



The UN & You

BY TERESA KOTTURAN SCN – DECEMBER 2018

UN Conventions on Climate Change, Migration

The 24th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place in Katowice, Poland Dec. 2–14, 2018.

This conference will include the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, Working Group on Paris Agreement, etc. The main focus of the conference is to finalize the rules for implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change under Paris Agreement work program. The High-Level event on Global Climate Action taking place Dec. 4 will provide opportunity for countries to announce new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and take stock of progress made so far.

Another focus area is the Ministerial High-Level Dialogue on Climate Finance on Dec. 10 for “Translating Climate Finance Needs into Action.” Mobilization of climate finance is necessary for developing countries and Small Island nations for their mitigation and adaptation efforts—to reduce emissions, reduce vulnerabilities and increase resilience of human and ecological systems to negative climate change impacts. Proper financing will also help these countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, especially to address poverty eradication, education, creation of decent jobs and migration.

“To bring the voice of the people to the Climate Change Conference in Poland, the UN has launched “The People’s Seat” initiative, calling millions of change advocates worldwide to submit messages for an address

that will be delivered to leaders attending the conference, by renowned naturalist Sir David Attenborough on Dec. 3 during the opening plenary.”

Climate change is a global problem, and it requires a global solution. Your participation is very important, and we have been provided with a platform to engage. ACT NOW—you have an unprecedented opportunity to make your voice heard on actions needed to reach the Paris Agreement targets. Those who have a Twitter account, please use the hashtag #TakeYourSeat to share your opinions and concerns.

Look at the Climate Change issues in light of the recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), warning that the world is headed towards a warming of over 3 degree Celsius with current pledges under the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement and urgent steps need to be taken to keep global warming below 1.5 degree Celsius. Also do consider the recent National Climate Assessment Report from 300 experts who were guided by a 60-member Federal Advisory Committee and submitted to the United States government. The report states “Evidence of climate change appears in every region and impacts are visible in every state...”

Please watch the video inviting viewers to share their thoughts on climate change: <https://vimeo.com/302037807>

THE
PEOPLE'S
SEAT

#TAKE YOUR SEAT

The **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)** has been drawn up after 18 months of negotiations and is considered a major diplomatic success. In the words of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, it is “a milestone, but not the end of our efforts.” The Global Compact presents a non-legally binding, cooperative framework that builds on the commitments agreed on by Member States in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in 2016. The main objectives are to manage migration more efficiently by strengthening legal and policy frameworks for regular migration; protecting lives, security and human rights of all migrants, especially in vulnerable situations; secure labor and social protections and unlock the potential of migration. GCM objectives call for action at local, national, regional and global levels through cooperation and policy coherence.

The Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration takes place in Marrakesh, Morocco Dec. 10–11. Member States will be gathering at the highest political level to affirm their commitment to the Compact and outline initiatives for its implementation during the plenary debate on Dec. 10. The plenary will be followed by two dialogue sessions:

1. Promoting action on the commitments of the Global Compact for Migration, and
2. Partnerships and innovative initiatives for the way forward.

Prior to the adoption of the GCM, the Global Forum on Migration and Development—GFMD will be meeting in Marrakesh from Dec. 4–9. GFMD was established after the first UN General Assembly High Level

Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006, as a process outside of the UN system, where policy makers and stakeholders from around the world come together to discuss about migration and development. Under the auspices of the International Catholic Migration Commission, the Civil Society has played a major role in building up a global migrant rights and development network. During the GFMD, two days are designated as Civil Society Days for discussion on advancing the agenda for the protection of migrant’s rights and development and to formulate plans and recommendations for governments to follow up.



The Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration takes place in Marrakesh, Morocco Dec. 10–11



Initial opposition to the GCM from the United States of America came during the intergovernmental negotiations, and Hungary chose to leave GCM at the end of the negotiations after reaching the agreement on July 13, 2018. Since then, under the pretext of sovereignty, more countries have been pulling out of the pact: Austria, Australia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Israel, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Switzerland. (The Swiss Ambassador was a co-facilitator along with the Ambassador of Mexico for the 18 month-long negotiations.) But it is to be noted that GCM drafters had taken pains to state clearly that it “upholds the sovereignty of States” in article 7 of the compact’s preamble.

So the question is: Will the words of this document get translated into concrete actions for the benefit of millions of people around the world?

Watch (3-minute video): “What is the Global Compact for Migration?” <https://youtu.be/LL87BK5OSz8>

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