

INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON SCPF MATTERS

**PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR THE THIRTIETH AND THIRTY-FIRST SESSIONS OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE**

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Introduction

1. The purpose of this paper is to propose the topics on which Member States can exchange views at the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, scheduled to take place on 23 and 24 June and 1 and 2 November 2022, respectively. The Administration has proposed cross-cutting topics that thread through the work of the Organization, in line with its goal of breaking down internal silos as outlined in the IOM Strategic Vision.

2. The Administration suggests that each Member State should select their four preferred topics from those listed below. Each delegation is requested to complete the online form, the link to which was shared along with this document, in order to express their preferences. In the interest of fairness, only one submission per Member State will be taken into account.

3. The Administration will present papers on two of the chosen topics at each session of the Standing Committee in 2022. A brief introduction of the proposed topics has been given below.

(a) Displacement, migration and climate action: promoting innovative approaches to prevention, preparedness, response and solutions

4. The implications of climate change for human mobility are significant and diverse and require States and communities to invest in improving the resilience of all people at risk and addressing the needs of both those moving and those staying behind in the context of disasters and environmental degradation. IOM is committed to supporting its Member States in this comprehensive effort through a broad range of operations spanning disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, emergency preparedness, humanitarian response and durable solutions.

5. The paper would showcase examples of how IOM is collaborating with its Member States and partners to better integrate environment and mobility issues into all its programming throughout the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and in line with the recommendations of the Report of the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and the Secretary General's action agenda on internal displacement, focusing on innovative approaches to climate action that minimize displacement and leverage the benefits of migration; evidence-based preparedness that builds on risk assessments to support anticipatory approaches and capacity-building; localized, context-specific responses to the needs of persons displaced by natural disasters; and forward-looking planning for durable solutions that promote sustainable well-being for communities affected by the climate crisis. The paper would also show ways to act decisively and holistically on this urgent issue, bridging different operational areas to support global objectives laid out in global, regional and national humanitarian, development and climate frameworks.

(b) The criticality of humanitarian access in delivering humanitarian assistance and protection interventions: examples from the field

6. Humanitarian access is essential to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches the most vulnerable and affected populations. It is critical to put an emphasis on principled humanitarian access; only through reaching affected populations on the basis of the humanitarian principles of independence, humanity, neutrality and impartiality can humanitarian assistance be provided equitably, reaching underserved and hardly accessible areas while following a "do no harm" approach.

7. Humanitarian crises in conflict environments pose a range of access-related challenges, such as hostilities and military operations; restriction of movement of agencies, personnel and humanitarian goods; violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities; interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities, including aid diversion; and obstructions preventing the affected population from accessing humanitarian services. The design and implementation humanitarian programming and interventions in conflict settings requires a high degree of access awareness and the application of an access lens throughout the process. IOM recognizes the criticality of principled humanitarian access and strives to promote, safeguard and enhance such access throughout its interventions.

8. The paper will discuss how putting principled access at the centre of IOM interventions helps to ensure that aid reaches vulnerable and affected populations, even in the most conflict-affected and hostile settings. It will also showcase practical examples of IOM efforts to gain and maintain humanitarian access for its life-saving activities in challenging contexts, including through enhancing the conflict sensitivity of programming; tracking access constraints; developing humanitarian negotiation capacity; performing risk assessments; and collaborating with partners to promote and enhance principled humanitarian access.

(c) Strengthening local governance and community participation in durable solutions frameworks and national development processes

9. This thematic topic focuses on localized responses to displacement situations and follows two broad programming principles. The first is predicated on the principle that the greatest resource in driving solutions are the communities themselves. They need to be empowered to engage in assessing, planning for and defining their own durable solutions based on a shared vision and collective goals. Drawing on the experiences of IOM programmes implementing the community-based planning methodology, the paper will consider how these best practices can be mainstreamed both across IOM programmes and the work of other actors in the humanitarian action, peace and development spheres. Community-based planning is cited as a critical, people-centred approach for displaced persons to achieve durable solutions in the first recommendation of the United Nations Secretary General's action agenda on internal displacement.

10. The second principle relates to the role of local leadership and importance of strengthened governance in the pursuit of durable solutions. Combining a number of programmatic models, the paper will consider the role that local authorities and traditional leadership can play both in coordinating multi-stakeholder efforts to support durable solutions and in overseeing community-based planning processes. Increasingly, IOM is taking steps to enable local leadership to lead the communities they serve in the pursuit of durable solutions. For international organizations like IOM, this means stepping back from delivering assistance and enabling local actors to play this role, particularly through inclusive consultation and participatory planning.

11. IOM's community-based planning processes culminate in community action plans which form the basis for implementing interventions to achieve solutions, based on the motivations and aspirations of communities impacted by crisis. There are growing number of places where such plans are feeding into regional and national planning process. Looking ahead, the paper will also consider what opportunities there are to strengthen community-level participatory planning and recovery by establishing links with broader regional and national planning processes.

(d) Enabling human mobility within resilient pandemic preparedness and response actions

12. Over the past two years, governments have placed restrictions on cross-border mobility to limit the spread of COVID-19, with varying effects across regions. In 2022, with vaccines more widely available yet unequally distributed, efforts are now under way to reopen borders, often accompanied by COVID-19 testing or vaccination protocols. However, management of cross-border travel remains localized and still largely uncoordinated despite commitments under the International Health Regulations (2005), with specific impacts for people on the move. As a result of the pandemic response and inequitable recovery, characterized by a lack of access to testing, treatment and vaccines in several parts of the world, there is an increasing risk that future migration and mobility will become fragmented, accentuating the already evident signs of two-speed world recovery that leaves behind less developed countries, and stalling future economic and social development that could otherwise be accelerated through well-managed migration.

13. The paper will showcase how IOM is collaborating with its Member States and partners to better integrate pandemic preparedness, health emergency response and inclusive recovery through a human mobility lens in all its programming. Key areas considered will include migration health, immigration and border management, and rights-based and integrated policy approaches to recovering better from the pandemic in support of the attainment of sustainable and inclusive development. Examples will be provided of improved coordination between IOM, the World Health Organization and other partner agencies; alignment between the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, global health policies and key Sustainable Development Goals; innovative approaches on predictability of cross-border mobility; evidence-based preparedness using health and population mobility risk assessments to support anticipatory approaches and capacity-building for health, border and mobility management; areas for deeper cooperation and exchange through a whole-of-government approach; and proposals on consistent and coherent international information exchange and coordination on changes in admission and stay rules, including visas, during health emergencies.

(e) Increased availability of labour mobility pathways for inclusive and prosperous societies

14. Despite major disruptions to economies and societies caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as large-scale political and environmental instability, labour mobility remains a viable instrument of socioeconomic development and a key contributor to achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 10. Together with other strategies of human capital development, labour mobility helps addressing existing labour market mismatches and bottlenecks to productivity in the context of persistent demographic imbalances, global supply chains and cross-border trade. It also helps to prevent irregular migration and the loss of lives. Seasonal workers were in high demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic, even when the production was stalled and borders were closed. The demand for health and care workers only increased. Global competition for talent became a dominant reality not only in developed countries but also in those in the South.

15. The insufficiency and inadequacy of existing labour mobility schemes, broader regular migration pathways and regulatory frameworks become ever more apparent in the context of the changing world of work and education and increasing trends of digitalization, teleworking and platform economies. The need to enhance and improve existing regular pathways is a specific target of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, progress on which will be reviewed during the International Migration Review Forum in 2022. This presents an opportunity to take stock of effective and innovative approaches for regulating labour mobility and identify effective solutions for addressing issues related to informality of workers, rights protection, legal identity and inequality, and transforming mobility into a vehicle of development and prosperity for all.

16. Specifically, the paper would address mechanisms to enhance the accessibility of admission, stay and residence procedures, including visas; approaches related to status change pathways (e.g. temporary–permanent); cross-border solutions (e.g. international agreements, bilateral labour migration agreements); labour mobility and skills mobility partnerships; rights-based approaches to enhance migrants' voice and empowerment; multi-stakeholder partnerships and the role of the private sector in enhancing labour market inclusion; and inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in existing regular pathways.