



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM



BLUE PACIFIC 2050

Pacific Regional Framework On Climate Mobility



Credit: IOM/Mohammed Muse



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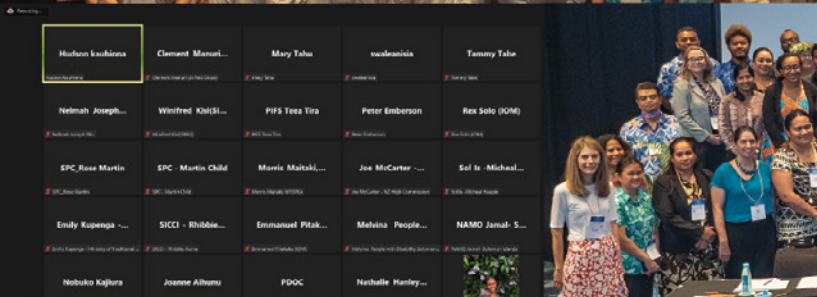
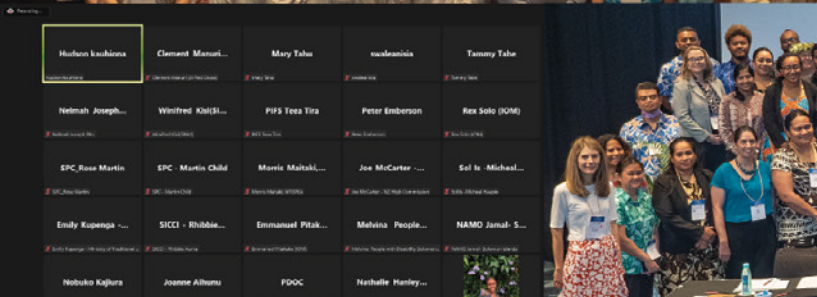
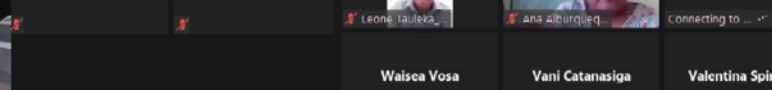
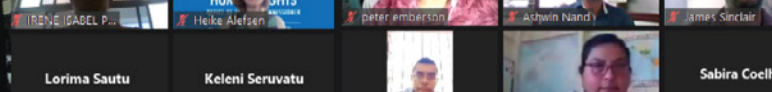
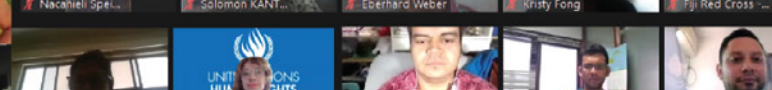
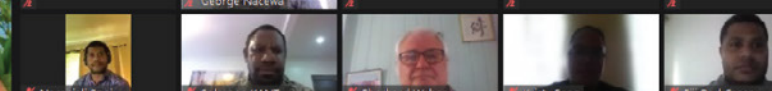
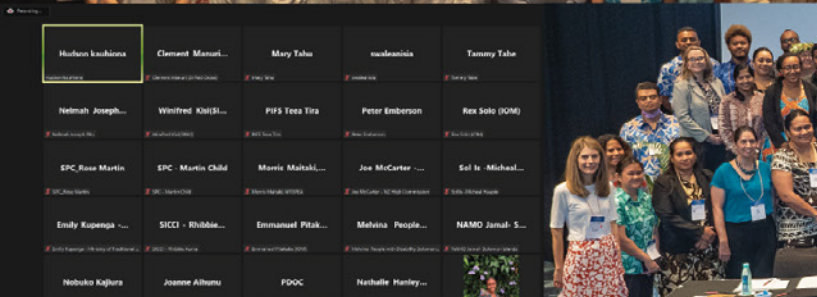
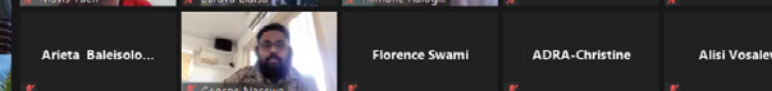
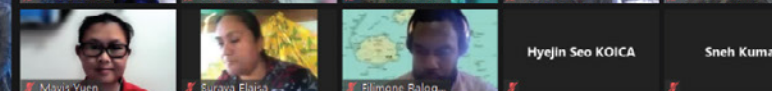
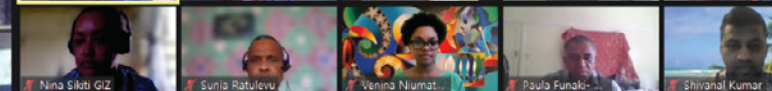
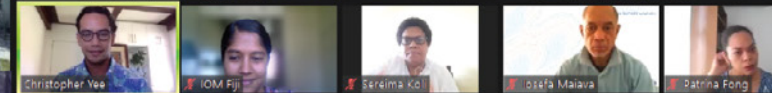
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Foreword

As Forum Leaders, we note the far-reaching impacts of climate change and disasters on human security and mobility in the Pacific Islands, with more than 50,000 Pacific people displaced every year due to climate and disaster related events.

Our people are already living the realities of the adverse impacts of climate change which challenges our ability to stay in our homes, protect our traditional practices, cultural heritage and maintain our identity.

Through the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility, we emphasize the urgency of ensuring rights-based and people-centred approaches on this issue that empower our people to lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

This Framework reiterates our commitment as a region to strengthen collaboration, to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to the impacts of climate related mobility. The Framework recognises the preference and right of all Pacific peoples to stay in their homes as a fundamental priority while stressing the importance of ensuring that human mobility is orderly, safe, and responsible when mobility is a choice or a necessity.

At the same time, the Framework acknowledges the need to be forward looking and be better prepared while respecting and ensuring existing initiatives, laws and policies are complemented and not undermined.

The Framework has been developed, and will be implemented, through a member-driven and collaborative approach with all Forum Members, partners and stakeholders, underpinned by our Pacific values of regional cooperation, innovation and respect for diversity and heritage.





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Strategic Context

1. The history of our Blue Pacific Continent is a story of mobility. Over thousands of years, our people have moved within and beyond the region in response to changing environmental, economic, political, and social conditions. Our connection to land and ocean is deep and immutable and represents the foundations of our Pacific identity and well-being.
2. Despite being among the lowest greenhouse gas emitters in the world, the Pacific Island region is experiencing damaging and, at times, irreversible impacts of climate change. These impacts directly shape the ability of our peoples to remain living in their homes, where they connect to their ancestral territories, both land and oceanic. As Pacific Leaders we remain committed to strengthen regional collaboration and commitment to proactively pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels and pursue increased innovative financing to address climate change and disaster risk in order that our peoples can stay in place.
3. We will act to ensure the health and well-being of our people and for human rights and human security for all. While we recognise that the drivers and scope of human mobility are multiple and complex – whether forced or voluntary, temporary, or permanent, within or across borders – its urgency lies in the fact that it already is a reality in the region with serious implications for individuals, households, and communities. Irreversible changes are taking place and adopting a proactive and planned approach to climate mobility will help ensure that we respond to enhance, not diminish, our people’s resilience and well-being. This world-first Framework represents our commitment to and framing of our future decisions and such actions in the Pacific on climate mobility.
4. Dislocation from home, loss of land and cascading effects on ecosystems, livelihoods and knowledge represent some of the greatest forms of loss and damage for our people – for both current and future generations. We recognise that movement away from home can result from, be a form of, and cause loss and damage of an economic and non-economic nature. In recognition of the disproportionate costs that Pacific countries bear as a result of climate change, we welcome and encourage further international cooperation on developing and implementing mechanisms for addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, particularly to meet growing needs in the Pacific. Collective advocacy and action across the Pacific in support of international approaches to loss and damage will help secure the technical and financial support we need to successfully manage the risks and costs associated with climate mobility into the future.
5. Our adoption of the Framework is our commitment to ensure that we are resilient and ‘future-ready’ by being able to anticipate, prepare for and respond to the hazardous impacts of climate change, including in relation to mobility.

6. The Framework delivers on the Pathways in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent to ensure the protection and practice of the rights, cultural values and heritage and traditional knowledge of Pacific peoples in global and regional protocols for climate and disaster risk reduction, and mobility including relocation, migration, and displacement'. It pursues in line with our ambition under the 'Climate Change and Disasters Thematic Area' to remain resilient to the impacts of climate change and disasters and builds the capacity of communities to effectively address the impacts of climate change. By strengthening our collective action on climate mobility so that all our people can enjoy protection of their human rights in the context of climate mobility and help to achieve our vision for a resilient Pacific region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.
7. The Framework is underpinned by the 2050 Strategy values to ensure peaceful, safe, and stable communities and countries, ensuring robust security and wellbeing for the peoples of the Pacific. We recognise our collective responsibility to ensure access to sustainable resourcing and promote climate justice for the whole Pacific region.
8. Although not legally binding, the Framework will be implemented in line with member country domestic laws and policies and is consistent with existing commitments under relevant global, regional, and national laws, frameworks, policies, and guidelines



Purpose

9. The purpose of the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility is to guide Pacific Islands Forum governments, communities, non-state actors and partners in ensuring rights based and people-centred movement in the context of climate change, including staying in place, planned relocation, migration, and displacement through a proactive, inclusive and collaborative regional approach that reflects common Pacific interests in a culturally appropriate manner, while respecting national sovereignty and diversity.



Photo credit: IOM/Nikiatu Kuautonga

Principles

10. The principles of the Framework will be guided by our Pacific values that are collectively envisioned in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the guiding principles outlined in the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, and the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, with particular emphasis on cross-cutting principles associated with climate and disaster related mobility.

Leadership and collaboration

11. As Pacific Leaders, we are committed to regional collaboration. We will therefore act in unity and solidarity to implement a regional approach to climate mobility. We will strive to strengthen Pacific leadership, voices and engagement to ensure recognition and alignment with Pacific cultures, values, priorities and collective interests.
12. Our delivery of collective actions will be driven by effective governance, consensus, regional ownership, and robust leadership. Our inclusive approach will involve genuine consultations and partnerships with affected communities – including those who move, those who stay behind and host communities – as well as with traditional leaders, civil society organisations, trade unions, the private sector, faith-based groups, international and regional organisations, academics, and other stakeholders.

Human rights, human security and protection

13. The human-rights, protection, consensus-driven participation, empowerment, and well-being of our people will be at the heart of Pacific action on climate mobility. This rights-based and people-centred approach will reflect and address differing impacts of climate change on different groups. By taking an intersectional approach to addressing climate mobility, the Framework recognises that particular individuals and communities may experience the differential impacts of climate change in complex, overlapping and cumulative ways. .



Protecting culture, cultural heritage and identity and dignity

14. We value the diversity and heritage of the Pacific and strive for an inclusive future in which our spirituality, indigenous rights, cultural values, and traditional knowledge and practices are respected, honoured, and protected. The Framework acknowledges the value of traditional knowledge systems in ensuring the protection of all Pacific peoples, including with respect to land, ocean and natural resources and further recognises that this knowledge is essential in informing and accelerating climate action and enhancing resilience.
15. Climate related human mobility will impact cultural and natural heritage, and the loss of intangible cultural heritage. It is therefore essential to protect traditional practices, values, knowledge, cultural heritage, and identity.

Continuing statehood, nationality and associated rights

16. We will preserve our formal ties to home and, recalling our Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise, continue to exercise sovereignty and sovereign rights over maritime zones and resources. The Framework acknowledges and will preserve our right to stay at home and deepen collective responsibility and accountability for the stewardship of the Blue Pacific Continent. We will ensure protection against statelessness and respect associated rights.



Core Areas For Action

17. The following core areas for action reflect our priorities for collaboration on climate mobility. Together, they establish our distinct Pacific approach to addressing different types of climate mobility.

Staying in place

18. We recognise the desire of Pacific people to continue to live in their own countries where possible and our people's deep, ancestral connections to land and sea. For Pacific people, loss of land is not just about loss of place; it impacts the foundations of our individual and collective identities and well-being, and may threaten our customary practices and traditions, and complicate our ability to respond to climate change and related hazards and disasters. Helping our people stay in their homes with safety and dignity is a fundamental priority for the Pacific.
19. To this end, Pacific advocacy for global mitigation and reduction of greenhouse gases and working with development partners and other donors to support opportunities for all Pacific people to equally access adaptation and resilience-building at home is crucial.
20. While Pacific communities have utilised traditional knowledge and collective action to adapt to changing environments for millennia, we recognise that more frequent and intense climate hazards may cause¹ our people to temporarily leave their homes to save lives and be safe. We also recognise that more recent technological developments provide additional adaptation opportunities – for example, to support sustainable land use through science-based and traditional knowledge-based tools and technologies and building up (or creating artificial) islands to provide long-term security for our people.
21. At the same time, enabling some of our people to move may allow others to stay at home – for instance, rights-based labour opportunities in other places may help Pacific migrant workers to support their families and communities back home.

¹ There may be occasions when people are forced to move when all the voluntary measures are exhausted.

22. We are committed to:
- i. Strengthen regional leadership, collaboration, and commitment to proactively pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels to protect the right of Pacific peoples to stay in place.
 - ii. Strengthen regional collaboration in pursuing science-based and traditional knowledge-based tools and technologies and innovative solutions that preserve our biodiversity and land and marine environment and resources and enable Pacific communities to remain at home.
 - iii. Strengthen collaboration with development partners to support all Pacific people to equally access adaptation and resilience-building at home.
 - iv. Incorporate measures into regional disaster risk reduction activities to avert and minimise displacement.
 - v. Collaborate in the development of science-based and traditional knowledge-based tools and technologies to support sustainable land use, access to water, temporary and forced evacuation management and planned relocation.

Forms of movement

1. Planned relocations

23. Though planned relocation, whether internal or cross-border, should only be used as our last resort, we recognise the important role that planned relocations can play both as an anticipatory measure (to avert displacement by assisting people to move to safer areas) and as a remedial measure in the aftermath of a disaster (to provide a durable solution for people who cannot return home safely).
24. Planned relocations are an organised process in accordance with national laws and policies in which people voluntarily move or are forced to move away from their homes or places of temporary residence, are settled in a new location within their own or another country, and are provided with the conditions for rebuilding their lives and maintaining their cultures, and accessibility to e-resources. It can be used as a preventative measure by assisting people to relocate to safer areas, as well as a corrective measure in the aftermath of a disaster to provide a long-term solution for people who are unable to return home safely. We recognise, if not well planned, negotiated, managed, implemented, and monitored, planned relocations can have long-term, traumatic, and intergenerational consequences for Pacific people's identity, sense of belonging, and cultural survival and socio-economic well-being.
25. Planned relocations should restore and improve people's living conditions and livelihoods, including access to health care, adequate housing, decent work, education, social protection, and water and food security other services. They should be carried out with careful planning, according to national laws, and full and inclusive consultations with affected and receiving communities. Planned relocations should only be used as a last resort and human rights must be respected at all phases. They should rebuild a sense of place and well-being in which culture and collective identity are maintained.

26. We recognise that cross-border planned relocations present unique challenges, and require additional safeguards, which will need to be worked through by States and communities affected. These challenges include ensuring long-term legal status for those who are relocated; the extent to which relocating communities to maintain cultural, community, and religious ties and practises; prioritising family and community cohesion as well as access to sites of origin; and establishing or maintaining traditional governance structures; and the basis on which individuals or communities may acquire natural assets. Recommendations from key bodies such as the International Law Commission should be taken into account to guide implementation of international law in this area.
27. We are committed to:
 - i. Strengthen regional collaboration on cross-border relocations, to determine best-practices to ensure that when they are necessary, they are carried out in a safe, dignified and timely manner and founded on respecting human rights at all stages of the relocation process, respecting the need for full and inclusive consultation with affected and receiving communities, and provision for relocated communities to maintain cultural, community and religious ties and practices and access sites of origin.
 - ii. Develop regional planned relocation guidelines in consultation with affected Pacific Island Forum (PIF) members and communities, including chiefs and customary land-holding groups and councils.
 - iii. Strengthen regional mechanisms for capturing and sharing lessons learned from past relocations.

2. Migration

28. We recognise the critical role that rights-based migration - whether internal or cross-border - can play in enabling people to move safely and on their own terms in the context of climate change.
29. Migration for employment, education, and family reunification, among other pathways, whether internally or cross-border, can enable Pacific people to access, health, alternative livelihoods, develop new skills, build networks and remit money back home. Migration can be both a proactive and reactive strategy in the context of climate change and related hazards and disasters. We recognise that migration has impacts on those who go and those who stay behind.
30. In the spirit of Pacific collaboration and solidarity, we acknowledge that communities may opt to use cross-border migration including state-led efforts to develop specific pathways as an adaptation measure to the adverse effects of climate change and support migration that enhances, rather than undermines, our human security.
31. We will consider the role of labour mobility arrangements as an adaptation measure for communities facing socio-economic challenges exacerbated by climate change related challenges.
32. We are committed to:
 - i. Strengthen communities, national, regional, and bilateral collaboration in relation to migration pathways that enable vulnerable Pacific people to move safely in the context of climate change and matters exacerbated by climate change.
 - ii. Coordinate support for cross-border migrants, including via cultural orientation and support for migrants' ongoing cultural and familial ties.

3. Displacement

33. We recognise that emergency evacuations and internal displacement following disasters are already common across the Pacific and are likely to increase as the impacts of climate change including extreme weather events and slow-onset climatic occurrences take hold with the potential for cross-border displacement becoming an eventuality.

3.1 Evacuations

34. We recognise that evacuations are an emergency process to protect people at risk of displacement in the context of climate change and we will work together to ensure that evacuations both internal and cross-border are carried out in a manner that safeguards all people's safety, well-being and human rights.
35. We are committed to:
- i. Strengthening regional collaboration to ensure that evacuations are provided for by law, necessary and proportionate, for the shortest time possible, and carried out in a manner that safeguards people's safety, well-being, and human rights.
 - ii. When requested by an affected PIF member state, cooperating, and collaborating to facilitate the evacuation and return of people whose lives are at risk.

3.2 Internal Displacement

36. The Framework acknowledges the valuable guidance provided by existing national, regional, and global guidelines including the Biketawa Declaration 2000, the Boe Declaration 2018 and the 1998 UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (Guiding Principles) for protecting and assisting internally displaced people before, during and after displacement.
37. We are committed to:
- i. Strengthen regional collaboration to assist and protect people at risk of internal displacement in the context of climate change including the provision of emergency assistance, and guidance on durable solutions that strengthen national responses to climate displacement.
 - ii. Collaborate to identify areas where people are at risk of internal displacement in the context of climate change and related hazards and disasters and to include displacement scenarios in regional disaster contingency planning exercises.
 - iii. Develop regional capacity-building programs to strengthen national responses to internal displacement in the context of climate change.



3.3 Cross-border Displacement

38. We also recognise that people may be displaced multiple times and over extended periods. People may face situations of vulnerability and require assistance in other countries because a disaster at home makes it unsafe or impractical for them to return. As the adverse impacts of climate change continue, over time some of our lands may become uninhabitable.
39. For people displaced across borders, or who find themselves in another country and unable to return home due to climate change, we will protect their human rights. We will also explore opportunities to provide people who are compelled to cross borders in the context of the adverse effects of climate change with opportunities for humanitarian admission and stay as well as access to longer-lasting and sustainable solutions including resettlement and regularisation of their legal status as relevant in line with each domestic laws and regulations as relevant.
40. We are committed to:
 - i. In the spirit of Pacific solidarity explore opportunities to strengthen, harmonise and expand policies and practices concerning humanitarian admission and stay of our people displaced in the context of climate change and related hazards and disasters at the regional and/or sub-regional levels.
 - ii. In the spirit of Pacific solidarity, explore opportunities for longer-term stays according to the domestic laws including prioritising family and community cohesion.

4. Stranded migrants

41. We recognise that Pacific people may become stranded in other countries as a result of climate change related disasters and hazards and steps will be required to ensure that our people receive adequate protection, assistance, and support.
42. We are committed to:
 - i. In the spirit of Pacific solidarity, continue to address these issues and apply the same principles we do in response to other disasters that have affected our region.
 - ii. In the spirit of Pacific solidarity, coordinate appropriate support for Pacific people who are stranded in other countries due to disaster, including engagement of diaspora communities and non-state actors.



Implementation

43. To ensure the effective delivery of the Framework's purpose and consistent with its principles and in alignment with the 2050 Strategy implementation plan, a comprehensive implementation and monitoring plan will identify the interlinkages across all core areas and align implementation with existing and emerging national, regional and global processes and mechanisms.
44. The implementation and monitoring plan will form the basis for evaluating, and learning under each core area, measuring progress, as well as identifying any risks, implementation issues or other constraints. It should facilitate alignment with existing regional and national climate change and related hazard and disaster risk monitoring and evaluation strategies and plans.
45. The implementation of the Framework will also ensure the inclusion of all key stakeholders in developing, supporting, and delivering on shared core areas, and collective engagement in strategically beneficial partnerships at the regional, multilateral, and global levels. This is dependent on a sound enabling environment, including sustainable financial and technical resources, good governance arrangements, and effective cooperation, communication and dialogue, that is contextually and culturally relevant, with information that is accessible and up-to-date.
46. The Framework recognises the critical need for research, accurate, timely, and disaggregated data and data management including multidimensional and multisectoral risk and vulnerability assessments that links to appropriate financing needs and instruments, to ensure well-informed decision-making and effective implementation.
47. The successful and effective delivery of the Framework will be dependent upon the commitment of all Pacific Islands Forum members to this proposed implementation and monitoring plan and the appropriate technical and financial support of development partners.

The Framework is intended to be a resource for safeguarding the future of all Pacific peoples in the face of climate change. As the impacts of climate change continue to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and challenges, Pacific communities are courageously positioning for the challenges that lie ahead. By providing a coordinated and collaborative approach to migration and human security, the Framework has the potential to improve the resilience and wellbeing of Pacific communities. Through increased mobility and cooperation between countries, the Framework can help ensure that those affected by climate change have access to the support they need to adapt and thrive. Ultimately, the Framework represents a significant investment in the Pacific region, one that has the potential to make a meaningful and positive impact on the lives of all people.





Photo credit: IOM/Mohammed Muse

Glossary

Adaptation: Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.²

Climate change: Any change in climate over time, including in climate variability and extremes, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity. This also includes changes in climate variability and extremes.³

Climate hazards: Climatic hazards are weather-related events of atmospheric, hydrological, or oceanographic origin, which can cause harm to humans, property, livelihoods, resources, and the environment. Climatic hazards are also sometimes called extreme weather events. Hydrometeorological conditions may also be a factor in other hazards such as landslides, wildland fires, locust plagues, epidemics and in the transport and dispersal of toxic substances and volcanic eruption material.⁴

Climate justice: An ethics-based approach to addressing climate change that aims to share the burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly.⁵

Climate mobility: Any type of movement – whether forced or voluntary, temporary, or permanent, within or across borders – that may occur in the context of climate change.⁶

Diaspora: Diaspora refers to a large group of people who share a cultural and regional origin but are living away from their traditional homeland.

Disaster: A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale, due to climatic events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability, and capacity, leading to human, material, economic and/or environmental losses and impacts.⁷

Disaster risk reduction: A systematic approach aimed at preventing new (and reducing existing) disaster risks and managing residual risks, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.⁸

Displacement: The movement within a State and/or across international borders of people who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence.⁹

2 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability* (2007) 869.

3 Adapted from *ibid*, 871.

4 <https://www.undrr.org/publication/report-open-ended-intergovernmental-expert-working-group-indicators-and-terminology>

5 Adapted from IPCC, 'Annex I: Glossary' in *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways, in the context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty* (Cambridge University Press, 2018) 552.

6 The term is not legally defined, but it is a useful umbrella term that has been adopted by the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) programme for the purposes of policy development. See eg PCCMHS, *Pacific Regional Policy Dialogue on Climate Mobility* (Background Paper, September 2020) 2.

7 UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Report of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to Disaster Risk Reduction* (2016) section V.

8 Adapted from *ibid*.

9 Adapted from UNHCR, 'Master Glossary of Terms' (no date) <https://www.unhcr.org/glossary/>.

Durable solutions: The means by which the situation of displaced people can be satisfactorily and permanently resolved by ensuring national protection of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.¹⁰

Evacuation: The rapid movement of people away from the immediate threat or impact of a disaster to a safer place of shelter, in order to ensure their security, safety and well-being.¹¹

Human rights: Rights inherent to all human beings without discrimination, based on the principles of dignity, equality, and mutual respect. Human rights are interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.¹²

Human security: An approach to assist States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood, and dignity of their people.¹³

At Home: Refers to one's or a community's place of origin in the context of contemporary climate mobility.

Internal displacement: Displacement that occurs within a State (see Displacement).

Internal migration: Migration that occurs within a State (see Migration).

Labour mobility: Movement for the purposes of employment. While the term is typically used in relation to cross-border movement, it can also encompass internal migration.¹⁴

Maintaining culture: The deliberate and systematic act of preserving "the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, that encompasses, not only art and literature but lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs."¹⁵

Migration: Human movements that are preponderantly voluntary insofar as people, while not necessarily having the ability to decide in complete freedom, still possess the ability to choose between different realistic options.¹⁶

Migrant: No universal definition of 'migrant' in international law has been agreed. OHCHR defines an international migrant as any person who is outside a State of which they are a citizen or national, or, in the case of a stateless person, their State of birth or habitual residence. The term includes migrants who intend to move permanently and temporarily, and those who move in a regular or documented manner as well as migrants in irregular situations.¹⁷ An internal migrant is any person who moves within the boundaries of a State, including internally displaced persons (IDPs).

10 Adapted from *ibid.*

11 Adapted from *The MEND Guide: Comprehensive Guide for Planning Mass Evacuations in Natural Disasters* (2016) 16–17; International Law Association, Sydney Declaration of Principles on the Protection of Persons Displaced in the context of Sea Level Rise, Annex to ILA Res 6/2018 (August 2018) 3.

12 Adapted from *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, UNGA Res 217A (III) [adopted 10 December 1948]; UNHCR (n vii).

13 Adapted from *United Nations Follow-up to Paragraph 143 on Human Security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome*, UNGA Res 66/290 (25 October 2012) para 3.

14 Adapted from International Labour Organization, *Labour Mobility and Labour Market Data: A Baseline Study of APEC Economies* (2019) 4.

15 IBE-UNESCO (UNESCO International Bureau of Education). 2008. *Inclusive education: The Way of the Future*, Forty-eight session of the international Conference on Education. Geneva: IBE-UNESCO. Retrieved from: http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Policy_Dialogue/48th_ICE/ICE_FINAL_REPORT_eng.pdf

16 <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000124687.page=56>.

17 OHCHR, *Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders*.



Mitigation: Human intervention to reduce or prevent emissions of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.¹⁸

Planned relocation: A planned process in which people voluntarily move or are forced to move away from their homes or places of temporary residence, are settled in a new location within their own or another country and are provided with the conditions for rebuilding their lives.¹⁹

Protection: Protection refers to prevention and addressing harm for present and future Pacific generations resulting from climate mobility and from the adverse effects of climate change aligned to the 2023 Declaration on the Continuity of Statehood and the Protection of Persons affected by Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise

Rights-based: in alignment with the definition of ‘Human Rights’ – should be built on rights inherent to all human beings without discrimination, based on the principles of dignity, equality, and mutual respect.

Stranded migrant: A migrant who is unable to return to their country of origin for practical, humanitarian or security reasons (whether in the country of origin, the country of residence, or a transit country).²⁰

Vulnerable or marginalised groups: Depending on the context, any group or sector of society (such as women and girls in all their diversities, children and youth, older people, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTQI+ people or migrants) which is at higher risk of being subjected to discriminatory practices, violence, social disadvantage or economic hardship than other groups within the State (especially during periods of conflict, crisis or disasters).²¹

Migrants in vulnerable situations: Migrants are in vulnerable situations when they are unable to effectively enjoy their human rights and are at increased risk of human rights violations or abuse.²² There is no legal definition of “vulnerable situations”, or of the term “vulnerability”, although it is widely used across human rights, criminal justice, human security and other areas. Vulnerability can be understood as referring to the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, inequality and structural and societal dynamics that lead to diminished and unequal levels of power, choice and enjoyment of human rights and increase the risk of an individual being subjected to human rights violations.²³ Migrants in vulnerable situations may need specific human rights protection because of the situations they left behind, the circumstances in which they travel, the conditions they face on arrival, or because of discrimination based on personal characteristics, such as age, gender identity, disability or health status.

18 Adapted from UN Environment Programme, ‘Mitigation’ (no date) <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/climate-action/what-we-do/mitigation>.

19 Adapted from *Sydney Declaration* (n ix) 3.

20 Adapted from International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Glossary on Migration* (2019).

21 Adapted from *ibid*.

22 OHCHR and Global Migration Group, *Principles and Guidelines, Supported by Practical Guidance, on the Human Rights Protection of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations* (2018), p. 5, at: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Migration/PrinciplesAndGuidelines.pdf>.

23 OHCHR and Global Migration Group, *Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights Protection of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations*, p. 6.



