



Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change

The IOM Level Segment

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Somalia's displacement trends are multifaceted, with natural disasters like droughts and floods causing more population movements than armed conflicts in recent years. Climate change has exacerbated these events, prompting increased human mobility, especially as communities seek refuge in urban areas for economic prospects. While nomadic traditions of pastoralists have historically involved movement for resources, larger-scale displacements emerged due to the climate crisis, leading many Somalis to seek refuge across borders.

Youth migration, primarily driven by economic opportunities, insecurity, limited education access, and livelihood losses, remains a significant concern. To address these challenges, Somalia has implemented various policies like the National Durable Solutions Strategy (NDSS) and the Refugee Act 2019. Moreover, aligning with regional and international frameworks, Somalia endorsed the IGAD Protocol in 2023, aiming to facilitate labour migration, bolster regional integration, and mitigate conflicts, poverty, and environmental impacts. These efforts acknowledge the role of free movement in alleviating the adverse effects of climate change and other crises.

States can reach a consensus on the following solutions:

- Mitigating the root causes of irregular migration and displacement.
- Addressing the intricate interplay between climate change, the environment, and human mobility.
- Advancing the creation of secure and lawful migration routes.
- Integrating human mobility into national strategies for climate change response and adaptation, while investing in readiness and provisions for losses and damages.
- Enforcing existing global commitments regarding human mobility, notably the Global Compact on Migration (GCM).
- Committing to and executing mobility-focused frameworks, such as the IGAD Protocol on the free movement of people, to support those affected by climate emergencies and establish enduring solutions for displaced individuals.

These collective approaches aim to confront the complexities of migration, displacement, and climate-induced crises while fostering sustainable and coordinated responses among nations.

Climate-related shocks and trends that can cause population displacement that we need to tackle include

- Extreme weather events
- Increased occurrence of slow-onset disasters such as increasing temperatures and drought, which affect agricultural production and access to clean water;
- Rising sea levels which can render coastal areas increasingly difficult places to live and work;
- Degradation of land and competition over natural resources can challenge institutions' ability to manage relations over shared resources, leading to rivalry and in turn migration.

To facilitate movement for climate migrants, especially marginalized groups like women, youth, and indigenous communities, states require specific information:

We first need to understand the distinct vulnerabilities faced by these groups due to climate change and the obstacles they encounter in accessing safe migration routes and developing tailored, regular migration pathways that consider the unique needs and circumstances of these marginalized populations. This involves creating provisions within migration frameworks that cater to their specific challenges and requirements. We must then ensure accessibility to comprehensive information about legal migration options, support services, and resources available to these groups. This includes language accessibility and culturally sensitive communication. We should also implement robust protection mechanisms to safeguard the rights and well-being of women, youth, and indigenous communities throughout their migration journey. This must involve addressing gender-based violence, ensuring youth protection, and respecting indigenous rights. And lastly, we should implement capacity-building initiatives, including education and skill development programs, to enhance the resilience of these groups against climate-induced displacement and enable them to access lawful migration channels effectively.

By focusing on these aspects, states can foster an environment that facilitates safe and regular migration pathways for these vulnerable groups affected by climate change.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) can further aid states in operationalizing existing free movement instruments in the context of climate change effects by facilitating information that States need to 'facilitate movement' for climate migrants that I have motioned in this statement.

Thank you