



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Subject: International Organisation for Migration (IOM) submission to the UNFCCC concerning draft decisions 23 and 24 of -/CP17 of the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

IOM appreciates the UNFCCC's invitation to comment on the important developments regarding the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) as a follow up to decisions adopted at the Durban Summit.

IOM recognises the value of the NAPs as providing long-term country-driven strategic frameworks for climate change adaptation. In this context, it is important to build on the experiences of the National Adaptation Programs for Action and on the decisions made over the course of the UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties (COPs). IOM holds it important for NAPs to broaden capacities for greater inclusion of specialised organisations, as delivering more options to the UNFCCC Parties NAP implementation.

This submission is delivered as part of IOM's efforts to implement paragraph 14¹ of the Cancun Agreements within the lines of the Organisation's mission and strategy as decided by its membership² to: Assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management (for all types of migration, from forced to voluntary and including displacement); Advance understanding of migration issues; Encourage social and economic development through migration; Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

IOM is directly concerned with climate induced migration, displacement and related relocation planning. The Organization has wide-ranging experience on a global scale in humanitarian preparedness, response to displacement induced by natural disasters, livelihood stabilization programmes for environmentally vulnerable communities and other migration activities related to climate change impacts.³ Through the work on the ground, IOM is witness to the growing impact of climate change on livelihoods and human mobility. Thus, adaptation planning should already factor in human mobility considerations.

The increase of IOM's membership to 146 states and 98 observers with a majority of representatives from developing countries is testimony to the growing geopolitical significance of human mobility in our time. With a structure of 450 field offices in more than a hundred countries, the organization can also directly engage with relevant counterparts at local and regional levels, in particular in Least Developing Countries (LDCs). Addressing the migration and displacement implications of climate and environmental factors is one of the Organization's thematic priorities.

The Organization's work on environmental migration includes research, policy dialogue, capacity building, partnership, legal research, advocacy and operational activities. IOM supports in particular migration and adaptation activities via its Development Fund including capacity building pilot projects such as: "Support Malian national and local institutions in managing environmental migration within the framework of their strategy for reducing vulnerability to climate change" ; "Pilot Project - Assessment and Strategy Development to Respond to the Impact of Rising Sea Level on Human Mobility in Egypt; "The Other Migrants - Cause and Prevention of Migration of Gradual Environmental Change – Environment and Sustainable

¹ "Measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels" (UNFCCC, Cancun Agreements 2010).

² Please refer to IOM Strategy MC/INF/287, Nov. 2007

http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/about_iom/docs/res1150_en.pdf

³ Please refer to IOM's pages : www.iom.int/envmig and www.iom.int/climateandmigration

Development in Mauritius and “Senegal: Promotion of youth labour in environmental sector in Senegal (as a way to combat irregular migration)”.

The submission should be also read in conjunction with the results of the 2011 IOM International Dialogue on Migration Workshop on “Environmental Degradation, Climate change and Migration” calling for increased capacity building to mainstream migration into adaptation planning (www.iom.int/idmclimatechange/lang/en) and with IOM’s inputs to the Cop17 in Durban, in particular IOM’s Director General’s speech at the High level segment⁴ and IOM’s contributions to interagency side events on the human dimensions of climate change.

This submission should be read in conjunction with the previous IOM and collaborative organisations’ submissions also relating to the topic of climate change, migration and displacement, including:

- 1) Change, Migration and Displacement: Who will be affected? Working paper submitted by the informal group on Migration/Displacement and Climate Change of the IASC. 31 October 2008 to the UNFCCC Secretariat.
- 2) Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Risk Management Practices: Critical Elements for Adaptation to Climate Change. Submission to the UNFCCC *Adhoc* Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action by The Informal Taskforce on climate change of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. 11 November 2008.
- 3) Climate change, migration, and displacement: impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation options. Submitted to UNFCCC Secretariat by International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations University (UNU), The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and the representatives of the Secretary-General in the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (RSG on the HR of IDPs). 6 February 2009

Overall National Adaptation Plans should:

- Include the consideration of the impacts of climate change on population movement and settlement patterns, in particular the combined impacts of climate change, rural-urban migration and other pressures on urban areas;
- Recognize the humanitarian consequences of climate change, including forced migration and displacement and take action to minimize them, including through prevention of displacement, and to prepare for and to address the unavoidable consequences.
- Consider that human mobility can in certain cases play a positive role in adaptation and recognize that the adaptation dividends of migration can best be harnessed at the earlier stages of environmental degradation, before the migration becomes entirely forced, and where return remains possible after the migration event.
- Give priority to the particular needs of those most vulnerable to and affected by climate change: this includes those on the move for environmental reasons, those at risk of displacement, but potentially also “trapped” communities whose extreme vulnerability stems from the *inability* to move away from dangerous or unsustainable environments due to a lack of resources.
- Include consultations with affected populations in the strategic planning.

⁴ Please refer to: www.iom.int/climateandmigration

Ideas and Proposals on paragraphs 23 and 24
Draft decision/CP17 regarding National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

Decision and Relevance to IOM	IOM recommendations
<p>Paragraph 3. 23. <i>Also invites</i> United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to support the national adaptation plan process in the least developed countries and, where possible, to consider establishing support programmes for the national adaptation plan process within their mandates, as appropriate, which could facilitate financial and technical support to least developed countries; and to submit to the secretariat, by 13 February 2012, information on how they have responded to this invitation;</p>	<p>Access to finance: Building on the experience of NAPAs, and of the Cancun Adaptation Framework in incorporating migration, displacement and planned relocation as an activity that qualifies for adaptation funding in the future; IOM recommends that the NAPs process fully incorporates the participation of specialised organisations to develop climate change adaptation programmes that factor in human mobility. IOM will make use of its extensive regional and national office presence in particular in least developed countries to support the incorporation of migration related issues into the adaptation planning process.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3. 24. <i>Invites</i> Parties and relevant organizations as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to submit to the secretariat, by 13 February 2012, information on support to the national adaptation plan process in the least developed countries;</p>	<p>Migration as adaptation: In-line with IOM's central objectives in managing environmental migration, the Organisation recommends that NAPs should factor in migration related issues through activities: <i>a) Preventing</i> (forced) migration and making migration work for adaptation; <i>b) Preparing</i> for potential migration/displacement/relocation; <i>c) Managing</i> (mass) migration; <i>d) Mitigating</i> the impact of (forced) migration; <i>e) Addressing</i> (forced) migration through durable solutions.</p> <p>Inclusive and participatory processes: Involve affected populations as directly and as early as possible. Local communities should form the primary focus of action and attention.</p> <p>Migration as part of national development strategies: NAPs provide an opportunity to link migration management with other policy areas in terms of climate change adaptation, in particular with sustainable development policy strategies.</p> <p>Risk assessment: Develop risk assessments of natural hazards, preparedness measures and programmes to prevent and manage displacement to minimise the impacts of forced migration in natural disaster scenarios, through such measures as early warning systems, contingency planning and bolstered capacities for humanitarian assistance and protection, especially for the most vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Build resilience: Improve urban environments and build resilience as forward looking programmes that take into</p>

account the expected increase in rural-urban migration flows, the risks of having populations trapped, or displaced because of the impacts of climate change.

Overall IOM recommends pursuing the following priority areas:

- Recognize and realize the potential of migration as a climate change adaptation strategy, and its linkages to sustainable development.
- Develop policy coherence at national, regional and international levels by mainstreaming environmental and climate change considerations into migration management policies and practice, and vice versa.
- Strengthen linkages among policy domains, especially migration management, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development, to reduce vulnerability in the long term.
- Recognize and facilitate the role of migration, including climate change related migration, as an income diversification strategy at the household level and strengthen the development effect of migrant remittances on areas of origin.
- Relate the issue of environmental migration to labour migration schemes and to policies facilitating labour mobility.
- Promote the option of sustainable return where possible and support the local integration of those who have been forced to move. The return, integration and relocation of migrants should all be considered within the general frameworks of sustainable development and adaptation.
- Build the capacities of all stakeholders, including local communities, to anticipate and respond to environmental changes and their implications for human mobility.

IOM wishes bring its experience and expertise to further contribute to the national adaptation planning process in the least developed countries, in collaboration with all relevant partners at local, national, regional and international levels via:

- Research, publication and information sharing activities;
- Capacity building, training and policy activities in particular policy dialogue (national, regional, global) and identification of good practices on factoring in human mobility into adaptation planning;
- Operational projects that deal with all migration aspects from forced to voluntary, including responses to displacement due to natural disasters, and planned relocation.

