

Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy.

Virtual statement at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) 114th Session of the Council (2023).

Agenda item 11: High-level segment – Climate impact on human mobility: A global call for solutions

I would like to begin by extending a warm welcome to Amy Pope as Director General of the International Organization for Migration. IOM plays a key role in global migration management and is an important partner for Denmark. Our longstanding partnership has grown significantly since IOM became a member of the UN family in 2016 and we look forward to continue our close cooperation under your skillful leadership.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. It demands us to be proactive to anticipate the challenges ahead. Since taking office, the Director General has made addressing the impact of climate change on human mobility a key priority. I would like to commend her for that.

IOM must be well-prepared to tackle the impact of climate change on displacement and migration.

The World Bank estimates that nearly 143 million people could become climate migrants by 2050, including 86 million people from sub-Saharan Africa. The urgency to act is undisputable.

The effects of climate change on migration are not new. What is new is the intensity and the severity of this impact. Climate-related migration has become a crisis unfolding in slow motion. As people move from rural areas to cities and from cities across borders. Sometimes regularly, sometimes as irregular migrants.

For this reason, Denmark has made climate change, irregular migration and forced displacement central to our cooperation with the IOM. The data and analyses on trends in this area are essential for preparing and responding to the challenges of today and of the future. With IOM's extensive data collection and presence at the front lines, nobody is better suited to understand the underlying dynamics of climate change and migration.

In the years ahead, IOM must focus on the development of improved data collection and analysis. On predicative analysis of mobility patterns. And on the establishment of resilience building initiatives and early warning systems. These will be cornerstones in safeguarding people on the move and in preventing and preparing for climate-induced migration.

Let me be very clear: Denmark is strongly committed to addressing the impact of climate change on migration. This requires a dual focus on both halting greenhouse gas emissions through green transition. And on adaptation and resilience building for those already impacted by the effects of climate change. Both are key Danish priorities, and will be so at COP28.

Only by working together as a global community, we can find sustainable solutions for the people who stay as well as those who migrate.

Thank you for your attention.