**Inputs on internal displacement in the context of the slow-onset adverse effects of climate change**

**1**.Examples of national and/or regional laws and policies relevant to internal displacement in the context of disasters and climate change.

* **The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), have recognized the increasing risks linked to climate change.**
* **At the African Union level, the Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap 2016–20 highlights climate change as one of the cross-cutting issues in peace and security. It acknowledges the vulnerability caused by climate change and has held two open sessions focusing on the linkages between climate change and security.**
* **The African Union ‘’Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020’’ also underscores that linkages between climate change and security exist.**
* **African governments have made a series of commitments on collecting and sharing data as part of efforts to prevent internal displacement and protect and assist Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), incorporating the principles of international law into national legislation and regional frameworks such as the Kampala Convention[[1]](#footnote-1).**
* **The Sustainable Development Goals, for example, include a commitment to facilitate “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration” as part of Goal 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries**.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* **SDG 11 highlights the need to….. make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, while Target 11.5 aims to….significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations by 2030. SDG 13 urges…. urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, while Target 13 seeks to…. strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.**
* **The Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted in 2015, creates a global framework for reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health, aiming to substantially reduce the number of displaced people globally by 2030.[[3]](#footnote-3)**
* **The Platform on Disaster Displacement is a state-led process that endeavours to forge consensus on the rights and protection needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.[[4]](#footnote-4)**
* **The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration signed in 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco, offers a set of guiding principles, but also articulates concrete measures for action related to border management, documentation, migrant services, capacity building for states, consular protection, skills recognition, mechanisms of portability and building environments for migrants and diasporas to be actors of development.The text also contains multiple references to environmental migration, articulating a wide and comprehensive understanding of the challenges linked to the environment-migration nexus. Most of the references related to environmental migration are made under Objective 2: Minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin, which contains a section specifically dedicated to the subject and entitled "Natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation" (Objective 2, paragraphs 18.h-18.l). Furthermore, a few important references can be found under Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.[[5]](#footnote-5)**
* **In its resolution 35/20 the Human Rights Council decided to hold an intersessional panel discussion on human rights, climate change, migrants and persons displaced across international borders. The Council also requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a summary report on the panel discussion, held on 6 October 2017, to the appropriate mechanisms sufficiently in advance to ensure that it fed into the stocktaking meeting of the preparatory process leading to the adoption of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and to the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, particularly to the ongoing work of the Task Force on Displacement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and to the Council at its thirty-seventh session. The present report was prepared pursuant to that request.**

**2**.Available data and evidence on internal displacement linked to slow-onset natural hazards in the context of the adverse effects of climate change (globally or in a specific region or country), trends and/or challenges and gaps with regards to data collection, analysis and use.

**3**.The impact of climate change-related internal displacement on the enjoyment of human rights by specific groups, such as indigenous peoples, minorities, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

**4**.Analysis of the response of States and the international community to:

a) prevent the conditions that might lead to displacement and prepare for internal displacement in climate change contexts, including early warning, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

B )protect and assist those internally displaced in such disaster situations, and

c) provide effective remedies, overcome protracted displacement and support durable solutions for them.

* **Environmental degradation and mismanagement contributes to many of the political, economic and social drivers of displacement. We need to better understand, and mitigate, those complex and inter-dependent factors. Ultimately, unless we can deal with long-term environmental vulnerability, huge numbers of people displaced every year could become our ‘new normal’. Fundamentally, we have to find a way of doing more than just responding to recurring crises.**
* **The environmental community has an important role to play in building awareness of the ecological drivers of displacement; strengthening the capacity of communities and countries to withstand shocks and environmental change; and helping to plan the relocation of communities likely to be displaced by unavoidable environmental change.**
* **Ultimately climate induced human mobility is not just a political challenge. We need to think of it as a development challenge and, critically, an environmental management challenge. The scale of possible future displacement under even moderate climate change scenarios means that environment, humanitarian and displacement-focused actors must work together to build people’s resilience in a changing world.**
* **Reliable data on population movements in Africa is vital to ensure a timely and well-targeted operational and policy response. Evidence of the multiple causes of human mobility and its impact on development priorities such as food security, education, health and the protection of vulnerable groups, with a solution-oriented focus, can inform more holistic action by governments and aid agencies.**
* **Early warning systems and disaster risk reduction, preparedness and management systems also rely on credible data. Baseline information and consistent monitoring can build up an understanding of the needs and coping strategies of people in gradually deteriorating conditions such as those brought on by drought, which in turn can inform the development of prevention and preparedness plans. The identification of unusual or intensified migration patterns can serve as an indicator of the need for interventions at least to mitigate a crisis. That is why investment in Earth Observation and climate information services, and in technological advancements is important.**
* **The next few years will be critical for the development of a more effective, compassionate and rights-based approach to human mobility. We need to work more proactively to reduce risks and avoid merely reactive responses. We need, in other words, to do more fire prevention and less firefighting.**
* **Enhancing the adaptation and the resilience of African countries to the adverse effects of climate change is fundamental to preventing forced massive human mobility across, and even beyond, the continent. This can be done by: 1) improving local understanding of climate change issues; that is, knowledge of what climate change means to local governments and communities in concrete and tangible terms, such as information on nature and risks they face; 2) operationalizing local democracy for vulnerable groups such as involving indigenous peoples in climate change decision-making processes and adaptation strategies, which would include the use of indigenous knowledge and innovations; 3)adopting gender-sensitive, human rights- and human development-oriented measures to improve the livelihoods of those exposed to the effects of climate change and increase their resilience, in order to counter the need for involuntary movements; 4) implementing ecosystem based /nature based solutions for adaptation, combatting climate change and environmental degradation.**

**5**.Responsibility of the business sector in the prevention, response and provision of remedy to climate change-related displacement, for example by including considerations relating to climate change and displacement in human rights due diligence processes, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

**6**.The role of National Human Rights Institutions in monitoring, reporting and promoting accountability for climate change-related internal displacement, handling complaints and gathering disaggregated data, supporting States in preventing the conditions that might lead to displacement and responding to displacement in line with their human rights obligations, and promoting sustainable development, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

**7**.Examples of mechanisms used to hold States, companies or other actors accountable for climate change-related displacement, and to provide effective remedy to those affected.

* **Please see some answers on question 1.**
* **States are obligated to protect against arbitrary or forced migration, which threatens the effective enjoyment of a broad array of rights protected under the ICESCR and the ICCPR. To satisfy this obligation, States must address the underlying causes that force people to move in response to climate change and environmental factors. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted that increasing risks of floods, droughts, storms, and other slow and sudden-onset events will undermine existing livelihoods, increase human suffering and risks to the rights of people in impacted areas. Around 22.5 million people move each year within and across borders be-cause of climate and weather-related disasters. States must take effective measures to limit these ongoing and future harms by pursuing ambitious climate change mitigation in line with their commitments under the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC.**
* **To limit the need for climate-related migration, States must plan and prepare for natural disasters, extreme weather events and slow-onset processes. Article 11 of the ICESCR, for example, requires States to take appropriate steps to ensure for all people the right to an adequate standard of living. People are more likely to leave their homes if they are not provided adequate protection and assistance to adapt to cli-mate harms. Efforts to address the causes of forced migration in the context of climate change should seek to protect rights, strengthen social protection systems, reduce disaster risk and ex-posure, and increase adaptive capacity. Labour market and employment strategies should be developed to enhance resource efficiency and support lower-carbon sustainable societies. States have duties to protect and assist migrants, whether internal or international, in accord-ance with their human rights obligations. This requires taking steps to reduce existing vulnera-bilities and build resilience.**
* **States are required to provide effective mechanisms to prevent and redress human rights harms resulting from the adverse effects of climate change, and from climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ICCPR, and other human rights instruments require access to justice including effective remedies. This is critical for migrants who are often unable to access justice due to the irregular and precarious conditions they face during migration. Judicial and other redress mechanisms are particularly important for migrants and those relocated to address grievances and be adequately compensated for their losses. States must be accountable for their contribution to human rights harm regardless of where they occur. Accountability should also include businesses and actors that have contributed to the causes of climate change or violated human rights in their mitigation and adaptation actions.**

**8**.The impact of health crises such as the current one related to COVID-19, and of the measures taken to respond to them, on climate change-related internal displacement, including their impact on: a) displacement patterns, b) climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, c) preparedness and disaster risk reduction, and d) humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons.

**9**.Any other information stakeholders wish to share regarding internal displacement in the context of the adverse effects of climate change.

**10**.Information on how slow-onset effects of climate change are inter-related with conflict, i.e. how climate change and conflict combine to act as drivers and causes of internal displacement, and what specific combined effects they have on internally displaced persons.

1. https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-protection-and-assistance-internally-displaced-persons-africa [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Sustainable Development Goal 10, Target 7 “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies (Accessed 7 April 2017: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg10) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UNISDR (2015) Reading the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030 (Accessed 7 April 2017: http://www.unisdr.org/files/46694\_readingsendaiframeworkfordisasterri.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Formerly known as the Nansen Initiative: http://disasterdisplacement.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/10-key-takeaways-gcm-environmental-migration [↑](#footnote-ref-5)