



UN  
2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

## UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

### *Towards Concrete Action for Water: Enhancing Cooperation on the Migration, Climate Change and Water Nexus*

22 March 2023, 13:15-14:30, the Japan Society, NY

Organized by: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) & the World Bank Group

#### **Background on the event**

Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of sudden-onset hazards as well as leading to rainfall variability, heatwaves, protracted drought, and glacial melt. Pre-existing inequalities are further amplified by water-related hazards, especially for those living in hazard-prone areas and relying on primary sector livelihoods. At the same time, migration could enhance climate change adaptation in several ways, such as by providing an opportunity for livelihood diversification, leading to the adoption of climate-smart practices and technologies, evacuating people to safer locations ahead of disasters, etc. Addressing the migration-water nexus is essential to addressing migration in the context of climate change. The outcomes of the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar in March 2022 recognised “the urgent need to pay more attention to water issues in the rural world, as a means of reducing inequalities, creating opportunities for youth and women, fostering development, generating employment and optimally tackling the causes of national and international migrations”. However, there is still limited integration of the migration, climate change and water nexus in many regional and national policy frameworks. The Water Action Decade 2018-2028 provides an opportunity to advance this agenda by highlighting that addressing the migration, climate change and water nexus requires an action-oriented, inclusive and cross-sectoral approach. The event brought together panellists from across the globe to discuss the role of global partnerships in developing actions to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change and water insecurity.

**Water Action Agenda (one paragraph, if possible, please include the link to your commitment in the [Water Action Agenda database](#))**

Not applicable – no commitment was put forth.

### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

During the “*Towards Concrete Action for Water: Enhancing Cooperation on the Migration, Climate Change and Water Nexus*” side event, panellists discussed:

- The impacts of water-induced hazards on different types of human mobility. Water insecurity and lack of drinking water was noted as one of the main contributors to the decision to migration and a reason in preventing returns.
- How migration can lead to better opportunities in the face of water insecurity, but many lack the means to migrate. Panellists discussed how policies can be put in place to remove these obstacles.
- The role and responsibilities of the private sector and International Financial Institutions (IFI) in improving water security. Panellists noted the conventional and non-conventional ways IFIs and the private sector can improve water access, especially for vulnerable and low-income communities.
- Advancing the work of governments to integrate the migration, climate change and water nexus in regional and national policy frameworks to improve water security.
- The gendered impacts of water insecurity on women and girls. Panellists discussed integrative approaches to improve women participation in water management and how this can help to achieve the SDGs.

### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- Governments should push to include the migration, climate change and water nexus as a key recommendation of the Water Action Agenda to ensure significant commitment.
- Governments should explore developing strategies to improve water access specifically in fragile contexts.
- Private – public partnerships should be expanded to provide short-term solutions for water insecurity.
- Mobilising financial resources to improve water security should include IFIs and the private sector.
- Solutions and initiatives to improve water security must take migrants, youth, and women into consideration.