

113th Session of the IOM Council

Item 10 - High-level segment

**Intersection between climate change, food security,
migration and displacement**

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates and participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

Mauritius would like to express its appreciation to participate in this High Level Segment which has as theme the intersection between climate change, food security, migration and displacement.

At the outset, let me congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Gberie of Sierra Leone for his appointment as President for this 113th Session of the IOM Council and to Barbados for joining the IOM family.

In less than one month from now, we will celebrate the International Migrant Day on the 18th of December 2022, which falls exactly 70 years after the Brussels Conference leading to the establishment IOM.

After 70 years of existence, our theme of the day very much relevant as it reflects the main challenges facing our organization in its immediate and long term future.

Mauritius is a land of migrants and, as many countries present here, and therefore we are a product of migration. Migrants have made extraordinary contributions around the world and Human mobility is expected to increase further with the World Bank estimates, there will be by 2050 more than 400 million international migrants.

There is no ambiguity that global challenges are felt more by Small Island Developing States, like Mauritius, which have lesser resources for deployment to surmount the challenges. And the challenges are compounded by the inherent vulnerabilities of the SIDS.

For Climate Change, SIDS, although not being big carbon emitters have to face the consequences created by bigger countries who have large uncurbed footprints in emissions.

For Food Security, as a Net Food Importing Small Island Developing State, we are paying, amongst others, excessive post-covid maritime transportation costs for our foodstuff and medicines, due to our remoteness and commercial restrictive practices.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mauritius is both a source and destination country for international migration, “Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” and aligns itself with Sustainable Development Goal Target 10.7.

Under the leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Mauritius has formulated a Migration and Development Policy for the Republic of Mauritius 2030 whereby 158 policy measures have been enunciated to contribute towards its socioeconomic development.

The Migration and Development Policy for the Republic of Mauritius 2030, has also supported the implementation of the 23 objectives and 10 guiding principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

We have successfully submitted our National Voluntary Review Report at the regional level in Malawi in April 2022 and participated at the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and made a statement at the United Nations in May 2022.

With respect to climate change, we note that safe migration and sustainable reintegration to address climate change impacts on human mobility is being highlighted since 2010 at global level under various platforms namely the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Global Compact for Migration and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Paris Agreement has also acknowledged the impact of climate change on migrants and according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the greatest single impact of climate change could be on human migration with millions of people displaced by shoreline erosion, coastal flooding and agricultural disruption.

We welcome the outcomes of the COP27 for strengthened actions to deep cut greenhouse gas emissions by developed and for finance, technology and capacity building needed by developing countries. One of the groundbreaking decisions which is directly linked to Migration is to establish new funding arrangements, as well as a dedicated fund, to assist developing countries in responding to loss and damage.

The question that crosses our mind is how a Small Island Developing State like Mauritius surmounts the challenges posed by Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Migration. Here are a few points and questions that I would like to enumerate:

- What are the parameters to advocate for a holistic approach to “migration and adaptation to climate change” for a Small Island State.
- What does the international community contribute to support climate change and food insecurity mainstreaming across key sectors of SIDS. In the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of Mauritius

submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in October 2021, Mauritius aims at an enhanced mitigation target of 40% greenhouse gas emission reduction by 2030.

- We believe that there is need for a Vulnerability Assessment Index of countries, particularly for SIDS, to assess their exposure levels and risks on how to deal with external hazards and critical elements such as meteorological issues and crop projections (agriculture sector), and disaster risk reduction and management and migration.

In terms of recommendations, both long and short term strategies are required, namely:

- In consolidating international advocacy towards developing appropriate policies to address the crosscutting issues of climate change, food insecurity and migration;
- The promotion of detailed Technical Capacity building for Risk Assessment towards mitigating and managing Migration arising from climate change and food insecurity.
- The fostering of strong cooperation amongst states, emergency preparedness plan and setting up of assistance programmes;
- Reassessment of the infrastructural resources and needs of Small Island Developing States (including access to remote areas, additional water points/resources, storage and transportation/distribution system, electricity or alternatives);

- Enhancing adaptive systems through research and innovative ideas for example how to reorient the use of presently unproductive lands and looking for alternative food systems,
- Last but not least, the strengthening of the IOM structures and delivery in the global architecture of migration management linked with climate change and food security. In this regards having an International Convention on migration, climate change and food security by be discussed by the international community with international inter-agency involvement.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am convinced that, following our exchange and sharing of views, we will have a clearer vision on how to tackle the various issues.

I thank you for your attention.