

# Sri Lanka Model United Nations



**International Organization for Migration**

## Study Guide

[www.slmun.org](http://www.slmun.org)

## IOM: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental partners. With 169 member states, a further 8 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM works to ensure;

- The orderly and humane management of migration
- To promote international cooperation on migration issues
- To assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems
- To provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as to the right of freedom of movement.

IOM activities that cut across these areas include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.

## THE AGENDA

**Conference topic:** Addressing Climate Migration and Cross- Border Disaster Displacement

**Practice Debate topic:** Strengthening Cooperation between IOM and Civil Society

## CONFERENCE TOPIC: ADDRESSING CLIMATE MIGRATION AND CROSS-BORDER DISASTER DISPLACEMENT

## BACKGROUND

For this year's Sri Lanka Model United Nations Conference, IOM sets its focus mainly on Cross- Border Disaster Displacement.

Displacement is the event of sudden-onset disasters – the scale of the (actual and potential) human rights challenge is enormous. Major extreme weather events have already resulted in significant displacement, and the increased frequency and magnitude of extreme events in the context of climate change will amplify the challenges and risks associated with it. 'Between 2008 and 2012, sudden-onset disasters displaced an estimated 144 million people.' In 2013, almost three times as many people were newly displaced by disasters than by conflict. Some 22 million people were displaced in at least 119 countries, mostly by rapid-onset weather-related disasters. The vast majority of such displacement, 97 per cent between 2008 and 2013, occurred within developing countries (almost 81 per cent in Asia).

## CASE STUDY

While it is harder to quantify the number of people displaced by the slower-onset impacts of climate change – partly because it is impossible to attribute movement to 'climate change' alone, but also because mitigation and adaptation over time may mean that people are able to remain in their homes – national and local case studies give a sense of the possible scale of the phenomenon and, by extension, of the human rights implications. For example, in 2011 some 1.3 million people were internally displaced in the context of drought and instability within Somalia.

Displacement can have devastating effects on people and communities and create complex challenges for recovery and reconstruction efforts. All this has clear and immediate implications for a range of internationally protected human rights, particularly the rights of people in already vulnerable situations, whether due to geography (e.g. low-lying and deltaic regions), underlying socio-economic conditions (e.g. poverty, weak governance), or individual circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability) – or a combination of these. Indeed, as states recognised in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), adopted in March 2015, displacement is one of the most devastating consequences of disasters, and disaster risk reduction is about 'protecting persons and their property, health, livelihoods, and productive assets, as well as cultural and environmental assets, while promoting and protecting all human rights.

## POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. The affect of climate change in types of migration management - Migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, forced migration.
2. Underlying socio-economic conditions due to border-disaster displacement
3. UNHCR's role in border-disaster displacement.
4. Relate Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)
5. The major and minor challenges and risks associated due to climate migration.

6. Internal displacement due to changes in climate.
7. Human mobility in the context of climate change, displacement, and planned relocation
8. Responses to 'intensive' and 'extensive' climate risks
9. The future of climate-induced migration and displacement.
10. Use of migration as a risk reduction and adaptation strategy
11. International frameworks and national policies addressing human mobility in climate change, disaster and development
12. International development and disaster risk management policies
13. The politics of climate-induced migration and displacement

## FURTHER READING

<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/10996.pdf>

<https://www.nanseninitiative.org/climate-change-cross-border-displacement-and-human-rights-is-there-a-protection-gap-and-will-cop21-help-close-it/>

<http://www.unhcr.org/5975e6cf7.pdf>

## PRACTICE DEBATE TOPIC: STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN IOM AND CIVIL SOCIETY

### BACKGROUND

IOM and civil society organizations (CSOs) cooperate on a broad range of migration issues at global, regional, national and local levels. IOM is committed to sustained and mutually beneficial interaction with CSOs that builds on synergies in policy and operational areas of migration for the benefit of all. CSOs often have strong ties to the communities in which they work, an aspect which complements and enhances the impact of IOM efforts in the field of migration. Where CSOs are national or local in nature, IOM-CSO cooperation can contribute to the local ownership and sustainability of IOM programming.

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IOM CSO partners include:

- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and networks
- Civil society organizations (CSOs) and networks
- Advocacy groups
- Migrants' organizations
- Trade unions and/or professional associations
- Media organizations
- Academic, research institutes & universities
- Philanthropic foundations

## CASE STUDY

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IOM and CSOs cooperate in joint advocacy as well as design and implementation of projects covering an array of activities, including, migrant assistance, research, awareness raising, advocacy, training and capacity building, and other forms of service delivery in humanitarian, early recovery and development settings.

Additionally, IOM is involved with the state-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which has developed a distinct civil society programme — Civil Society Days, that IOM participates in together with CSOs.

Further, as part of the UN Country Team, IOM is involved in the Cluster Approach and other initiatives by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to improve humanitarian assistance, which benefit from close cooperation with CSOs.

IOM has facilitated CSO's contribution to global processes, such as the development of the Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster.

The IOM Constitution specifies that IOM shall closely cooperate in carrying out its functions with non-governmental organizations, concerned with migration, refugees and human resources. The 2007 IOM Strategy specifies as one of the key activities to be undertaken in achieving the primary goal of IOM as being the facilitation of humane and orderly responses to international migration “technical cooperation and operational assistance to States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations”.

Since 2015 IOM also organizes annual **IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations for NGOs** engaged in Humanitarian aspects of migration:

### **Observer status for NGOs**

As a recognition of mutually beneficial collaboration, international NGOs working in the area of migration can apply for an Observer status in accordance with standard eligibility criteria adopted by the IOM Council (having principal activity in the area of migration, refugees or human resources; organization's aims and purposes in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of IOM Constitution; existing history of cooperation with IOM; international or conducting work beyond the national boundaries; holding a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council). This status enables observer organizations to attend (with no right to vote) the sessions of IOM Council, which convene migration policymakers from IOM Member States, Observer States and Observer organizations.

## POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. Emphasize the need for formal and informal interaction between IOM and civil society at national, bilateral, global and regional levels.
2. IOM's role and emerging policy in humanitarian response and partnership
3. Addressing how this would tackle issues such migrant exploitation, including human trafficking
4. Increased cooperation and how it may address the plight of stranded migrants
5. Considering the public perceptions of migrants and steps taken towards integration

## FURTHER READING

[https://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/partnerships/docs/2012\\_IOM-CSO\\_Infosheet.pdf](https://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/partnerships/docs/2012_IOM-CSO_Infosheet.pdf)

<https://www.iom.int/mandate-engage-csos>

[https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migration\\_initiatives\\_2018\\_0.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migration_initiatives_2018_0.pdf)