

## Civil Society Advocacy Paper Climate Mobility

Background	1
Key Messages: Global	2
Key Messages: Africa	5
Key Messages: Asia	7
Key Messages: MENA	7
Key Messages: Central and Latin America	7
Key Messages: Pacific	8
Key Bibliography	8
Additional Resources	8

### **Background**

Over the course of the 2023-2024 Global Forum for Migration and Development, under the French Chairmanship, civil society engaged in all the official GFMD activities as well as conducted various global, regional and thematic consultations. This encompasses participation and engagement from large and small NGOs, CSO networks, trade unions, migrant community groups, migrant and diaspora-led organisations, faith-based organisations, research and academia. A calendar of activities can be found [here](#).

Climate change and its effects on human mobility was a key priority throughout the year. This paper is a compilation and consolidation of the main priorities and recommendations around **Climate Change and Human Mobility** that have come out from these consultations, and represents the breadth and diversity of civil society, as well as the nuances across the regions.

## **Key Messages: Global**

The GFMD Civil Society Mechanism conducted virtual global consultations before each GFMD Preparatory Meeting in April and October, as well as a consultation before the GFMD Workshops on Climate and Narratives in June.

Across these global consultations, and in the Civil Society Preparatory Meetings leading up to the Summit, participants put forward the following priorities:

### **The need for a holistic approach**

- **Establish and embrace a holistic approach to migration in the context of climate change, which considers both internal and international migration:** Climate-induced internal movement must be incorporated into the discussion in order to effectively address the majority of movements resulting from indirect effects of slow-onset climate change (e.g. loss of livelihoods, loss of food security etc.), and delayed movement after sudden-onset events. This affects international migration as, in such situations where governments are unable to fulfil the rights and protection of internally displaced peoples, people will often be compelled to cross borders in search of livelihoods and protection, often through irregular or dangerous means.
  - This holistic approach must consider and address the range of scenarios of drivers and their resulting movements.
- **A human rights approach, including minority and collective rights is essential** and must encompass the right to stay in safety and dignity, as well as the right to move in safety and dignity, with full protection of rights and non-discrimination regardless of status.
- **Safeguard the rights of affected communities in different scenarios and strengthening their different human mobility options:**
  - **The right to remain:** Climate mitigation should include actions to ensure that people are able to stay if they wish to do so, both within your own country as well as in your community. This must include the right to be assisted to adapt in place if that is desired, instead of subjected to forced or involuntary movement, with the meaningful inclusion of community members. The role of adequate development in displacement risk reduction should equally be recognised and addressed. Governments across all levels must acknowledge and fulfil the obligation and responsibility to invest in the rebuilding of communities after loss / damage situations to ensure the right to remain. This must be done with the meaningful participation and engagement of the affected communities.
  - **The right to move (using regular pathways, both in adaptation and loss & damage scenarios):** In addition to rights-based regular pathways for movement as a truly voluntary response to climate change, governments should ensure migrants' rights in the new localities they move to (whether arriving through regular or irregular pathways), and plan for and finance services and coordination at the local level, incorporating good practices such as demographic analysis and co-design with migrant leaders and other affected communities.
  - **The right to return:** This remains critical for those who need to migrate for work in order to support the continued life of their community. The restrictions that asylum and naturalisation processes may impose on return continue to be significantly inadequate in the context of supporting people and communities impacted by climate change.

## Planning for durable solutions

- **Promote the availability and accessibility of regular pathways for migration:** A major source of vulnerability for migrants stems from the dearth of opportunities to move in ways and through channels that are recognised and protected by countries of transit and destination. Such pathways can be provided in discretionary and non-discretionary forms, i.e. by meeting existing legal obligations under international law (human rights law, refugee law, and humanitarian law) and by facilitating movement either under compassionate or humanitarian considerations (e.g. through the use of humanitarian visas and programmes) or in the context of regular migration opportunities for the purpose of employment, family reunification, education, regularisation, etc. All of these pathways, in addition to strengthening rights-based approaches to migration in general, must be available to respond to different contexts and needs and also carry the potential to address the needs of people who are either compelled to move or make an informed decision to utilise migration as an adaptive response to the impacts of climate change.
  - It is essential to ensure that such pathways will be made available on a broader basis and will be accessible to those who need them. Expanding regular pathways to enable people to migrate for work seems to be gaining attention, especially in light of the workforce gap faced by a number of High-Income Countries, should not involve only one pathway.
  - All regular pathways must uphold the right to migrate regardless of one's productive capacities should one feel compelled to do so due to the impacts of climate change.
  - All pathways must include the right to work and the upholding of rights at work (e.g. the rights to move with family members, paths to permanent residence, and non-discrimination).
- **The need for long-term, context-based and durable solutions rooted in coherent, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches:** Disconnects with climate policies, and between local, regional and national policies, must be addressed and solutions must be co-designed and embedded with frontline communities. (e.g. embedding climate migration and displacement issues into national strategies and plans, including development plans as well as National Adaptation Plans [NAPs] and Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs], and Disaster Risk Reduction plans [DRR] which articulate governments' climate action plans, commitments and resource needs ). These must be considered and integrated into all State planning- mitigation, National Adaptation Plans, resilience building, and disaster risk reduction.
  - These solutions must be designed and implemented through cross-sectoral collaborations in order to allow for more effective solutions and must be rooted in dignity and the right to non-discrimination. Solutions must also take a cross-cutting approach, in order to consider and address interlinks with fragility and conflict-affected contexts, with respect to each actor's mandate and expertise.
  - Durable solutions must include developing legal status and urgent resources for people displaced by climate change, including upholding the right to work, being free from discrimination, and social integration.
  - These must be considered and integrated into all State planning- mitigation, National Adaptation Plans, resilience building, and disaster risk reduction.

## Climate Finance

- **Climate finance must be inclusive, accessible, proportional to actual needs and in the form of grants not loans:** The allocation of funds designed to address the impacts of climate change, including adaptation as well as loss & damage funding, must be undertaken in a

consistent, transparent and participatory manner, ensuring the inclusion of affected communities in the process and their ability to directly access such funds.

- Governments should ensure these apply to the Loss & Damage Fund, and ensure transparency and accountability in the receipt and allocation of these funds for communities, local and regional governments. Allocations to rural and less-developed areas must receive special attention.
- Models of financing resilient development cannot be primarily based on remittances.

## Climate Data

- **Promote and expand ethical, community co-designed, robust, comprehensive and bottom-up data collection and analysis:** Community knowledge and other non-traditional data sources and actors must be seen as key, particularly local and indigenous actors, civil society and others at the grassroots. More emphasis and value must be placed on qualitative data to bring human stories and lived experiences into equal importance with numbers and statistics. Ethics and key questions around it must be embedded into all data collection and research, in consultation with communities on the ground. This must include a focus on local capacity building in data generation.
  - More attention must also be paid to internally displaced persons, who are least protected.
  - Data must be collected and disaggregated to facilitate intersectional analyses necessary for meaningful inclusion, and in order to adequately respond to different situations and ends.

## Effective and Meaningful Participation and Collaboration

- **Affected communities should be involved at all stages of climate response and adaptation data collection, planning, design and implementation,** ensuring, in particular, the effective participation of marginalised groups including indigenous people and other minorities, and facilitating approaches that promote justice with regard to age, gender and diversity (AGD), and must include language inclusive processes required at local level including indigenous languages.. This is crucial to ensuring the localisation of solutions necessary for effective climate response.
  - This should include strengthening networking and partnerships between different actors across affected communities, their diaspora, and wider communities to foster collaboration, coordination, and further respect for the agency of IDPs and local communities.
  - This must be facilitated by the use of indigenous languages in decision-making processes.
- **Promote climate literacy:** Climate literacy must be promoted for both policymakers and high-contributing communities (i.e. in the West), and should include developing the capacity of impacted communities to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes. Such education is fundamental in efforts towards ensuring regular pathways and the protection of people moving in the context of climate change. Additionally, it is important to introduce nuances and present alternatives to narratives that present migration as a primary adaptation strategy since this is not always accurate, in order to strengthen the agency of all communities in the resilience-building and ecological transition process. This literacy must include knowledge development beyond paths to adaptation, disaster response management, disaster avoidance, and disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies.

- **Expand partnerships:** Adopt and expand partnerships and bilateral initiatives and promote increased coordination and policy coherence across climate resilience and adaptation actors from local to national departments.

The Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP), in partnership with Friedrich- Ebert-Stiftung (FES), conducted four regional consultations in Latin America, the Pacific, Africa and South & Southeast Asia. Across these consultations, participants emphasised three key messages and two main priorities for action:

- **The urgent need for coherent, inclusive, rights-based policies to be formulated, adequately resourced, and implemented.** In particular, the need to address and overcome the lack of political will across multiple levels of governance, lack of respect and protection of rights, and lack of resources.
- **Policy approaches must centre dignity and rights, and must address not just present and short-term needs, but also provide for participatory planning for durable outcomes. These should allow people, especially those typically marginalised and consequently most vulnerable, to live sustainably with respect.** These must also include the right to stay, and the right to move in safety and with dignity.
- **Serious data and research gaps need to be addressed, not just to meet the needs of national-level planners, but also for members of impacted communities.**
- **Priority for Action 1:** The international community needs to come together around **climate finance for both adaptation and loss & damage**, in particular around a fit-for-purpose Loss & Damage Fund that, along with other funding arrangements, is able to provide adequate resources for those suffering climate change loss and damage.
- **Priority for Action 2:** **National governments in the four regions must step up work on coherent climate, environment, migration, disaster risk-reduction, rural and urban development, and other policies and strategies across relevant departments.** These must mainstream a rights-based and evidence-based approach to addressing climate-related human mobility (and immobility), and the needs of migrants and those who have been displaced and/or relocated.

Read the in-depth global summary [here](#).

### **Key Messages: Africa**

Climate change and its effects on human mobility was a key priority across Africa regional consultations. Across consultations, civil society highlighted the multiple threats that climate-induced mobility poses to people's lives, livelihoods and properties in the African continent. Affecting communities across country borders and communities, drivers of climate migration such as rapid and slow-onset extreme weather events.

The Abuja Forum, co-organised by African civil society and diaspora including PANDiMR, GRFDT, AFFORD UK, CSOMADE, ITUC Africa, and sponsored by FES, that took place from 30 Jan to 1 Feb 2023 in Abuja, Nigeria. The Forum aimed to build capacity and strengthen African engagement in global migration processes and frameworks, and also served as the launch of the 2023 GFMD civil society process.

The Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP), in partnership with ACT Alliance and FES, organised a consultative forum in June 2023 to develop a shared understanding on the current and future trends of climate-induced mobility in Africa, and acknowledging its human rights implications on people. This consultation brought together climate and migration experts, researchers, and civil society players from different regions of the continent to present a common African voice in promoting sustainable climate actions and proactive migration policies.

See the [Africa Regional Brief](#) by CMDP, ACT Alliance, and FES for in-depth recommendations; and see the Abuja Forum, the Abuja Statement, and its outcomes [here](#) for further regional context. Across Africa regional civil society consultations and activities, civil society actors called for:

- **Meaningful integration of frontline communities and vulnerable groups** across all stages of decision-making and policy implementation processes on climate mobility-related issues, including youth, women and girls, rural communities, and EPWDs.
- **A continental-wide comprehensive policy, coordinated policy and governance framework and strategic action plans on climate mobility**, that centres the representation of stakeholders and affected persons, and integrates the peculiarities of various sub-regional challenges, while also advancing countries' Nationally Determined Contributions.
- **Establish an early warning and preparedness** system that provides valid data linked to climate-related mobility.
- Collaborate through **city-to-city and cross-border partnerships** to promote safe, orderly, and dignified human mobility, and planned relocation in the face of climate change. This includes **collaborating with partners, including the Mayors Mechanism, to promote adaptation-related measures** and devise innovative solutions.
- Adopt **people-centred policies and frameworks** that factor in climate-induced migration, that promote a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach.
- **Diversify economic opportunities** that provide adaptation mechanisms to migrants and their families.
- **Raise awareness, capacity building, foster and promote knowledge exchange** amongst government officials, civil society, and communities affected by climate change, with particular attention to women, youth, and frontline communities. This should emphasise climate education and human rights studies, and be embedded into standard curricula, with inclusion of local knowledge.
- **Strongly urge the implementation of existing climate change and migration policies and improved political will**, through empowering relevant institutions, and investing adequate resources. This includes **prioritising immediate contributions to the loss and damage fund**, with a focus on people affected by climate-related disasters, while eliminating the bureaucratic processes and barriers to access funds, ensuring fair and equitable distribution.
- **Improve investment in green skills and jobs, infrastructure, economic opportunities and innovation that will advance sustainable adaptation ideas**, with specific focus on vulnerable groups and rural communities whose traditional jobs are threatened by rapid and slow-onset extreme weather events.
- **Invest in bridging existing data gaps and leveraging technology to advance data collection and dissemination** to highlight climate mobility trends and their implications, facilitate swift response to climate disasters, and enhance sustainable climate adaptation strategies.
- **Call for effective financing of climate adaptation and support for vulnerable communities**, through the creation of specialised funding to support affected people at the local, national, sub-regional and continental levels; and the funding of the Loss and Damage fund. This should include and ensure seamless, discrimination-free, and accessible processes in accessing funds for climate finance and migration intervention.

### **Key Messages: Asia**

The Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP), in partnership with Water Initiatives India, OKUP and FES, organised an online regional consultation in May 2023 in South and Southeast Asia to share perspectives on opportunities and challenges to developing or strengthening national responses to climate-induced migration and displacement, identify advocacy messages that should be shared globally, and identify ways to strengthen coalition efforts across climate-impacted communities, migrant and displaced communities, and climate and migrant justice advocates in the regions.

The consultation brought together civil society organisations from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Sri Lanka; read the full report of their key discussion points in the [Asia Policy Brief](#).

### **Key Messages: MENA**

The Cross-Cultural Center for Refugees and Migrants held three thematic consultations related to the upcoming GFMD. The first was a subregional consultation in March 2023 around Narratives on Migration in the UAE; second, a consultation in Lebanon in June 2023 around Narratives and Labour Migration; and a regional third consultation in June 2023 on Labour Migration, and Migration and Climate Change. Participants put forward the following recommendations:

- Amend laws relevant to working hours for workers in consideration with climate change concerns.
- Establish Health Insurance schemes to include impacts related to climate change.
- Create suitable conditions for workers at work stations, such as installing air conditioners and umbrellas.
- Hold networking and annual meetings with concerned associations and embassies and international bodies to discuss climate impacts on work and ways to confront them.
- Find informative material in different languages related to severe weather conditions,
- Find suitable housing in consideration of climatic change impacts, especially in rural and agricultural areas.
- Consider investment in research related to climate change, to understand and address important questions about consequences of climate related migration.
- Encourage increased collaboration between climate scientists, sustainable development practitioners, human rights defenders and activists, and displacement experts, in consultation with other governments, local authorities, and communities with experience of planned and voluntary relocation.
- Facilitate policy exchange among policymakers and practitioners on migration, environment and climate change.
- Strengthen data and evidence to support policy development.

### **Key Messages: Central and Latin America**

The Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP), in partnership with FES and Latin American civil societies organisations, organised a regional consultation in April 2023 in Panama. Read the full report of their key discussion points in the [Latin America Regional Brief](#).

### **Key Messages: Pacific**

The Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP), in partnership with FES, Pacific Women Indigenous Network (PacificWIN), the Pacific Climate Warriors, Climate Action Network Pacific (CAN), the Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC), and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and the Loss and Damage Youth Coalition, organised a regional consultation in April 2023 in Panama. Read the full report of their key discussion points in the [Climate-Forced Displacement and Human Rights: Pacific Regional Policy Priorities](#).

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- CMDP-FES Consultation: Regional Notes
  - [Africa Regional Brief: Human Rights in the Context of Climate-induced Migration and Displacement](#)
  - [Asia Regional Brief: Human Rights in the Context of Climate-induced Migration and Displacement](#)
  - [Latin America Regional Brief: Human Rights in the Context of Climate-induced Migration and Displacement](#)
  - [Climate-Forced Displacement and Human Rights: Pacific Regional Policy Priorities](#)
- Civil Society Global Consultation Summary Advocacy Points (April 2023)
- Civil Society Global Consultation Summary Advocacy Points (October 2023)
- Civil Society Preparatory Meeting: Global Civil Society Priorities (January 2024)
- Cross-Cultural Center for Refugees and Migrants Consultation Recommendations Outcome Documents

## **Additional Resources**

- Secours Catholique - Caritas France. '[Free to leave and free to stay: Protecting human rights in the context of environmental mobilities. Case studies in Bangladesh, Honduras and Senegal](#)', 2023.
- Caritas Internationalis (2023) [Displaced by a Changing Climate - Caritas Voices: Protecting and Supporting People on the Move](#).
- OKUP report, [Migration is not a choice but a compulsion: Lived experiences of climate-induced migrants in the Sundarbans region in Bangladesh](#)
- UNNM, [Guidance Note: Regular Pathways for Admission and Stay for Migrants in Situations of Vulnerability](#) (2021)