

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration¹

Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution

The second of six informal thematic sessions will cover “Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution”. It is scheduled for 22 - 23 May 2017 in New York City. The sessions were set out in the resolution on the Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration adopted on 6 April 2017 in NYC.

Germany holds the following positions regarding this session of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration:

- **Drivers of migration are manifold** and interrelated, for example poverty, inequality within and among states, food insecurity, natural disasters, social and political tensions and the consequences of climate change.
- The Global Compact should therefore acknowledge the 2030 Agenda as the overall framework in dealing with the challenges of migration with regards to sustainable development. The Agenda emphasizes that management of mixed migratory flows is a global responsibility in a common understanding, which calls for collective commitments and solutions.
- The Global Compact should encourage multi-stakeholder participation of the private sector and civil society as well as all states (developed, emerging and developing states alike) in designing and implementing the Global Compact based on the new Global Partnership of the 2030 Agenda.
- The Global Compact should acknowledge the multi-dimensional nature of migration (economic, social, and ecological) with positive as well as negative impacts on all countries involved, which requires a coherent and comprehensive response.
- For those who are **forcibly displaced** to countries other than their country of origin due to individual persecution, violent conflict, generalized violence or massive human rights violations, the **1951 Refugee Convention** applies and provides protection. However, other

¹ Referred to as „Global Compact“ in this document.

drivers of migration – such as natural or man-made disasters, climate change, food insecurity, extreme poverty etc. are not covered by the Geneva Refugee Convention.

- **Multidimensional poverty**, a lack of decent employment and development opportunities as well as **systematic discrimination** are driving people to seek improved living standards in countries with better economic and social conditions.
- **High political, social and economic inequality** is considered to be one of the decisive causes of migration. Inequality directly affects migration due to lack of perspective and reduced social mobility as well as the perspective of better living standards in other regions or countries. High inequality endangers social cohesion within a society which can cause social unrest and violent conflicts, therefore intensifying migration pressures.
- In order to fight inequality as a cause for migration and within migrant communities, the international community needs to take the following aspects into consideration:
 - 1) We call for a joint strong and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda as the key to inclusive and sustainable development in countries of origins of migrations to ensure living conditions without poverty, in security and with equal economic and social opportunities for everyone taking into account the ecologic boundaries of our planet.
 - 2) We need to ensure the protection of human rights and non-discrimination on a local, national and international level as well as of migrants themselves according to the "leave no one behind" principle of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.
 - 3) We call for supporting poor and vulnerable population groups of receiving communities along with migrants to ensure social cohesion throughout the whole society.
 - 4) To foster social cohesion and reduce inequalities, we call for strengthening civil societies and for enabling political, social and economic participation for all.
 - 5) We need to strengthen governments and local communities which receive migrants to increase their absorption capacities.
 - 6) We need to respond to the specific needs of vulnerable migrant groups (such as children, people with disabilities, and the elderly) and people in vulnerable situations (such as single women).
- In order to better design policies with regards to drivers of migration and to the social, political and economic situations of migrants and

receiving communities, we need to enhance the availability and disaggregation of data.

- It becomes increasingly clear that the **impact of climate change**, such as prolonged and recurrent droughts and other extreme weather disasters, may be an **important driver of conflict**. In the long-term sea-level rise is likely to weaken or even jeopardize the statehood of affected countries and thus undermine the very foundation of the present international order.
- In this context, migration can be considered an **important adaptation and survival strategy** in difficult environments (e.g. slow-onset events like soil-salination, desertification, rising sea levels) and is very context-specific. Often those who are not able to migrate due to lack of resources are the most vulnerable (“trapped population”).
- About 19.2 million people have been displaced in the context of disasters in 2015 and this number is likely to increase in the coming years due the adverse effects of climate change. Disaster and climate-induced displacement are among the **most pressing humanitarian challenges** of the 21st century.
- Governments have the responsibility to assist and to protect those who are internally displaced by disasters. But people who are forced to cross a border in the context of disaster and climate change have only **limited protection** when they arrive in another country.
- As clarified before, the Geneva Refugee Convention does not recognize disaster as a ground for refugee status, but many regional or national laws as well as **effective practices may grant the needed protection** for people displaced across borders in the context of disaster and climate change impacts.
- In 2012 CHE and NOR launched the **Nansen Initiative** to build consensus on key elements on how to better protect persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change. In October 2015 more than 100 governments endorsed the outcomes of the Nansen-Initiative, the so called **Nansen Protection Agenda**.
- This Protection Agenda presents a **toolbox to better prevent, prepare for and respond to displacement** in the context of disasters and adverse effects of climate change.
- At the occasion of the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, GER launched the **Platform on Disaster Displacement**. This platform is a state-led process to follow up on the Nansen Initiative and to support states in implementing the Protection Agenda. It is presently chaired by GER with BGD as vice-chair.

- **Addressing cross-border displacement and migration due to disasters and the effects of climate change at the international level is challenging** because data and knowledge are insufficient, terminology is often unclear.
- Disaster displacement and human mobility in this regard is cross-cutting and requires coordination among different international organizations, policy areas and governmental institutions.
- In order to overcome these challenges the international community needs to embark on **six interrelated paths**:
 - 1) We need to **address the knowledge and data gaps** on why, where, when and how people are displaced in the context of disasters and climate change and we need to consolidate existing information management systems;
 - 2) We need to **enhance the use of effective practices** to - when possible - prevent, reduce and address disaster displacement at national, regional and international levels on the one hand and to support migration as an adaptation strategy where necessary. Ongoing investments in disaster risk reduction and preparedness, climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable development and resilience build the basis for efforts to reduce displacement risks;
 - 3) We need to work towards **enhanced cooperation, coordination and action** to improve the protection of disaster displaced persons and to promote concerted efforts at all levels and among stakeholders dealing with humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change and development;
 - 4) We need to **promote policy coherence and mainstreaming** of human mobility challenges in and across these relevant policy and action areas and to link those areas in order to better address cross-border disaster displacement and its root causes as well as to better support internal and international migration as an adaptation strategy;
 - 5) To **address the existing legal gaps** in the context of cross-border disaster displacement, we need to promote policy and normative development in such gap areas. Safe humanitarian pathways are needed and protection measures need to be ensured at the domestic and regional levels.