

## HUMAN MOBILITY IN LOSS AND DAMAGE DISCUSSIONS

### 1 Why is human mobility relevant to Loss and Damage associated with climate change?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) notes **loss and damage** “have been taken to refer broadly to harm from (observed) impacts and (projected) risks and can be economic or non-economic”<sup>1</sup>. In short, loss and damage refers to the impacts, registered or foreseen, associated with climate change.

One of these crucial impacts relates to human mobility. **Climate and weather hazards, both sudden and slow-onset, are increasingly driving displacement and migration.** Over the past decade, weather-related hazards– including floods, storms, and wildfires – have caused over 200 million new displacements worldwide. As a result, communities are increasingly having to move to new grounds due to the impact of climate change, including through planned relocation processes<sup>2</sup>. The costs related to displacement, recovery and reconstruction, should be considered in terms of loss and damage to account for their impact.

Human mobility – notably displacement and planned relocation – is both a consequence and a form of loss and damage.

- It is a **consequence** of loss and damage because communities that are severely affected by the impacts of climate change – and suffer losses and damage – may have to leave their lands.
- Human mobility can also be a **form** of loss and damage itself as communities leaving their lands suffer economic and non-economic loss.

Human mobility is related to economic and non-economic loss and damage.

- Displacement and planned relocation entail an **economic cost** that can be tied for instance to the damage to property and infrastructure, loss of livelihoods, expenditure required to relocate a community, or the resources that households need to move and the expenses that government and other actors incur in the provision of adequate assistance.
- Human mobility also entails **non-economic loss and damage** implications, for communities who may lose access to their ancestral land, whose traditional livelihoods are severed, whose cultural heritage is lost, and who may suffer mental and psychosocial impacts in displacement scenarios, among others.

*In summary, certain forms of human mobility – notably displacement and planned relocation – are critical features of the adverse impacts of climate change. Given their importance in developing countries, they should be at the forefront of the discussion on loss and damage associated with climate change.*

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_Annex-II.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_Annex-II.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> [https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_FullReport.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf).

## What are the key points of advocacy moving forward?

For developing countries, **climate change is already causing enormous impacts in terms of loss and damage, including with regard to human mobility**. From a climate justice perspective, it is fundamental for developing countries to continue to advocate for displacement and planned relocation to be considered in loss and damage negotiations. **Both disaster displacement and the relocation of communities entail very significant economic and non-economic costs, which should not be borne by those less responsible** for the climate emergency.

Moving forward, different concrete areas of interest emerge:

- Negotiators from Non-Annex I Parties should ensure that **migration, displacement, and planned relocation are highly considered** in the work of entities within the loss and damage sphere, notably the **Santiago Network and the new fund for loss and damage**. This can take place both within the instruments themselves – in the board of the Santiago Network and the loss and damage fund – and when reviewing reports of progress at COP.
- Given the increasing **need for accurate and reliable data and evidence** to “ensure the new and existing funding arrangements target people and communities in climate-vulnerable situations”<sup>3</sup>, negotiators from Non-Annex I Parties **should drive for improvements in the capacity to collect information on the impacts of climate change on human mobility from a loss and damage perspective**, which shall further inform advocacy positions.
- Initial discussions around the establishment of the loss and damage fund have focused on the issue of **direct access to the fund by affected communities**. Negotiators should play a **key role in defining criteria and building consensus to include the most vulnerable communities** in the scope of the fund, including those displaced by the climate crisis, those affected by relocation processes and trapped and voluntarily immobile communities.
- The **participation of those affected by the climate crisis** – displaced and relocated persons, climate migrants - should be ensured as a way of **making sure that loss and damage instruments respond to the needs of those on the frontlines** of the climate emergency.
- The **sustainable mobilization of resources** remains a key priority, and negotiators are expected to contribute to a strategy that facilitates fundraising for the fund in order to appropriately meet existing and emerging needs.

The International Organization for Migration has been supporting the integration of human mobility considerations in the loss and damage negotiations and remains available to provide technical adequate assistance to UNFCCC negotiators through liaison with affected communities, the production of evidence, and advocacy support to make sure that provisions target the needs of those most in need.

*In summary, it is crucial to advocate for the inclusion of migration, displacement, and planned relocation in loss and damage negotiations. This ensures that economic and non-economic costs are not borne by those least responsible for the climate crisis, by enhancing data collection, defining access criteria for vulnerable communities, ensuring the participation of affected persons, and mobilizing sustainable resources.*

<sup>3</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2023\\_11a01\\_adv.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2023_11a01_adv.pdf).