

**Second Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction  
Geneva, 17-18 November 2014**

**IOM Statement**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of the International Organization of Migration, which is fully committed to supporting and contributing to the risk reduction and resilience activities that national governments, intergovernmental bodies and international organizations are carrying out, as well as to the dialogue on the post-2015 global development architecture, and on the successor framework to the HFA in particular.

The world we are living in is increasingly mobile. With one person out of seven on the move - both domestically and across borders - population movements are one of the most fundamental dynamics of our modern, interlinked and globalized societies. Voluntary migration, forced displacement, planned or unplanned forms of mobility all define the distribution of people and assets within and across national borders, and shape the social, cultural and economic life of human communities.

How, where and why people move are key in determining whether people live in safe or hazard-prone areas and whether they have enough resources to prevent, cope with and recover from the effect of disasters. Our policy, research and operational experience, on DRR as well as on protecting and promoting access to human rights and essential services and opportunities for people on the move, host and home communities, shows that human mobility is a global dynamic that risk reduction policies need to reckon with.

We are pleased to observe increasing attention on the issue of human mobility within the global policy dialogue on DRR, as witnessed by the references to migration and displacement in the zero draft of the post-2015:

- *“Strengthen the implementation of social safety net mechanisms to assist ... displaced persons and migrants ... exposed to disaster risk and affected by disasters” (para 28.h)*
- *“Prepare or review and periodically update disaster preparedness and contingency plans and policies at all levels, with a particular focus on preventing and responding to possible displacement ...” (para 31.a)*

- *“Continue to strengthen capacities and mechanisms, such as hazard-focused disaster risk reduction forums, to reduce transboundary disaster risk, including displacement risk”*  
**(para 26.d)**

Based on the commitments made by IOM in 2013 in UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience endorsed by the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB), we are committed to address the linkages between disasters and human mobility through concrete and integrated responses that reduce forced migration, and promote mobility as a key life-saving, resilience-building and risk reduction strategy for people all around the world.

In particular, we believe the Successor Framework to the HFA should take into account the following elements:

- **Population movements are of key concern for policy design and implementation:** Human mobility (including all flows of people migrating or displaced within and across national borders, including planned and unplanned, short and long-distance, temporary and permanent movements) influence hazard patterns and exposure, vulnerability and resilience. Human mobility is a key determinant of well-being and risk for those moving, as well as home and host communities, and should therefore be adequately considered in all development efforts, including those aiming to reducing disaster risk.
- **Addressing displacement is key to reduce disaster impacts:** Addressing disaster-induced population displacement through sustainable solutions as part of recovery processes is key to reducing the indirect costs of disasters and to preventing the creation and reproduction of vulnerability conditions.
- **People on the move contribute to resilience and recovery:** Mobile people (migrants, displaced, refugees) have specific vulnerabilities in disaster situations. At the same time, they have a key role in facilitating circulation of material resources, knowledge and practices that foster the well-being and resilience of communities and societies of origin and destination.

Promoting orderly, safe, responsible human mobility, and designing inclusive policies that allow migrants, displaced people and refugees to access basic opportunities, services and protection systems will be essential to preventing population movements from increasing risk and to making people on the move more resilient and better able to contribute to reducing risk in their communities of origin and of destination.