

HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Elements for the UNFCCC Paris Agreement

(March 2015)

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Recommendations from the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility (The United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Norwegian Refugee Council/Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (NRC/IDMC), Refugees International, the Center for International Relations Studies de Sciences Po (Sciences Po-CERI), and the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED))²

Why is it important for the Paris Agreement to address human mobility?

1. It is now recognized that the movement of people is intrinsically linked to climate change

"Climate change is projected to increase the displacement of people throughout this century. The risk of displacement increases when populations who lack the resources to migrate experience higher exposure to extreme weather events, in both rural and urban areas, particularly in low-income developing countries. Changes in migration patterns can be responses to both extreme weather events and longer-term climate variability and change, and migration can also be an effective adaptation strategy."³ (IPCC, 2014)

2. Parties of the UNFCCC acknowledge the need for action in this area

Paragraph 14(f) of the Cancun Decision 1/CP.16 encourages Parties to take *"Measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels"*.

Doha decision 3/CP.18 paragraph 7 (a) (vi) encourages *"further work to advance the understanding of and expertise on loss and damage, which includes [...] enhancing the understanding of [...] how impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility"*.

3. Why further recognition of the issue is needed

Following the above-mentioned decisions, a first generation of research, policy and advocacy work, as well as operational responses, were developed and initial recommendations identified. Further recognition in the Paris Agreement is now necessary to consolidate existing findings and recommendations and address the action gap, in order to effectively equip States with solid tools to guide their work in this area.

¹ "Human mobility" is an umbrella term that refers to all aspects of the movement of people: human mobility is understood to encompass involuntary internal and cross-border displacement of populations, voluntary internal and cross-border migration and planned and consented relocation.

² The work of the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility is anchored in Paragraph 14 (f) of the Cancun Adaptation Platform. 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.

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: <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/>.

Recommendations on including human mobility in the Paris Agreement

Climate change-induced displacement is not inevitable and may be mitigated where the right policies (migration, planned relocation) are developed and effectively implemented. The Advisory Group recommends that human mobility be addressed **in all its forms** (displacement, migration, planned relocation) **and as a matter of adaptation** in the main Agreement and its potential decisions:

Preamble/General objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition that climate change is expected to increase forced internal and cross-border displacement of people. • Recognition of the need to take into account human mobility in climate change adaptation and mitigation policies. • Overall/cross-cutting objective(s) aimed at minimizing risks of forced internal and cross-border displacement.
Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The negative impacts of climate change-induced human movement should be addressed under the umbrella of Adaptation. • Strongly encourages States to take measures, including in their National Adaptation Plans, in close consultation with communities at risk of displacement, to prevent and mitigate forced internal and cross-border displacement in the context of climate change by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Implementing adaptation strategies that support affected populations to remain where they live, » Strengthening the resilience of communities that have to move or are already displaced, as well as the communities that host them, » Planning for and facilitating voluntary internal and cross-border migration as an adaptation strategy, and » As a last adaptation option, plan for consented relocation. • Advises that, where needed, countries have adequate access to climate change adaptation funding for human mobility related programmes and activities.

Currently the issue is only addressed in paragraphs 70.3 a., 75 and 76 of the draft Paris agreement. The group encourages Parties to ensure that forced internal and cross-border displacement is prevented through adaptation measures, including through migration and planned relocation, to be consistent with the Cancun Adaptation Framework and subsequent Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions. Therefore, the group proposes the following reformulations:

Paragraph 70.3 a:

- **Original text:** “Institutional arrangements under the Convention shall be strengthened to support the implementation of the commitments related to loss and damage under this agreement:
 - a. Provisions for establishing a climate change displacement coordination facility that:
 - i. Provides support for emergency relief;
 - ii. Assists in providing organized migration and planned relocation;
 - iii. Undertakes compensation measures.”
- **Revised text:** “ Institutional arrangements under the Convention shall be strengthened to support the implementation of the commitments related to loss and damage under this agreement:
 - a. Provisions for establishing a coordination facility that addresses climate change-related forced internal and cross-border displacement by :
 - i. Assessing the risk of climate change-related forced internal and cross-border displacement;
 - ii. Preventing and mitigating the risks of forced internal and cross-border displacement through the funding of adaptation strategies that support affected populations to remain in place, facilitate voluntary internal and cross-border migration and, as a last adaptation option, plan for consented relocation, including in National Adaptation Plans.”

Paragraph 75:

- **Original text:** “The governing body shall develop arrangements relating to loss and damage through the establishment of a climate change displacement coordination facility.”
- **Revised text:** “The governing body shall develop arrangements relating to loss and damage through the establishment of a coordination facility that addresses climate change-related forced internal and cross-border displacement.”

Paragraph 76:

- **Original text:** “The climate change displacement coordination facility shall:
 - a. Establish measures for emergency relief;
 - b. Assist in providing organized migration and planned relocation;
 - c. Establish procedures for coordinating compensation measures.”
- **Revised text:** “The coordination facility that addresses climate change-related forced internal and cross-border displacement shall:
 - a. Assess the risk of climate change-related forced internal and cross-border displacement;
 - a. Prevent and mitigate the risks of forced internal and cross-border displacement through the funding of adaptation strategies that support affected populations to remain in place, facilitate voluntary internal and cross-border migration and, as a last adaptation option, plan for consented relocation, including in National Adaptation Plans.”

The Advisory Group advises that a decision on Human Mobility is adopted in Paris containing above-mentioned recommendations.

For more information on human mobility as adaptation, refer to submission made to the UNFCCC on National Adaptation Plans, Loss and Damage and the Nairobi Work Program or contact Marine Franck (marine.franck@gmail.com).