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**Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

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**IOM Statement**

***Integrating the Role of Mobility in Resilience, Response and Risk-Reduction***

**No country is immune to the effects of disasters**; however, there are marked differences in the way people and communities are affected by, and recover from, natural hazards. Some of us have access to information and options, allowing us to live alongside the risk of hazard more safely – but most do not have this necessary information. Reducing disaster risk by **building communities’ resilience** and **empowering people to resist, absorb and recover from shocks** is therefore crucial to creating conditions for the sustainable well-being of communities worldwide.

**Human** **mobility plays a dual role in determining vulnerability and resilience to disasters**. The capacity to move affords people the ability to better avoid or reduce the impacts of some hazards. At the same time, disaster-induced displacement can reduce or even extinguish populations’ ability to access and mobilize assets, social networks and knowledge essential to pursuing safety and well-being.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) aims to **protect people from forced migration** by reducing disaster-associated risks as much as possible. Where forced migration does occur, IOM strives to **ensure adequate assistance and protection** for affected people while investing in recovery to end displacement. In addition, IOM seeks to **facilitate safe and orderly migration as an adaptive strategy that strengthens risk-reduction, resilience-building, and sustainable development**.

Based on these aforementioned objectives, there are three significant issues to our collective work in reducing the risk of forced migration and reducing vulnerabilities of those forced to move. **Unplanned urbanization** is an important driver of disaster risk, but also a consequence of mobility. Migration to urban areas occurs globally on an increasing scale and often causes rapid unplanned urbanization to occur in areas exposed to natural hazards and environmental degradation. **Protection of** **vulnerable migrants** caught in crises, including international and internal migrants, requires capacity at national and international levels to manage the large, complex population flows resulting from disasters while adequately assisting the displaced.Finally, **environmental change** can degrade the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, threaten habitability, and in some cases destroy vast tracts of land. These challenges highlight **the need to integrate mobility in risk-reduction policy discussions**.

As the negotiations for the post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) framework move forward, IOM seeks to promote innovative tools that **further articulate the correlation between risk and mobility, and between risk reduction and mobility**. IOM and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, for instance, are developing models and indicators to improve data collection and reporting on the costs and benefits of migration, including displacement. **IOM aims to support research and data collection for** **evidence-based policies** that better integrate mobility into more effective strategies to reduce risks and better address vulnerabilities.

In line with the Hyogo Framework for Action Priority 1, IOM strongly encourages **States** to integrate DRR into response and development strategies, and will continue to build partnerships for DRR capacity-building initiatives with national authorities. At the same time, the cross-border nature of disasters, environmental change and mobility call for integrating policies and capacities among States through regional and inter-governmental cooperation arrangements – approaches that are proven to be effective and compatible with national sovereignty concerns.

New funding mechanisms and innovative partnerships, such as those involving local financial institutions and other private sector entities, will be essential to this effort. We know the investment value of reducing risk when measured against the costs of responding to natural disasters. **We must work together to move away from expensive response-based models toward risk reduction models promoting the preservation of life and livelihoods,** while harnessing the economic potential of migration**.** Supporting a focus on human mobility will contribute to cross-cutting strategies for risk reduction and disaster response, and will **encourage early investment in risk reduction** through mobility options and better preparedness.

With an ever-increasing number of people on the move, **migration and its effects will be defining factors for societies and environments in the 21st century**. The on-going dialogues on the **post-2015 UN development agenda** make it more relevant than ever to address the linkages between mobility, the environment and disasters in a concerted way. Integrating mobility in risk-reduction strategies will allow societies to benefit far more from the development potential of human mobility by **building resilience** andensuring **sufficient protection** to vulnerable individuals.