

**Pre-GFMD Summit Joint Mechanisms + Youth Workshop:
Climate Action and Human Mobility in a Green/Just Transition
Monday, 22 January 2024
9:00 - 11:00
Centre de Conférence de Varembe (CCV), Conference Room Lausanne, Geneva**

It is expected that by 2050, 216 million¹ people could be moving either within their countries or across borders for climate-related reasons. This will impact communities of origin, transit and destination. Many of these migrants will arrive in cities, and will impact opportunities for socio-economic inclusion - including access to fair jobs, as well as access to services.

This multi-stakeholder workshop will bring together the GFMD Mechanisms (business, civil society and the Mayors Mechanisms) and youth, to offer a platform for an exchange aiming to facilitate the sharing of perspectives on the central theme of the French Chairmanship of the GFMD: the impact of climate change on human mobility. Given the interconnected challenges posed by climate change and migration, it has become increasingly evident that strategies addressing these issues are often compartmentalised, hindering the potential for a holistic and integrated approach. As the world faces the impacts of a changing climate, it is crucial to explore the barriers and opportunities that exist in various contexts to effectively integrate migration into development strategies.

In the context of climate change, people will increasingly move in an effort to adapt, minimise risk and harm, increase safety, and secure better livelihoods for themselves– and often for family members “left behind”-- as communities increasingly face sudden climate-induced disasters, more frequent extreme weather events, and/or progressive changes in their environment. However, more coherent, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are needed in order to respond to the protection and livelihood needs of people on the move, and to maximise their formal labour market access and thus the contributions they can make to a just green transition. At present, the near-absence of suitable, regular migration pathways by those affected by climate change, has resulted in limited opportunities for people to use international migration as an effective adaptation strategy.

The interactive panel aims to analyse the existing opportunities and barriers seen with different lenses, that of business, of civil society, of local governments, and youth and in diverse contexts. Participants will share their insights on what needs to happen to ensure that the human rights of people on the move due to climate change are respected throughout their mobility journey, and how multi-stakeholder partnerships can leverage proactive migration as a sound adaptation strategy.

Despite successful city-led initiatives to include migrants in the green transition at local level, national governments have generally overlooked the role of migrants in contributing towards a low-carbon, greener future. Initiatives aimed at facilitating the economic inclusion of

¹ World Bank Groundswell Report, 13 September 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/09/13/climate-change-could-force-216-million-people-to-migrate-within-their-own-countries-by-2050>

migrants often fall short in incorporating the principles of green skills development. This misalignment not only hinders the ability of migrants to contribute meaningfully to their host communities, but also undermines broader sustainability goals. Furthermore, migrants are often excluded from strategies shaping environmental sustainability and their involvement in decision-making processes is limited.

The panel will focus on identifying opportunities for harnessing the positive impact migrants and businesses can and already are having on the green transition, while supporting and scaling successful local and national governments' efforts to transition to a low-carbon global economy.

The important green skills gap that economies will face, calls for re- and upskilling of migrant workers, for legal migration pathways to be adapted to these new realities, and for local inclusion efforts to be implemented to attract green skills. The GFMD comprises all key stakeholders, which together can contribute to the progress towards a greener society.

Objectives

Positioned strategically one day before the GFMD Summit, this discussion will be an opportunity for business, civil society, city representatives, and youth advocates to explore common priorities and prepare a joint message to be delivered at the opening of the GFMD Summit. The objective is to foster a dialogue that not only identifies shared concerns and solutions, but also lays the foundation for joint advocacy and action. Through this collaborative approach, the discussion aims to maximise the effectiveness of the GFMD in addressing the complex challenges at the intersection of migration, climate change, and development.

Draft agenda

Moderator: Dr Helen Adams, Senior Lecturer in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, King's College

Welcome and Introduction (10 mins)

Moderator welcomes everyone and begins workshop, introduces concept for the workshop and intended outcomes.

Panel (40 minutes)

- Speaker 1: **Business Representative: Florence Willie, Executive Director, Employers' Federation of Papua New Guinea**
- Speaker 2: **Civil Society Representative: Marie Lobjoy, Secours Catholique - Caritas France**
- Speaker 3: **City representative: Clara Keller-Skupien, Mayors Migration Council**
- Speaker 4: **Youth representative, Hector Poveda, Climate Mobility Lead, Migration Youth and Children Platform**

Open Discussion (50 mins)

Summary and Recommendations (20 mins)

- Final comments from speakers (3 min each)
- Moderator summarises and presents key recommendations