

**Issue Based Coalition on Migration in the Arab Region:  
Regional Dialogue on the Climate Change and Migration Nexus in the Arab  
Region**

**11:00AM Beirut Time,  
Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Opening remarks delivered by: Ms. Kristina Mejo  
IOM Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa**

Honorable representatives from the Arab States Governments,

Distinguished stakeholder representatives,

Dear colleagues,

- It is an honor for me to be speaking here today on behalf of the co-leads of the Issue Based Coalition on Migration and in coordination with the Regional UN Network on Migration.
- We are looking towards discussions identifying new areas of synergy and complementarity with the aim of raising awareness and advocating for evidence-based policy recommendations pertaining to climate change-mobility nexus and its impact on vulnerable groups.
- We are happy to see various partners taking part in our discussion today showcasing the high importance of the thematic and the need to have various partners around the table for a broad and inclusive dialogue. Least to say that climate related shocks have been gravely felt in the MENA region as it hosts 14 of the world's most water-stressed countries. The region is also impacted by droughts, desertification and floodings which affect the wellbeing and livelihoods of populations directly and indirectly causing displacements of populations.
- The need for action for climate change adaptation measures, and resources to avert and minimize suffering when and where it is still possible and strengthen people's resilience continues to grow. In particular, Women are 80 percent more likely to be displaced than men

in times of climate crisis due to gender-differentiated roles at the household and community levels. Women and girls should be at the center of solutions for addressing climate-related displacement to ensure their protection and well-being.

- Recognizing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the GCM's whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, it is key to integrate climate change related migration into an overall international migration governance and management framework. Climate change induced migration has multicausal and multidimensional factors related to economic, social, political, and demographic circumstances that can gravely affect human mobility outcomes.
- Environmental factors must be integrated across all areas of migration management, such as: prevention, preparedness and response to displacement, transition to early and long-term recovery from disasters, border management, labour migration and integration, social cohesion and return, readmission and reintegration;
- Our dialogue today will be guided by a number of global frameworks concerned with climate change and its impact on different groups, starting with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact on Migration.
- The progress in GCM implementation includes significant strides in global enhancement of migration, environment and climate change. And as per the recommendations and linkages produced in the International Migration Review Forum held this past May, many states in their high-level statement identified Climate change a priority of action for the Network too.
- Top priorities include that human mobility nexus to climate hazards is recognized and well addressed at local, national, regional and international levels through dedicated climate change and migration policies with whole-of- government approaches, and whole-of-society approaches.
- The need for action for climate change adaptation measures, and resources to avert and minimize suffering when and where still possible and strengthen people's resilience continues to grow.

- Comprehensive and inclusive migration policy approaches would support the communal and governmental efforts to strengthen our readiness against climate change impacts.
- Noting the important timeframe to host the UN Climate Change Conference COP 27 and COP 28 in the MENA region, in Egypt and UAE respectively, we find ourselves in need to come up with systemic approaches to develop migration policies that can continually adapt to the climate change patterns within the context of the MENA region, and tend to the needs of the vulnerable groups within the context of the MENA region.
- Holding the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda at the core of our collective efforts, IOM, in close collaboration with its partners, stands ready to support and respond to the immediate needs while working on developing long term comprehensive actions related to disaster preparedness, risk reduction and recovery plans.
- The IBC and the Regional Network on Migration offer the opportunity for collective commitments and close collaboration with various stakeholders bringing different expertise to develop comprehensive strategies and enhance the management of climate and environment induced migration and displacement, and climate and human mobility, to address its challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities it presents. These include governmental institutions, UN agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), civil society, academic institutions and private sector institutions among others listed in the GCM in support of its research, policy and operational objectives;
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank distinguished representatives for being here today. I look forward to the discussions in today's meeting and I thank you for your time and attention.