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CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION

Tuesday, 29 June 2021, 3 PM CEST

ACTION POINTS

Climate Change intersects with other pressures and vulnerabilities.

We need to understand these intersections in context-specific ways, taking in intersectional approaches to address concerns and sources of structural vulnerability. To see how different climate impacts could lead – or are already leading – to what situations and challenges, and for whom. This means looking at climate change and climate action alongside migration policy, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian responses.

Ensuring women’s participation and agency. Mainstream women’s priorities in climate change in both migration and humanitarian policy and action. Build on women’s strengths and ensure women and girls are represented in decision-making and strengthen women’s ability to make migration safer and more adaptive.

Global and regional governance: Strengthening rights and protections. Governments need to make relevant regional migration policy frameworks, as outlined in GCM Objectives 2 and 5. Protection of migrants’ human rights should be present and effective in origin, transit, and destination countries. Naming a few key messages that resonate across many regions, and integrating these into our advocacy, will be important for civil society to strengthen rights and protections that reflect climate change’s impacts on migration.

National governance: Building whole-of-government and whole-of-society, human-centred responses. We need to adopt forward-looking, people-centred policy – meaning, policy that addresses the broad human impacts of displacement, migration and planned relocation over the medium- and longer-term; not narrow responses that focus only on compensation for property and economic assets, or that focus only on immediate humanitarian needs in disasters, without attention to recovery and sustainable futures.

Naming and reflecting climate grief in our approaches. Loss of land, sovereignty, connection with culture and ancestors, and risk of statelessness are among the threats facing people in Pacific Island nations. This has made discussions around climate change, migration, and displacement in the region more existential and emotionally charged; and in turn, makes the discussion of human mobility needs and strategies difficult for many people. As we build solidarity and collective responses to climate change and migration, we need to account for the emotional and psychological dimensions of climate and displacement; and incorporate cultural rights and spiritual needs into planning and policy development.

Agricultural sustainability, livelihoods, and mobility. We need also to recognize where and when climate change, alongside other factors, is imposing limits on adaptation such that agriculture and land-based livelihoods are no longer feasible. This perspective should be included in urban and regional planning, to expand options available and to link internal mobility to alternative livelihoods opportunities.

Increasing resources for climate impacted communities, including for migration governance. Not nearly enough climate finance resources are reaching impacted communities, who urgently need to have control over decisions and resources to manage risks and adapt to changes that are already occurring. Adaptation, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction are all public goods and require robust public finance. Resources to strengthen migration governance, and to ensure that climate-related mobility is safe and dignified, is part of this larger gap in climate finance

Improving data available to strengthen risk reduction and improve migration governance. For early warning systems and other disaster risk reduction efforts to be effective, we need to identify what information and communications infrastructure is available to local governments and within communities, and what are gaps that need to be filled including gaps on access to rights, protections, and essential services – particularly within mixed migration pathways. These need to be addressed alongside data collection on slow- and sudden-onset disaster risk, to improve migration governance as part broader climate action.

Including the lived experience of indigenous people in the Climate Change and Migration discourse. The indigenous cultural approaches to sustainable living and mitigating the impact of Climate Change must inform adaptation strategies.