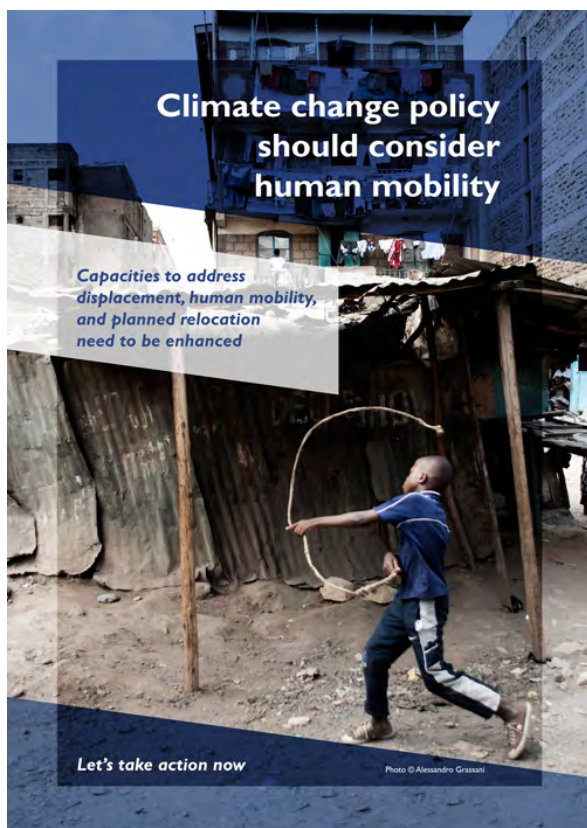
Mobility strategies of migrants are not inherently “positive” or “negative”. Mobility can save lives, enhance resilience and reduce risk – and it can also make people vulnerable and expose them to new risks.

Talking of migration in the context of climate change means giving a human face to the climate change debate. More emphasis needs to be placed on the migrants themselves, their families and the communities, on understanding their strategies, the challenges they face, and mobility options that are available to them.

Human mobility is an adaptation strategy to climate change

Individuals and communities use migration to adapt to changing environmental conditions. In some contexts, migration can constitute an important and positive adaptation strategy that can be supported by policy action. Human mobility matters and migrants role should be factored in the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), in adaptation strategies, in Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and financing mechanisms.

The contributions of migrants and diasporas, for instance through remittances, knowledge transfers and investments, can serve adaptation purposes. The role of migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change can be facilitated.



Climate change policy should consider human mobility

The UNFCCC process should continue to include human mobility questions in the COP21 negotiation building on major advances made in Cancun in 2010 (decision 1.CP/16 paragraph 14 (f)), in Doha in 2012 (decision on loss and damage 3.CP/18 paragraph 7 (a) (vi)) and in Lima in 2014.

Policymakers need enhanced capacities at the local, national, regional and international levels to be able to address the complex nexus of migration, environment and climate.

For more information, please go to:

www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/environmental-migration

Contact: migenv@iom.int

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/, IOM website www.iom.int/migration-and-climate-change or contact:

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