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Towards COP27

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IOM is committed to the principle that orderly and humane migration benefits migrants and societies. In its role as an intergovernmental agency, the IOM works with partners in the international community in order to: help address the growing challenges of migration management; promote understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and ensure respect for the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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INTRODUCTION

This eighth edition of the *Migrations International Journal: Thoughts from an Argentinean perspective* is structured on the basis of the intersection between migration and climate change. The decision to publish a special issue around this theme is explained both by the strategic vision, the mandate and the programmatic structure of the International Organization for Migration, as well as the cooperation frameworks in force and our present socio-historical context. In this sense, in recent years, the relationship between migration and climate change has gained a growing space in the international, regional and domestic scene. This link is to be construed, in turn, within the context of multiple challenges for migrants, such as poverty, structural inequality in access to resources and services, various conflicts, social violence, gender-based violence, unequal distribution of care giving and the persistent COVID-19 pandemic.

In this context, instruments such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction or the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, have fueled the development of initiatives to prevent displacement derived from climate change impacts, and to address the needs of affected individuals and communities, by exploring opportunities to maximize the positive outcomes of migration.

The impact of climate change on different forms of human mobility does not represent a future concern, but an absolutely current and growing phenomenon, which requires attention and a specific approach from the relevant authorities at all levels. Every year, disasters cause around 30 million new internal displacements in the world, a figure that is much higher than the new violence and conflict-related displacements. This figure also underestimates the gradual movements caused by gradation phenomena – such as droughts, rising sea levels or melting glaciers – that are much more difficult to assess.

The points of contact between migration and climate change enable us to highlight the complexity and multi-causality of this phenomenon. Therefore, it is worth mentioning that there are different forms of climate mobility that depend, to a large extent, on the circumstances in which the impacts of climate change are produced, as well as the social structures of the communities. An approach focusing on mobility is necessary not only to understand that migration rarely goes in only one direction, but also that it evolves and includes internal and international movements, permanent, temporary and returning migrants, different vulnerability scenarios and situations involving voluntary or forced immobility.

Climatic factors not only encourage direct migration processes and displacements, but also act as indirect drivers of movements, through the degradation of people's livelihoods. This perspective also requires addressing human mobility not just as a negative consequence of the lack of adjustment to climate change.

We also need to value the positive impacts of safe, orderly and regular migration that can contribute to adjustments and a proper disaster risk management. As indicated by recent studies conducted by the IPCC migration can function as an adjustment mechanism if support processes and frameworks are in place, and migrants' agency and asset levels are suitable.

The answers provided about the link between migration and climate change are diverse. They include prevention of displacement through the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Agency and Disaster Risk Management, together with the flexibilization of regular migration channels, in particular through the availability of Humanitarian visas. At the same time, and taking into account that these movements are mostly internal, processes of planned relocation are developed for populations in risk areas that require greater attention. Thus, given the available climate projections, preparing urban areas for the arrival of climate migrants represents an increasingly pressing priority to avoid the reproduction of inequalities and the emergence of new threats.

In view of these issues, this edition of the journal seeks to address the phenomenon of migration and climate change from an Argentinean perspective. In the first article, IOM Argentina outlines the road map on migration and climate change leading to COP27. In this document, recent initiatives where the IOM has participated to strengthen the global agenda on migration and climate change are highlighted.

In the second article, the Federal Migrations Office, represented by its National Director and

by its Director of International Affairs, reports on a number of local initiatives on human mobility, climate change and socio-natural disasters. It is an overview of the latest national measures addressing the interrelationship between human mobility and climate change, in order to provide solutions within the framework of international initiatives in this area.

In the third article, the Argentinean Foreign Ministry —represented by the Directorate-General for Consular Affairs and the Environmental Affairs Office — invites us to reflect from our region's perspective on how extreme climate phenomena and/or those slow evolution ones might impact on human mobility, especially as potential drivers of migrations and displacements. Thus, the text proposes a series of thoughts about the challenges that this issue poses to States in the medium term, as well as the role that regional mechanisms for dialogue on migration may have to overcome those challenges.

The fourth article is based on an experience with a participatory action/research project carried out on a conglomerate of working-class neighborhoods with a strong rural migrant imprint in a polluted area of the Reconquista river basin in the Province of Buenos Aires. Within this framework, the document takes up and expands on the results of the research to analyze what variables are prioritized by women who are rural migrants in what is characterized as optimum environments for improvements in living conditions and projects.

The fifth article focuses on conducting an analysis of regulations and rethinks the social effects of the migration phenomenon in Argentina and

Brazil, based on public policy recommendations made by the United Nations for Management and Protection of mobility phenomena due to environmental causes.

The sixth article is an analysis of the environmental sequences in development models in Argentina, in dialogue with the paradigm of "Good Living", as an emerging alternative to think about people's well-being and their relationship with the environment. It proposes a perspective to assess the differential impacts of climate change on women and children.

We want to express our deep appreciation to those who contributed with their views and knowledge to this New Edition of IOM Argentina annual issue. We hope that this document will allow to focus on innovative ideas from different perspectives: intercultural, gender and human rights issues, to address the complex and multi-causal phenomenon of human mobility in the light of climate change. This will enable us to continue working to accompany, in the best possible way, migration processes for the benefit of migrants and host societies.

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HUMAN MOBILITY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A ROAD MAP BY THE IOM TOWARDS COP27

Natalia Pérez Riveros - IOM Argentina¹

The advances made in the global agenda regarding climate change constitute significant progress in the acknowledgement of this reality. The Cancun Adaptation Framework¹ (2010), in the context of COP16, mentions the complex link that exists between climate change and migration. This document clearly integrates, for the first time, human mobility in the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)².

Within this Adaptation Framework, the parties are invited to adopt “measures to improve understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to displacement, migration and planned relocation as a result of climate change, wherever appropriate, at national, regional and interna-

tional level.” (FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, section II, paragraph 14.f).

On the other hand, in 2015 the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as the lead agency in the field of migration, created an area on Migration, Environment and Climate Change³ to address the link between these three phenomena. This institutional arrangement has formalized the IOM’s participation in this thematic area, making it the first international organization which established an institutional unit completely devoted to this matter. Thus, the IOM contributes to actions aimed at raising awareness on this phenomenon and providing technical assistance to governments so that they can cope with migrations within a context of adverse weather consequences.

¹ This article was prepared by Natalia Pérez Riveros, Interagency Coordination Officer, with the support of Carla Gerber, Research, Data Collection and Information Management Assistant, and Natalia Escoffier, Policy and Liaison Officer, IOM Argentina.

² Conference of the Parties 16 (2010). Report of the COP on its sixteenth session, held in Cancun from November 29 to December 10, 2010. In <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/spa/07a01s.pdf>.

³ UNFCCC official website: <https://unfccc.int/es/process-and-meetings/que-es-la-convencion-marco-de-las-naciones-unidas-sobre-el-cambio-climatico>.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS AND THE MOST RELEVANT COMMITMENTS ASSUMED

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC, 1994)⁴ is the cornerstone agreement in connection with the global climate agenda. It has a near-universal membership whose ultimate goal is to stabilize greenhouse gases (GHG) concentrations at a level that prevents anthropogenic interference, i.e., those induced by humans, which end up being dangerous for the climate system (Section 2, UNFCCC). This convention calls on industrialized countries to lead the way in the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels prior to those of 1990 (Section 3, UNFCCC).

The **Conference of the Parties** (COP) was held for first time in 1995, thus starting conversations on the initial protocol to put into effect the provisions in the Convention. Thus, the **Kyoto Protocol**⁵ was adopted in 1997, but due to a complex and extensive negotiation and ratification process, this instrument entered into force in February 2005. The relevance of this protocol lies in the establishment of binding goals referring to emission reductions for 36 industrialized countries and the European Union (Annex B of the Protocol). Since it imposes a heavier burden on those countries, it applies the

principle of “common but differentiated responsibility” and “respective capabilities”, as stated in the letter of the Convention. Together, these binding goals entail an average reduction in emissions of 5%, compared to 1990 levels, in the five-year period 2008-2012 (Section 3.1 of the Protocol). In order to follow up the implementation of the agreed objectives, the Protocol established a system for monitoring, review and verification, as well as a system of compliance, to ensure transparency and holding Parties accountable by submitting annual inventories with their respective emission records.

Within the framework of the COP21 negotiations in 2015, the **Paris Agreement**⁶ was adopted by 196 countries, whose mandate entered into force one year later, in 2016. This agreement is a significant milestone in multilateral cooperation around environmental and climate policy, as it is binding for all countries to combat climate change and adapt to its effects. The main objective proposed is quantifiable and long-term: “Keeping the increase in average global temperature well below 2 °C against pre-industrial levels, and continuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C,” according to the Section 2.1.a of the Agreement.

Another aspect that marks the relevance of the Paris Agreement is the inclusion of the migrant population as a group that is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In addition, in these negotiations, the Parties requested the establishment of a

4 Institutional website of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division: <https://www.iom.int/es/migracion-y-cambio-climatico>.

5 UNFCCC document on its official website: <https://unfccc.int/es/process-and-meetings/the-convention/que-es-la-convencion-marco-de-las-naciones-unidas-sobre-el-cambio-climatico>.

6 Kyoto Protocol document on its official website: https://unfccc.int/es/kyoto_protocol.

Task Force on Displacement⁷ within the framework of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts⁸. This Task Force is intended to develop Recommendations on integrated approaches that help avoid, minimize and cope with displacements connected to the adverse effects of climate change (SACM, 2022; Decision 1/CP21). The recommendations drawn up by this Task Force were approved in 2018 during COP24 held in Katowice, Poland⁹. One year later, at COP25, the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism extended the duration of the mandate of the Task Force on Displacements which, in this second phase, aligned its work to the strategic workflow of the Executive Committee, to improve cooperation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation¹⁰.

In the global agenda, centered around human mobility, an advance has also been observed in the fact that migration associated with environmental factors is present in the global agenda focusing on this topic. An example of this is the Nansen Initiative¹¹ (2012), which aims to support States and other stakeholders in their efforts to improve their level of preparation and their capacity to address displacement situations across borders in the context of disasters, including the adverse

effects of climate change. This work is carried out through the identification of effective practices and consensus building on principles and elements that are key when it comes to meeting protection and assistance needs of displaced persons (The Nansen Initiative, 2015). While this Protection Agenda is non-binding for the States, since 2016 there is a Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)¹² to support countries under monitoring for the implementation of the recommendations that are part of this Initiative.

Also, the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** (2015-2030)¹³ was approved at the Third World Conference of the United Nations on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in 2015. Recognizing that disasters and their complexities have a growing impact in many parts of the world, this Framework calls on States to intensify their efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction with a forward-looking and action-oriented perspective. By 2030, this Framework proposes to achieve substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses caused by disasters, both in terms of lives, livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental goods that belong to people, businesses, communities and countries (Art. 16, A/RES/69/283). The Sendai Framework contains specific references to the

7 Paris Agreement document Protocol on official site: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/spanish_paris_agreement.pdf.

8 COP21 Report. Part Two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/spa/10a01s.pdf>.

9 Full text of the Mechanism Resolution <https://unfccc.int/es/node/9594>.

10 For the recommendations adopted, see the Annex to the decision 10/CP24 <https://unfccc.int/decisions?f%5B0%5D=conference%3A4202&f%5B1%5D=session%3A4116>.

11 For more details on the work plan of the Task Force on Displacement, see <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/TFD>.

12 The Nansen Protection Agenda is available on the following website: https://disasterdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/EN_Protection_Agenda_Volume_I_-low_res.pdf.

13 PDD official website: <https://disasterdisplacement.org/>.

impact of disasters on displacements and to the importance of strengthen migrants' knowledge, as well as their capabilities and skills in the design and implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction (Art. 36.a.vi, A/RES/69/283).

Also, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**¹⁴ for the first time explicitly includes migration, thus providing a general framework to deal with the complex relationship between migration and development (IOM, 2018). Indeed, international migration is recognized as a multidimensional reality of great relevance for the development of the countries of origin, transit and destination that requires a comprehensive response. This represents a step forward in the development agenda of the United Nations, given the fact that this issue had not been addressed in the eight Millennium Development Goals for the period 2000-2015, which preceded the current agenda. In the current Agenda, the references to migration are part of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The most explicit mention of migration¹⁵ is in SDG 10, which calls on States to "reduce inequalities". In target 10.7, it proposes to "facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration

and mobility for people". Likewise, SDG 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities" emphasizes in its target 11.5 "the need to significantly reduce the number of deaths caused by disasters", and in target 11.b it highlights the need to increase efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and climate adaptation, as well as resilience in case of disasters. Finally, the SDGs focusing on climate and environmental actions are especially dealt with on SDG 13 "Climate Action", SDG 14 "Life below water", and SDG 15 "Life on land".

Also, and in order to improve cooperation in international migration, in 2018 UN Member States approved the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**¹⁶. This Compact represents a milestone in the history of global dialogue on migration and its purpose is to promote international cooperation on migration between all relevant parties, recognizing that no State can address migration on its own. The GCM contains a number of governing principles seeking to understand the phenomenon of migration in a comprehensive way. This commitment also highlights the importance of considering the impact of climate change on migratory movements. This

14 Full document of the General Assembly Resolution on Approval of the Sendai Framework: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/167/20/PDF/N1516720.pdf?OpenElement>.

15 The Official site of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015-2030) <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/development-agenda/>.

16 While not intended as a comprehensive analysis of the direct and sectoral linkages of the SDGs to migration, it is important to mention that other Goals and Targets indirectly promote effective migration governance.

For example, Goals 8.7 and 8.8 call for better governance around issues such as human trafficking and labor migration, respectively; Goal 16, relates to promoting the rule of law, ensuring "equal access to justice for all" and monitoring detention practices; and Goal 17.14 calls for countries to improve policy coherence.

These and other Goals champion human rights approaches that benefit migrants, and can promote more effective and gender-responsive migration governance across sectors.

In addition, progress on other SDGs plays a key role in addressing many of the drivers of displacement.

Therefore, in addition to working to build durable solutions, achieving progress on the goals of No Poverty (Goal 1), Zero Hunger (Goal 2), Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Goal 16), Climate Action (Goal 13), among others, will contribute to reducing the adverse and structural factors that lead people to migrate (IOM, 2018; GCM, 2018).

is how Objective 2 in this Compact, which calls for “Minimizing the adverse and structural factors that force people to leave their country of origin” alludes to taking action in the context of natural disasters, adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation. As a complement to that, Objective 5 of the Compact proposed that Member States cooperate to “increase availability and flexibility in the pathways of regular migration”. This goal calls States to develop solutions for migrants who are forced to leave their country of origin due to slow evolving natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation, such as desertification, environmental degradation, drought and soil degradation, sea level management, even though options of planned relocation or provision of visas (Target 5.21.h of the GCM, 2018).

In our region, specifically focusing on those cooperation efforts made within the framework of Mercosur, the **South American Conference on Migration (SACM)**¹⁷ has included the nexus between human mobility, disasters and climate change, incorporating this approach at the X Meeting held in Cochabamba, Bolivia in 2010 (SACM, 2010b). According to the Minutes on Agreements and Commitments¹⁸ adopted in 2010, the Member States assume the need to “forge strategic alliances for greater knowledge about migration, environment and climate change; promote the exchange of good practices by governments and the con-

struction of a common platform on the subject” (Article 5 of the document). It’s remarkable that this approach, adopted by the SACM anticipated the Cancun Adaptation Framework (2010), of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (SACM, 2016).

While the SACM has linked in multiple occasions the relationship between the environment and migration as part of its field of work, this article marks two milestones that stand out: in 2018, with the support of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), the SACM approved a series of regional guidelines for protection and assistance to displaced persons and international migrants affected by natural disasters. Going deeper into the work in this direction and during the Presidency Pro Tempore of the XIX SACM (2020 - 2021) of Argentina, a Network was created to work on Migration, Environment, Disasters and Climate Change¹⁹. This Regional Network was proposed to jointly identify the needs of environmental migrants and populations vulnerable to disasters and climate change, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; highlight good practices and concrete solutions implemented by the Member States in the SACM in the face of disaster migration, environmental degradation and climate change, and produce dissemination materials on this subject, among other initiatives.

17 Full text of the GCM: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/452/03/PDF/N1845203.pdf?OpenElement>.

18 Official website of the South American Conference on Migration <https://csmigraciones.org/es>.

19 Full text of the Act of Agreements and Commitments of the X SACM https://csmigraciones.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/1_acta_de_acuerdos_y_compromisos1.pdf.

MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

IOM's Vision on Migration, the Environment and Climate Change argues that environmental factors must be integrated into all areas of migration management, such as prevention, preparedness and response to displacement, border management, labor migration and integration, and return and reintegration²⁰. In the face of the growing challenges posed by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters caused by socio-natural threats, the role of the IOM in its capacity as a UN agency specialized in the field of Migration, and as coordinator and technical secretary office for the **United Nations Network for Migration**²¹, is to support States, migrants and other stakeholders in order to design evidence-based policies and practices that are effective and innovative, focusing on the well-being of migrants and societies. To achieve this purpose, the IOM analyzes the links between migration, the environment and climate change from the perspective of human security²² and, therefore, has decided to place vulnerable people at the center of their responses. This starts with the recognition that when migration is well managed, it becomes

a safe and accessible choice, and can help people adapt to environmental pressures and climate change (IOM, 2021b).

In this context and to understand the complex relationship between human mobility and climate change, we must observe the reconfiguration of contemporary migration patterns worldwide. Environmental factors and climatic factors that can motivate the decision or need to migrate cover a wide variety of sudden, slow-moving and even non-climate related events and situations. For example, some people migrate because of sudden events—such as floods, droughts and extreme weather events— which are becoming more frequent, intense and damaging. Similarly, there are slow-evolving phenomena, such as desertification, coastal erosion, sea level rise, loss of entire ecosystems and deforestation, which directly and indirectly influence decisions relating to migration. Also, events and processes not related to the climate, such as earthquakes, volcanic activity, as well as man-made threats, such as industrial pollution, chemical discharges from factories and fires can also influence the decision to migrate in search of more sustainable living conditions. All these processes can adversely impact livelihoods, habitats, mental and physical health, and the enjoyment of human rights by the

20 To learn more about this Network, see <https://csmigraciones.org/es/grupo/migracion-medio-ambiente-desastres-y-cambio-climatico>.

21 For more information on IOM's institutional approach see: <https://www.iom.int/es/migracion-y-cambio-climatico>.

22 For United Nations Migration Network Terms of Reference, see their official website <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/es/network-terms-of-reference>.

23 From IOM's Glossary on Migration, the concept of human security refers to the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair, and promotes the protection of their physical safety as well as economic and social well-being and human rights.

It encompasses the right of everyone, in particular those in vulnerable situations, to live free from fear and to have equal opportunities to enjoy all their rights and to develop their full human potential. Available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/derecho-internacional-sobre-migracion-ndeg34-glosario-de-la-oim-sobre-migracion>.

affected populations. Migration in the context of climate change and environmental degradation is usually multi-causal, and most people migrate due to a combination of social, political, economic, demographic and also environmental factors (IOM, 2021b; IOM, 2022b).

Another element to consider about migrations due to adverse effects of climate change is the type and timing of the displacements. They can take the form of movements to nearby or distant locations, within the country or across borders, for limited periods of time or be permanent.

Also, an added complexity when it comes to addressing this issue is the lack of full consensus on the name of human mobility associated to climatic causes. This situation is reflected in the wide diversity of terms used to call this type of migration²⁴. The IOM adopted the term “migration for environmental reasons”²⁵ which refers to:

“A person who, mainly due to sudden or gradual changes in the environment that have a negative impact on their life or conditions, is forced to abandon their habitual place of residence, or decides to do so, temporarily or permanently, and moves to other parts of their country of origin or residence or moves abroad” (IOM, 2019b:138).

This difficulty in defining migrants due to issues associated with the climate is closely related to

the availability (or lack thereof) of data and how they are collected. That is to say that, since there is no universally accepted definition no dataset will be fully applicable to that type of migration. However, different data sources give us a general idea on how these phenomena are influencing slow evolution in migration patterns and the main trends that are appearing for the future. According to the Report on Migrations in the World 2022²⁶, three types of data are particularly useful in this regard: (i) existing data on migrants in the context of climate repercussions and adverse environmental and ethical conditions; (ii) projections of the number of people who could migrate in the future; and (iii) data on populations at risk.

In recent years, the production of knowledge and evidence on the links between migration, the environment and climate change has augmented, allowing for a better understanding of the ways in which the adverse effects of the climate influence migration patterns at the global, regional, national and local levels. However, large gaps in knowledge remain, due to lack of long series of longitudinal data on migration that are representative of the time scale of environmental change, and the absence of sets of harmonized and disaggregated data, among other reasons. One of the most cited and most widely recognized data sources

24 The following names can be found: environmental migrations, environmental refugees, climate migrations, people displaced by the environment or for environmental reasons, eco-migrations, human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters, etc. (Nejamkis, Conti and Aksakal, 2021).

25 Explanatory note: Internationally, no term has been formally coined to describe persons or groups of persons who move for environmental reasons.

This definition of “environmental migrant” is not intended to establish a new legal category; rather, it is a working definition describing the various situations in which people move in the context of different environmental factors (IOM, 2019b:138) available at: <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml-34-glossary-es.pdf>.

26 The full report can be found at <https://publications.iom.int/books/informe-sobre-las-migraciones-en-el-mundo-2022>.

is the annual report issued by the Observatory of Internal Displacement²⁷ caused by disasters, which compiles information in this regard at the country level. However, there still remains a lot of work to be done in this matter, given that the data on disasters and slow-onset phenomena, as well as those relating to transboundary movements are still incomplete, and have an impact on the lack of development of policies evidence-based policies (IOM, 2022b).

ABOUT THE RESPONSE THAT THE IOM CAN PROVIDE

The IOM has launched its new Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021-2030²⁸, which tracks how the IOM supports States in their efforts to assist and protect populations affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters due to natural hazards, including migrants and internally displaced persons (IOM, 2021a). “This strategy represents a long-term commitment by the IOM to support different approaches addressing the climate crisis and its effects on migration. Given the urgency of the challenges that the populations

around the globe are facing, this is a priority for the IOM,” said IOM’s Director General António Vitorino at the presentation of this innovative institutional strategy. This is how this document aims to guide the efforts of the IOM to strengthen its capacity to develop and implement a comprehensive approach that addresses migration in the context of climate change, in line with the abovementioned global commitments²⁹.

This organizational strategy seeks to strengthen IOM’s Role at global, regional and national levels by undertaking to adopt a more effective and better planned approach on migration, the environment and climate change, in order to comply with its commitments and responsibilities to States, migrants and the international community. As was pointed out above, this also includes the Thematic Leadership on migration and climate change established by the **United Nations Network on Migration**. Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres, established the creation of a UN Network on Migration (paragraph 45 of the GCM) to ensure effectiveness and consistency in the United Nations system-wide support to the implementation of the GCM. The Compact also establishes a quadrennial International Migration Review Forum - IMRF (paragraph 49.b), as the main global intergovernmental platform for States

²⁷ Official website at <https://www.internal-displacement.org/>.

²⁸ Full text of the 2021-2030 Strategy: <https://publications.iom.int/books/estrategia-institucional-sobre-migracion-me-Environment-and-climate-change-2021-2030>.

²⁹ International commitments are not limited only to those mentioned in this article.

The text of the Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021-2030 also highlights other global commitments, including the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, the Agenda for Humanity, the New Urban Agenda, Decision 22/COP14 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Human Rights Council Resolution 35/20 (document A/HRC/RES/35/20), United Nations General Assembly Resolution 74/148 on the Protection of Migrants (document A/RES/74/148).

To learn more about IOM’s commitments as a UN organization and relevant internal frameworks, see page 16 of the Baseline Strategy.

to present the progress made in connection with the implementation of the GCM, including those aspects related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this sense, in May 2022 the first Forum of this nature took place in New York City. The result was the collective drafting of a Declaration of Progress³⁰ that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on June 7, 2022 (A/RES/76/266). That document recognizes the considerable efforts made, the progress achieved, and the good practices developed in the implementation of the Global Compact by the signing States. In the section on recommendations to accelerate the application of the GCM, paragraph 59 of this Status Report on cooperation of the Member States reads:

“We will redouble our efforts to improve and diversify available pathways for migration to be safe, orderly and regular, even in response to demographic and labor market realities, for migrants in vulnerability situations as well as for those affected by disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, among other issues. We will work consistently across all relevant multilateral forums by entering into agreements for labor mobility, optimizing education opportunities, and facilitating access to family reunification procedures through appropriate measures to promote the exercise of rights such as the right to a family life and the protection of the best interests of the child, regularizing migrants in irregular situations, in line with national laws. In this regard, we are committed to facilitating

migrants’ access to information about their rights and obligations during the different migration stages, including information on fair and ethical recruitment, skills, qualifications, entry and exit requirements, living and working conditions, wages and benefits, and access to justice and services, among other rights”.

The IOM highlights the need to adopt integrated approaches with adequate and consistent institutional arrangements, whenever possible. The IOM’s New Strategy on human mobility and climate change is based on six guiding principles: (i) Commitment to a rights-based approach, (ii) Promotion of an innovative and effective approach to governance and migration practices, (iii) Adoption of a gender-sensitive approach, (iv) Adoption of an inclusive approach centered around migrants to promote the positive results; (v) Promotion of human security, (vi) Promotion of regulatory consistency and optimization of alliances (IOM, 2021b). These principles are in line with the issues raised in the GCM and those that guide the work of the United Nations Network on Migration.

As mentioned above, the overall objective of this strategy is to define the way in which the IOM can develop and implement, over the next decades, a comprehensive approach to migration that benefits migrants and societies, on the basis of empirical data and a rights-centered approach, in the context of climate change. This can only be achieved by working in collaboration with migrants and communities, in global and regional

30 Full text of the Status Report by IMRF: https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/resources_files/Final-%20IMRF%20Progress%20Declaration-%20Spanish.pdf.

forums, with local and national governments, as well as the United Nations system and a wide range of intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector stakeholders. To this end, the IOM has three strategic objectives that have been presented before the most relevant Forums dealing with the climate agenda³¹. In turn, these objectives are closely related to the three pillars of

the IOM's Strategic Vision: resilience, mobility and governance³² (IOM,2019c; IOM 2021b).

These three objectives are nourished by the knowledge and the experience gained by the Organization's work in this area and are based on their regulatory and operational frameworks (IOM, 2021b). The following box summarizes these three strategic objectives and their scope:

³¹ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Related to the Impacts of Climate Change.

³² Full text of IOM's Strategic Vision 2019-2023. <https://governingbodies.iom.int/es/system/files/es/council/110/C110-INF-1%20-%20Visi%C3%B3n%20Estrat%C3%A9gica%20de%20la%20OIM%20-%20Fijar%20el%20rumbo%20de%20la%20IOM%20for%202019-2023.pdf>.

TABLE 1

Strategic objectives

4.1.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1	4.1.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2	4.1.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3
<p>“Drafting of solutions to facilitate the movement of people”</p>	<p>“Drafting of solutions for people on the move”</p>	<p>“Drafting of solutions for people who don’t have to migrate”</p>
<p>Migration management in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters caused by natural hazards. azas naturales.</p>	<p>Facilitation of assistance and protection for migrants and displaced persons in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters caused by natural hazards.</p>	<p>Building resilience and response to climate and environmental adverse factors that force people to move so that migration is an option.</p>
<p>The IOM, in line with its mandate on migration and its role as coordinator and secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration, will promote approaches that facilitate safe, orderly, responsible and regular migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters caused by natural hazards or threats. In addition, it will support the development and implementation of innovative policies and practices relative to migration, including planned relocation (although this should be the last resort). The IOM will make efforts to draft solutions that allow harnessing the potential of migration as an adaptation to climate change and risk reduction, as well as encourage migrant, diaspora and community contributions to climate action and strengthening of resilience.</p>	<p>The IOM will seek to address the needs of assistance and protection of migrants and displaced persons, in addition to responding and reducing vulnerabilities associated to migration in the context of climate change environmental degradation and disasters caused by natural hazards. To this end, it will support the formulation and implementation of preventive measures, the provision of vital aid and the adoption of Inclusive, rights-based approaches, which guarantee long-lasting solutions in connection to the work and the link between humanitarian aid, development and peace.</p>	<p>The IOM, in collaboration with its partners, will support the efforts to avoid migration by necessity, including displacement, and to meet the needs of populations that are trapped and those who can’t move. To this end, it will establish partnerships to develop and implement joint approaches to analyze and respond to the environmental factors that force people to displace, as well as drive climate action, reducing risks, building resilience and improving adaptive capabilities.</p>

Source: OIM, 2021b

TOWARDS COP27

The COP27³³ is the twenty-seventh edition of the Conference of the Parties as part of the UNFCCC. This year the COP will be held in Egypt, on November 6-18, to advance climate commitments around compliance with the Paris Agreement.

In a recent visit to Bangladesh and as part of IOM's institutional commitment before this forum, Deputy Director-General of Operations for the IOM (DDG) Ugochi Daniels, said: "In the face of the COP27, we need to redouble our efforts to ensure that the discourse on climate change reflects its link with climate migration, and that this is recognized by the international community"³⁴. Similarly, and as already discussed in this article, human mobility associated with climate change has been integrated within the scope referred to as "Losses and Damages" in climate negotiations involving the UNFCCC. However, the IOM advocates for this approach to be deepened and extended to other areas, such as Contributions Determined at the National Level³⁵ and National Adaptation Plans³⁶.

On September 20, 2022 during the Opening of the general debate at the 77th meeting of the UN General Assembly, Secretary General António Guterres referred to the climate crisis in no uncertain terms. During his speech before heads of state and government leaders, he said: "Let's not be naive. We sail turbulent waters. A winter of discontent is coming at a global scale. The cost-of-living crisis is wreaking havoc. Trust has crumbled. Inequalities are skyrocketing. Our planet is burning." He continued his speech reminding his audience that no region is unscathed and added that what has happened so far "is nothing compared to what is to come. The warmest summers of today may be the coolest summers of tomorrow. Climatic disturbances that occur once in a lifetime can soon become a once-a-year phenomenon." What is so relevant about this intervention, as has already been pointed out in this article, is that even though the conversations on climate change have been among us for quite some time, on this occasion, concrete references to the financial side of things were made. In this regard, Guterres pointed out that we must demand accountability from fossil fuel companies and those who promote their interests, i.e., banks,

33 Official COP27 website at <https://cop27.eg/#/>.

34 IOM, Global Communiqué, July 27, 2022 <https://www.iom.int/es/news/el-director-adjunto-de-la-oim-hace-un-llamamiento-a-la-solidaridad-con-los-refugiados-rohingya-y-las-comunidades-de-acogida-elogia-el-liderazgo-de-bangladesh-en-la-gestion-de-la-migracion-y-el-cambio-climatico>.

35 Nationally Determined Contributions are at the core of the Paris Agreement and refer to each country's efforts to reduce domestic emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.

The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain the successive intended Nationally Determined Contributions.

36 At its 17th session, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, in Durban, South Africa, recognized that national adaptation planning can enable least developed countries (LDCs) to assess their vulnerabilities, incorporate climate change risks and address adaptation (UNFCCC, 2012).

private funds, asset managers and other financial organizations that keep investing and endorsing carbon pollution. He also urged “all developed economies to tax the extraordinary profits of the companies involved in the fossil fuel business.”³⁷

In 2022, the world faces socio-economic challenges, with economies already battered by the COVID-19 pandemic, a sharp increase in inflation and supply chain disruptions due, in part, to the conflict in Ukraine. In this context, climate change hits harder and affects those who are already in situations of greater vulnerability. Mitigating these impacts becomes a pressing need, particularly for those facing the risk of displacement. It is also

necessary to fully recognize the role that migration and mobility play in adaptation to the adverse effects of climate. However, the conflict in Ukraine has diverted attention from long-term challenges such as climate change, which can jeopardize compliance with political commitments assumed at the COP26 in Glasgow.

As DDG Daniels pointed out, human mobility is still barely being considered in key UNFCCC decisions. The next edition of COP27 is a key opportunity to achieve greater global recognition of the opportunities and challenges that climate-related migration and displacement present for communities around the world.

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³⁷ UN News, September 20, 2022 <https://news.un.org/es/story/2022/09/1514781>.

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INITIATIVES OF THE NATIONAL MIGRATIONS AGENCY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATIONS

María Florencia Carignano and Andrés Pérez Esquivel

INTRODUCTION

Forced displacements associated or derived from disasters and the adverse effects of climate change constitute one of the greatest humanitarian challenges of the twenty-first century, occupying an increasingly prominent place in global debates and policies, since they affect every region around the world. Socio-natural disasters are more and more frequent and destructive, causing the displacement of millions of people all over the world every year, both inside and outside country borders (IDMC, 2021; Clement and others, 2021; ECLAC, 2020; Cantor, 2018).

In turn, as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants pointed out in the 2022 report on environmental migration, populations with pre-existing vulnerabilities suffer displacement twice as much, particularly in countries with fewer resources, which generates specific challenges for their States. While there are no international legal

instruments to comprehensively address the protection needs of people who are displaced due to socio-natural disasters, as is the case for refugees and stateless women, international human rights law does apply, as well as general and specific references in various international conventions and covenants (UNGA, 2022; IOM, 2019; SACM 2018).

Argentina, in addition to being one of the countries that has ratified the most human rights treaties worldwide, has also signed a number of international binding and non-binding commitments, as part of the main global and regional multilateral agendas and processes dealing with humanitarian action, reduction of disaster risk, migration management, climate change and sustainable development. Among them, we can mention the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), ratified by Law #24,295; the Paris Agreement (2015), ratified by Law #27,270; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1); the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 - 2030) (A/RES/69/283); the

Agenda for Humanity of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (A/71/353); the New York Declaration for Migrants and Refugees 2016 (A/RES/71/1); the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, 2018 (A/RES/73/195); and the Global Compact on Refugees, also 2018 (A/RES/73/151); among other global multilateral processes.

These are advances by the international community facilitate the adoption of “measures to improve understanding, coordination and cooperation regarding displacement induced by climate change, migration and planned relocation at the national, regional and international level” (SACM, 2018: 5). They act as a fundamental starting point in view of the challenges that lie ahead in the light of the Sixth Evaluation Report (AR6) submitted in August 2021 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2021), which launched a “code red for humanity,” showing that the consequences of climate change is becoming “irreversible”.

INITIATIVES BY THE NATIONAL MIGRATION AGENCY ON HUMAN MOBILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS

Although most of these processes and policy frameworks are not binding, according to international law, for the National Migration Agency these are instruments that must be strengthened through sovereign public policies that go in line

with its principles and objectives. That is why we are launching new national regulations and initiatives for international cooperation on human mobility, climate change and disasters, aimed at contributing solutions that provide protection to displaced people.

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITARIAN VISA FOR MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In May 2022, the National Migration Agency (DNM by its acronym in Spanish) approved the “**Special Program for Humanitarian Visas for nationals and residents from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean who were displaced due to socio-natural disasters**”, through provisions issued by DNM 891/2022¹ in order to provide humanitarian protection, planned relocation and durable solutions to these people, bearing in mind that these countries are in high or and very high-risk areas (OCHA and EC, 2020), which claim recognition as a vulnerable area², and that its nationals cannot settle in Argentina adopting this nationality because that criterion only applies to nationals from MERCOSUR countries and Associated States, that is, the twelve countries in South America.

Specifically, the Program grants a permit of entry and temporary visa under humanitarian reasons,

1 National Directorate of Migration, Provision No. 891/2022, BORA No. 34971, May 19, 2022, <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/262784/20220519?busqueda=1>].

as provided for in Article 23, subsection m) of Law #25,871, with a term of authorized stay of three years. After that period, beneficiaries will be allowed to improve their immigration status towards a permanent residence. In addition to exempting them from the payment of immigration fees, it is guaranteed that the people who want to be relocated to Argentina have access to housing, support and guidance for the term of one year, by means of sponsorship from an organization in civil society to collaborate with the integration process.

This is an innovative policy for several reasons:

- a. Historically, our countries have granted humanitarian visas for people on the move who have been displaced due to socio-natural disasters who were already in our countries in an irregular situation, that is, the visa was applied ex post facto as an extraordinary resource. This policy, on the other hand has an active, preventive and permanent nature because it offers collaboration to the States of 23 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean³ before any disaster occurs, and there is no deadline for completion.
- b. The target population is people who are subjected to internal or cross-border displacements, with a regular migration status or not, who apply for a visa from any of the 23 countries involved.
- c. The Program also consolidates an interagency, multi-sectoral and participatory state approach. In addition to the articulation with the consulate network at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina, it requires the involvement of international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who are in charge of the identification and referrals of cases, interfacing with the States concerned; it is also supported by Red Cross International, in case safe-conducts or laissez-passer are necessary due to impossibility of access to travel documentation. Also, the support of civil society organizations is provided, through a pioneering community sponsorship system at the regional level. This partnership ensures that the program is sustainable over time and that the permanent stay of the beneficiary population in Argentina is a solution that is as long-lasting as possible.

2 France 24, Central America to ask UN to be declared climate-vulnerable, June 11, 2021, <https://www.france24.com/es/minuto-a-minuto/20210611-centroam%C3%A9rica-pedir%C3%A1-a-la-onu-ser-declarada-como-regi%C3%B3n-vulnerable-al-clima>.

3 United Mexican States; Central American Republics of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama; the following member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Republic of Barbados, Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Republic of Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Republic of Suriname, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Republic of Cuba; and Dominican Republic.

PHOTO N° 1



José Lepere, Secretary of the Interior of Argentina, and Florencia Carignano, Director of the National Migration Agency, at the UN, May 2022.

The Special Program was presented by Argentina at the 1st International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) carried out within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly, UN, New York, May 2022 as part of the international review process on the progress of the Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration⁴. In September,

we were proud to learn about the announcement made by the United Nations Network on Migration that this program was the first commitment to be fulfilled out of a total of 216 cases presented worldwide by different countries and civil society organizations⁵.

⁴ Argentina.gov.ar, News, The National Migration Agency announced a visa for people displaced due to socio-natural disasters from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, before the UN, May 19, 2022, <https://www.argentina.gov.ar/noticias/migraciones-anuncio-ante-la-onu-un-visado-para-desplazados-por-desastres-socio-naturales-0>.

⁵ Newsletter, United Nations Network on Migration, 22 September 2022, <https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?u=91a1d870ca31df83b2b697cf6&id=c55ba89e83>.

DISPLACEMENT DUE TO SOCIO-NATURAL DISASTERS IN SOUTH AMERICA

National Migration Agency has also launched a regulation focusing on South America (Provision DNM No. 2641/2022), whose objective is to establish documentation facilities and guidelines to be followed in case of mass entry and/or abrupt displacement of persons due to sudden socio-natural disasters occurring in Argentina's neighboring countries⁶.

Taking into account the unpredictable nature of many disasters, it is quite common for people affected to be forced to move without their travel documentation or to have expired papers because they were not planning to move to another country. The Regulations launched are framed in article 24, paragraph h) of Migration Law #25,871, which unilaterally guarantees the possibility of conditional entry by signing an affidavit in case of lack of documentation or expired travel papers. These facilities apply to Argentines, foreign persons who are residents in Argentina; and foreign displaced persons even if they are not residents. In the latter case, dwell time is for one to three months, and this period is extendable, depending on the case, until the country of origin and local authorities can ensure their safe return to their habitual places of residence.

In this spirit, the initiative also stipulates intergovernmental coordination mechanisms, both binational and with international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA); among others.

With this tool to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, Argentina also strives to provide protection to those who, despite not being able to seek international protection as refugees, are temporarily unable to return to their countries of origin due to prevailing humanitarian conditions generated by socio-natural disasters.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Within the framework of Argentina's Pro Tempore Presidency of the South American Conference on Migration in 2021, and at the proposal of its National Migration Agency, the countries of South America created the Regional Network of "**Migration, Environment, Disasters and Climate Change**"⁷, which launched activities under the coordination of our organization.

This network of national focal points is intended to be an articulated regional space for international reference on this subject matter through the following objectives: jointly defining the needs of

6 Pluri-national State of Bolivia, Federative Republic of Brazil, Republic of Chile, Republic of Paraguay and Republic of Uruguay.

7 South American Conference on Migration, Networks, <https://www.csmigraciones.org/es/grupo/migracion-medio-ambiente-desastres-y-cambio-climatico>.

environmental migrants and populations vulnerable to disasters and climate change; identifying good practices and concrete solutions provided by the SACM member states on disaster-related migration, environmental degradation and climate change; producing dissemination materials on the subject to share knowledge among State officials, civil society organizations and citizens in

general; complying with the “Guidelines in matters of protection and assistance to persons displaced across borders and migrants in countries affected by natural disasters” approved by the SACM in 2018 (SACM, 2018); conducting training for State officials in the region; articulating with civil society organizations and universities; among others.

PHOTO N° 2



Regional guidelines approved by the countries of South America.

During 2021 and 2022, four meetings of the network of national focal points were held. Those meetings included training workshops with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the

IOM for government officials from more than 10 countries⁸, who worked with Latin American stakeholders from civil society and academia to obtain a permanent feedback loop, for example, the South

⁸ Platform on Disaster Displacement, Training workshop for the South American Conference on Migration, 23 August 2021, <https://disasterdisplacement.org/virtual-training-workshop-south-american-conference-on-migration>.

American Network for Environmental Migrations (RESAMA by its acronym in Spanish) published a mapping of good practices at the regional level (Escribano and Piñeiro, 2022); and under the Pro Tempore Presidency of Chile, a statement from the SACM was defined to be presented at the COP27 in 2022.⁹

Also, at the proposal of the DNM, on April 21 and 22, 2022, a face-to-face workshop was held on “**Cross-border displacement and attention to migrants in the context of disasters**”, within the framework of the **Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM by its acronym in Spanish)**¹⁰. The objectives of the Workshop were to strengthen the knowledge of RIAM member countries around the main concepts, trends and challenges associated to environmental mobili-

ty, and to identify progress and challenges in the implementation of the main global and regional frameworks on the subject from the perspective of migration management.

Within the framework of the Workshop, a **RIAM Communiqué was signed for the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)**, which noted the need to consider “the situation in the region, their exposure to and vulnerability to disasters, environmental degradation and the adverse effects of climate change”, as well as the “importance of addressing environmental and climatic factors on human mobility to ensure regular migration pathways available to people affected by the phenomena described, in line with the objectives of the Covenant”¹¹.

PHOTO N° 3



**PLATFORM
ON DISASTER
DISPLACEMENT**
FOLLOW-UP TO THE NANSEN INITIATIVE

Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)

⁹ South American Conference on Migration, Joint Position of the SACM at COP27, statement at <https://csmigraciones.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/Posici%C3%B3n%20Joint%20CSM%20COP27.pdf>.

¹⁰ Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities, RIAM Regional Workshop in Panama, April 23, 2022, <https://www.red-iam.org/en/news/workshop-regional-riam-en-panama>.

¹¹ Communiqué by the Member Countries of the Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM) to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), April 22, 2022, https://www.red-iam.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/Comunicado%20of%20the%20Pai%CC%81ses%20Members%20of%20the%20Ibero-American%20Network%20of%20Authorities%20Migratorias___0.pdf.

On the other hand, also on the initiative of the National Migration Agency, **in May 2022 Argentina entered the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)**, successor to the Nansen Initiative, an intergovernmental proposal led by 18 States from 5 continents and the European Union, whose main objective is to implement an international agenda to “strengthen the protection of persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters, including those linked to the effects of climate change, and to prevent or reduce the risk of displacements due to disasters.”¹² Thus, Argentina expands its projection from the regional to the international arena, as part of the countries leading the agenda in matters relative to forced displacements for environmental reasons.

Within this framework another highlight was the participation of our agency (DNM) in various high-level events related to this subject matter, such as the International **Dialogue on Migration (IDM)**, in its editions of 2021¹³ and 2022¹⁴ (IDM). This is the main forum of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), whose motto was “Boosting integrated action on sustainable development: migration, environment and climate change”. This event brought together Heads of State and officials, international organizations, migrants, representatives of academia, of the private sector and the media, in order to establish a dia-

logue on opportunities and challenges regarding human mobility. The intervention of the IMRF in an event held in parallel is also worth mentioning: **“Facilitating safe and regular migration pathways in a changing climate: Lessons from the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration”**¹⁵, organized by PDD and IOM. This event was extremely relevant to highlight progress and gaps in the implementation of the commitments of the Global Compact for Migration, related to mobility in the context of disasters and climate change, and to consolidate the presence of this topic in the status report of the first IMRF (Declaration of Progress, A/RES/76/266).

FINAL THOUGHTS

Through these ongoing initiatives by the DNM, which we briefly summarized here, we seek to reinforce the clear and active determination of Argentina not to leave anyone behind, assuming our role and taking responsibility, something that all countries share in terms of reduction and prevention of disaster risks and humanitarian crises, and contributing a multi-sectoral and participatory approach that is mindful of human rights and the environment, from a Latin American and Caribbean perspective that allows to build higher levels of resilience in our societies.

¹² For further information: <https://disasterdisplacement.org/>.

¹³ Argentina.gob.ar, International Dialogue on Migration – UN, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/migraciones/compromisos-internacional/international-dialogue-on-migration-un>.

¹⁴ International Organization for Migration, “International Dialogue on Migration 2022 - Overlapping global crises: the impact of food insecurity and climate change on migration and displacement”, <https://www.iom.int/international-dialogue-migration-2022-overlapping-global-crises-impacts-food-insecurity-and-climate-change-migration-and-displacement>.

¹⁵ Platform on Disaster Displacement, IMRF Hybrid Side Event | Facilitating Safe and Regular Migration Pathways in a Changing Climate: Lessons from GCM Implementation, <https://disasterdisplacement.org/facilitating-safe-and-regular-migration-pathways-in-a-changing-climate-lessons-from-gcm-implementation>.

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POINTS OF CONTACT BETWEEN MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE: A VIEW FROM ARGENTINA

María Emilia Rinaudo, Alejandro Mitri and Tomás Ainchil¹

HUMAN MIGRATION: A SOCIAL PHENOMENON

Argentina has maintained that migration is not a problem, but a social phenomenon in constant change, a phenomenon to which States need to adapt with public policies that allow us to understand that, sometimes, it can represent an opportunity.² Few scenarios show as eloquently this statement as that of human mobility in the context of climate change and environmental degradation. In this area, migratory flows that are often perceived as a “migration crisis” or a “refugee crisis”³, if well managed from the beginning, have the potential to become a relief, a solution.

In her latest book, Sonia Shah (2020) calls migration “an unexceptional ongoing reality” (page 34). In this regard, Shah’s book compares human movements with the movements of flora and fauna, in what he understands as a natural need to respond to a threat: “As the Earth becomes warmer, trees climb mountains, butterflies fly north and birds nest in other places. Thus, humans also relocate from south to north along the gradient of our warming planet” (Marris, 2020).

We are used to hearing from biologists, conservationists, environmentalists, about migration of non-human species, as a consequence of changes in their environment. In our understanding of the relationship between climate change and human mobility, however, there are significant gaps (Es-

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² International Migration Review Forum, General Debate, United Nations General Assembly, 19 May 2022. Available in: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1e/k1e3rikn57>.

³ There are numerous articles in the press, reviews, reports, research papers, radio and television programs where “migration crises” and “refugee crises” are discussed.

cribano Miralles and Piñero, 2022). However, as early as 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned about the most serious effects of climate change and how they would possibly affect human migration, with millions of individuals moving in response to coastal erosion, sea level rise and severe drought (IPCC, 1990). Since then, a number of projections about those flows and their impacts by 2050 started to be drafted, based on the influence of climatic phenomena, both extreme ones and slow-evolving ones, in urban and rural ecosystems. Regardless of the numbers, which have been mutating with the variation of circumstances, the notion that there are points of contact between climate change, environmental degradation and human mobility persists. For at least one decade now, studies about such links have multiplied and have generated sound evidence. So much so that the subject has become a relevant one in international agendas linked to climate and mobility.

HUMAN MIGRATION AND ITS LINK TO CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2017, the specialized journal *Geology*, published a research paper titled “A Climatic Context for the Out-of-Africa Migration”. In it, after determining the climatic variables in northeastern Africa for the last 200,000 years through the study of

marine sediments, the authors contend that migration from Africa to Eurasia occurred between 65 and 55 thousand years ago, due to the fact that the climate in the horn of Africa became colder and the soil more arid, even more than today (Tierney, deMenocal and Zander, 2017).

While this research shows that human movements related to climate changes are as old as humankind itself, the migration that led to the dispersion of Homo Sapiens in the European continent is not comparable to current migrations triggered by climate change. Today numerous factors concur in shaping the decision of migrating: family networks, availability of money, individual capabilities, etc. The decision to leave the place of origin becomes a more conscious one, even when it is not always voluntary. Therefore, the phenomenon is more complex nowadays. It is for this reason that delving into the existing links between climate change and human mobility can lead to public policies so as to avoid the so-called “trapped populations”. That is, those that could be facing migration because of climatic conditions making survival difficult but do not have the means or the will to do so.

In Latin America in particular, the high levels of urbanization —bear in mind that this is the most urbanized developing region in the world—, coupled with inequality, generate concentration of large low-income populations in areas that are very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.⁴ Thus, the direct impacts of climate changes

⁴ By way of illustration on the subject see: <https://www.unhcr.org/innovation/refugees-are-not-the-crisis-its-the-narratives-we-tell-about-them/4> Pablo Escribano Miralles and Javier Piñero, Mapping on Migration, Environment and Climate Change in South America, IOM, 2022. Available at: <https://www.csmigraciones.org/es/noticias/lanzamiento-del-mapeo-sobre-migracion-medio-ambiente-y-cambio-climatico-en-america-del-sur>.

(floods, heat waves, droughts, storms, sea level rise) , as well as the indirect impacts (respiratory diseases, vector-borne diseases, lack of hygiene, water scarcity, food insecurity, malnutrition)⁵ affect mostly low-income segments of the population, and many people do not have the option of moving, not even in cases of forceful displacement.

POINTS OF CONTACT BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION

The relationship between migration and climate change is not as direct or linear as predicted by the first researchers analyzing this phenomenon. The decision to migrate is rarely driven by a single cause, and the line separating “voluntary” and “forced” is, in many contexts and situations, a blurry one. People can move to circumvent both an armed conflict and a drought, and they may also be seeking greater security and better economic opportunities at the same time. The inherent difficulty in the categorical distinction between “voluntary” and “forced” migrants has led to the emergence of terms such as “mixed migration” and “migration-displacement link” (Ferris, 2015). However, there is no consensus on the use of those terms among the professionals involved in research on the subject, and also the terms are sometimes used to refer to situations that are different. Thus, the context is confusing and decision

makers hesitate regarding the actions to be implemented. What appears to be obvious, as the points of contact between migration and climate change are analyzed, is that the latter seems to shape different movement patterns, which require different policy approaches and synergies between different fields and the joint efforts of different professionals in the State, academia, international organizations and in the civil society.

In particular, displacement due to geophysical disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis, initially shows characteristics that are different from those which occur as a consequence of slow-onset climate phenomena, such as prolonged drought and sea level rise. The former tend to occur within the borders of a country and have a short duration, while it is more likely that the latter are permanent and involve crossing borders. This is so not only because both types of phenomena have different impacts on the sustenance of populations but also because, inevitably, the attention paid to them, in terms of preventive actions, remediation and risk reduction are also different. No less important is the fact that geophysical disasters, especially in densely populated areas, can cause immediate displacement of large groups of people, thus, becoming urgent humanitarian situations.

According to the Mapping on Migration, Environment and Climate Change in South America, which was recently published by the IOM, in our region “processes linked to climate change will have a significant impact on multiple ecosystems, in combination with diverse local factors (both an-

5 Direct and indirect consequences of climate change on people’s health, found in: <https://www.paho.org/es/topics/climate-change-health>.

thropogenic and natural) and variables that are not necessarily associated with climate change”, including: coastal erosion in the north-east of the subcontinent, the retreat of glaciers in the tropical Andes —not necessarily associated with higher runoff currents, so there is less availability of water (water stress) in the dry season in the Central Andes—, changes in river flows and “savannization” of the Amazon rainforest in the North of Brazil, and extreme rainfall and flooding in southern South America (Escribano Miralles y Piñero, 2022). All of these events can affect the environment and livelihoods of people in different ways, and the skills of the communities to cope with them can significantly change from one situation to another. Therefore, the decision to migrate will depend more on human factors than natural factors (Kalin and Weerasinghe, 2017).

HUMAN MOBILITY MANAGEMENT RELATED TO CLIMATIC FACTORS INMIGRATION FORUMS

Beyond mitigation and adaptation measures, which can be applied within management of climate change, human mobility related to these factors has characteristics that can be addressed by public policies from multiple angles: reducing vulnerabilities and increasing resilience through disaster risk reduction; facilitating the exit of affected populations in risk areas through planned relocation; implementing tools to promote regular migration, both humanitarian and non-exceptional,

via regional or bilateral agreements on freedom of movement, broad national migration regulatory frameworks and the establishment of exceptional types of migrants (Kalin and Weerasinghe, 2017).

Despite presenting difficulties that are intrinsic to socio-economic development and population distribution concurring to pose exceptional challenges in connection with migration management and climate change, South America is a region that has a tradition of implementing migration regulatory frameworks that tend to be open and inclusive, both for regional and extra-regional migrants. This situation strengthens the region’s migration governance and makes it more receptive to idea of addressing the nexus between migration and climate change more explicitly, cooperating in the exchange of experiences and good practices and introducing regulatory changes at the national level. In the case of Argentina, two initiatives are worth mentioning: one at regional level and the other one at the national level.

At the regional level, during the Pro Tempore Presidency of Argentina in the South American Conference on Migration (SACM), (between September 2020 and September 2021), the Task Force on Migration, Environment and Climate Change was created, aiming at seeking initiatives to address these issues, based on the “Regional guidelines on protection and assistance to persons displaced across borders and migrants in countries affected by natural disasters”, as approved in the Sucre Declaration of the SACM, in November 2018. In August 2021, a follow-up workshop on “Cross-border Displacement and attention to migrants in the context of disasters” was carried out, with trainers

from both the IOM and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD).

At the national level, Argentina recently issued DNM Provision No. 891/2022 (issued by the National Migration Agency), which provides for the granting of humanitarian environmental visas for the protection of Mexican, Central American and the Caribbean residents who are displaced due to socio-environmental disasters. The provision creates a special program for the protection of persons who do not have the status of refugees or asylees under the terms of the applicable legislation, but cannot return to their countries of origin due to the consequences of natural or environmental man-made disasters.⁶

Likewise, South America stands out for its participation in global forums devoted to dialogue on migration, such as the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), held at the UN in May 2022, which was the first global review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (also known as the Marrakech Declaration, 2018), which contains numerous references to climate change. In its Preamble, among other conventions, it cites the United Nations Convention on Climate Change as a foundational framework document. Also, among some of its actions, we can mention: investing in programs that accelerate States' compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including adaptation to climate change; intensifying the joint analysis and exchange of information on the adverse effects of climate change and formulating adaptation strat-

egies, considering migration but prioritizing adaptation in the country of origin; drafting approaches to address climate change related migration that are consistent with consultative processes such as the Agenda for Protection of Displaced Persons across Borders in the Context of Climate Change Disasters and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, and cooperating to develop solutions for migrants who are forced to leave their country due to the adverse effects of climate change.⁷

AN APPROACH TO HUMAN MOBILITY IN CLIMATE CHANGE FORUMS

The topic of migration and climate change is not only discussed from the migratory perspective in forums, documents and conventions emanating from the International Organization for Migration, such as the South American Conference on Migration. This issue is also dealt with from the perspective of climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

In its text, the UNFCCC (1992) does not explicitly mention migration. However, the different issues under the umbrella of the UNFCCC have expanded over time, as an understanding the phenomenon of climate change and its consequences has become more profound and as its impacts have

⁶ <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/262784/20220519>.

⁷ Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, annexed to General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/195. Available in: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/452/03/PDF/N1845203.pdf?OpenElement>.

become more acute. The evolution of work under the UNFCCC is reflected in decisions made by the Conference of the Parties (COP), an annual meeting that has become the main Conference on environmental matters in the world. At COP21, the Paris Agreement was adopted (2015). It incorporates a mention of migration, but only from the human rights perspective, in one paragraph of its preamble which reads: "Recognizing that climate change is a problem for all humanity and that, at the same time, by adopting measures to address it, the Parties should respect, promote and take into account their respective obligations relative to human rights, the right to health, the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, people with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, women's empowerment and intergenerational equality."

Under the UNFCCC, the link between migration and climate change was initially included in the field of adaptation, and then specifically under the subject of losses and damages associated with climate change.

In 2010 COP16 invited parties to step up their adaptation work through "the adoption of measures to improve understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to displacement, migration and planned relocation as a consequence of climate change" (Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 14.f). Subsequently, in 2012, COP18 adopted a specific decision regarding losses and damages, where they recognized the need to deepen the understanding on how the effects of climate change are affecting migration patterns, displacement and human mobility;" (Decision 3/CP.18, paragraph

7.vi). In the following year (2013), to continue the work carried out as per these decisions, COP19 created the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for losses and damages related to the impact of climate change, which became operational in 2015.

The WIM has an Executive Committee that organizes their tasks into five strategic workflows. The strategic workflow (d) addresses the topic of "greater cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation". This strategic workflow includes the following activities: inviting experts and organizations interested in collaborating and sharing scientific information on the impacts of climate change on human mobility and the identification of capacity building needs to support developing countries; enhancing the catalytic role of the WIM through cooperation, opportunities to contribute to international policy in human mobility, and facilitation of dialogue between relevant stakeholders to share experiences.

Within the framework of the above-mentioned workflow (d), the Displacement Task Force was created in 2015, when COP21 commissioned the WIM to put together a team in charge of drafting recommendations on integrated approaches to avoid, to reduce to a minimum and address displacement related to adverse effects of climate change. In that sense, they also asked WIM to start working on the implementation and progress report of their annual achievements (Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 49 and 50).

The work to put this COP mandate in practice took place between 2015 and 2017. Through an

inclusive approach, the Task Force on Displacement seeks to complement, engage and build on the work of other bodies and expert groups under the UNFCCC umbrella, as well as other organizations and expert groups outside the Convention. Currently, it is made up of 14 members, including a representative from the IOM and one from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Between 2017 and 2019, the initial phase of the Task Force and the development of the first work plan was set in motion to deal with the following issues:

a. Policy/Practices – National/Subnational.

To achieve the following desired impacts:

1. Policies and institutional framework to avoid, minimize and address displacement.
2. National and local government capabilities to address drivers and impacts related to displacement due to climatic causes

b. Politics – International/Regional

1. The adverse impacts of climate change on displacement and promotes integrated approaches to avoid, minimize and address displacement in relevant policies at all levels, including international, regional, national and subnational levels.
2. Displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change is considered in the work plans of the relevant bodies and process-

es within the framework of the UNFCCC, as well as the Committee on Adaptation, among others.

c. Data and evaluation

1. The systematic collection of data and monitoring of displacement, and its impacts at the local, national, regional and international level informs the needs and risk assessments for the drafting of plans and policies.
2. Strengthen the ability to systematically compile data.

d. Framework and links

1. Stimulate and awaken the commitment, cooperation and actions to avoid, minimize and address displacement in the context of climate change.
2. The framework must be actionable, constructive and leading to transformation.
3. Provide tools for present and future planning.

COP24 adopted, by means of Decision 10/CP.24, a set of recommendations submitted by WIM's Executive Committee in their annual report of 2018.⁸ At the eighth meeting of that Committee, the mandate of the Task Force was extended, in line with the terms of reference to be developed in the ninth meeting in order to assist the Executive Committee, in its capacity as an advisory body, to guide the how WIM works, as part of the above-mentioned Strategic Workflow (d).

⁸ Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage related to the Impacts of Climate Change, Framework Convention on the Climate Framework, FCCC/SB/2018/1, 15 October 2018. Available in: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/1s.pdf>.

Since April 2019, the Task Force on Displacement began the second phase in the implementation of the new terms of reference. The new Action Plan (2019-2021) is based on the activities within strategic workflow (d), as well as in the recommendations arising from the results of the initial phase of implementation. Among many others, the Action Plan (2019-2021) contains activities that were completed, such as: preparing debriefing reports that provide a yearly overview of global disaster displacements (including data disaggregated by gender, by region, by livelihoods and income groups, and hazard context); preparing a user-friendly tool to share knowledge about climate change displacement in the context of slow-moving phenomena; compiling good practice case studies and lessons learned from relevant projects/programs that have integrated climate related mobility in order to improve the design of project proposals and access to funding; facilitating the assessment of the economic impacts of displacement in the context of climate change at the national level; exchanging and sharing information on human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation among the Committee's expert groups; supporting the inclusion of the challenge that displacements related to climate change represent in the work of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Despite the fact that the second work program of the Task Force was scheduled for the period 2019-2021, at the 15th Meeting of WIM's Executive Committee, in April 2022, this Committee took note of the work that had been completed⁹ and further encouraged the Task Force to continue drafting its recommendation for integrated approaches to avoid, minimize, and deal with climate change related displacements, allowing sufficient time to submit said recommendations¹⁰. The plan also includes other activities, such as supporting States to include the risks of displacement in their disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies, helping States to strengthen their understanding in preparation for displacements related to the adverse effects of climate change (including early warning systems, evacuation plans, and resilience building strategies), as well as the organization of workshops for young people on displacement within the framework of climate change, among other activities.¹¹

CONCLUSIONS

Throughout the history of humankind there have been population movements related to the incidence of climate change in the life and the development of human beings.

⁹ 15th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, Summary of Decision Points, 08 April 2022. Available in: <https://unfccc.int/event/15th-WIM-ExCom>.

¹⁰ Status of the implementation of the current five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom. Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Status_implementation_5YRWP.pdf (accessed 8/6/2022).

¹¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Planned_and_ongoing_activities.pdf (consulted on 8/6/2022).

There are numerous recent studies that show that there is a link between climate change and migratory movements. The influence of this link in migration decisions varies both in connection to the climatic phenomenon in question, whether it is extreme or slow-evolving, and in relation to human factors derived from different personal situations, which will ultimately determine a greater or lesser degree of willfulness to move or a forced stay in the place of origin.

The difficulty in establishing a linear relationship between migration, environment and climate change, beyond what is strictly connected to human movements unleashed suddenly as a result of extreme weather phenomena, makes the task of designing and implementing public policies that address the issue of migration linked to climate change and deterioration of the environment more complex. And the same can be said about the implementation of effective measures for detection, prevention and reduction of its consequences. The main difficulty lies in quantifying the proportion incidence of migratory flows connected with climate factors in the total migration flows and, therefore, in the ability to develop a specialized approach to address the issue. As was mentioned above, many people may want to migrate in search of better economic opportunities or to escape a conflict, even without knowing that possibly it is the combination of climate and other socio-environmental and political factors that con-

curred to shape the general situation that acts as an expelling mechanism.

Through a public stance on migration, which has traditionally been open and inclusive, supported even by residency agreements and free movement in areas such as Mercosur, South America has embarked on the task of understanding how the points of contact between migration and climate change operate, creating a specialized space to this end within SACM, and highlighting the role they play within migration dynamics between countries in the extended region, which covers Central America and the Caribbean, in order to produce rules and standards to create access routes for regular migration for disaster displaced populations. There are also initiatives at the national level, such as Argentina's Environmental Humanitarian Visa.

While international law does not contemplate special protection for people on the move due to climate change related reasons, international cooperation, based on research and understanding of that link, the exchange of experiences and ideas to generate public policies to address those needs, along with national and regional efforts to expand access to regular migration pathways and to integrate migrants -regardless of the reason that led them to move- represents the most effective way in which all stakeholders can see migration, as a win-win situation, both for migrants and host communities.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS, MIGRATION AND GENDER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THE CITY: SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES IN THE CASE OF THE RECONQUISTA AREA (GREATER BUENOS AIRES)

Lucila Nejamkis and María

INTRODUCTION

Migration, across and within borders has long been a key strategy for survival, sustenance and risk management. According to a World Bank report, the estimates indicate that, by 2050, up to 150 million people could move from their places of residence due to environmental and climate changes (World Bank, 2018). The importance of human mobility as an option to adapt to climate change was recognized for the first time under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and was adopted in 2010 within the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF). Recent reports from

the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2019) make extensive references to the impacts of climate change on migration (IPCC, 1990, 2007, 2012, 2014, 2020a, 2020b). Although it is not a highlight in the Paris Agreement, this area will become more relevant in future climate negotiations. While it is clearer now that the links between climate change and migration must be understood in the context of a production model that is completely harmful to the environment and the population, there is still some debate on the implications of climate-induced mobility.

However, the actual effects that the impacts on the environment have on migration still remain difficult to quantify due to multi-causal nature of the population movements. There is an in-depth dis-

cussion about methods to calculate the number of environmental migrants. In the words of Castillo (2011) these numbers “oscillate in a big U shape chart (...) there’s a dance of figures” (Ortiz-Paniagua and Felipe Pérez, 2017). However, according to an IOM report (2008), it is possible to affirm that anthropogenic climate change influences human migrations.

In relation to this point, it is legitimate to state that the conditions resulting from environmental change, and the socio-economic effects of globalized economy, plus emerging production methods and technological advances, are radically transforming our living conditions. As was expressed at the XVI South American Conference on Migrations (2016), environmental factors, and notoriously climate change, have had an impact on human mobility and have intensified displacement and migrations in South America, demanding that States and regional bodies address and incorporate this issue into their environmental, migratory, and climate change policies and standards (SACM, 2016). According to the contents of that document, the effects of climate change in South America influence the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, causing flooding droughts and hailstorms. Climate phenomena were responsible for 88% of the disasters in the region in the last five decades (Pivetta, 2016). In 2015, among the countries with the highest number of disaster-induced displacement we find Paraguay (171,000 persons), followed by Brazil (59,000 persons), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (45,000 people), Argentina (36,000 people) and Uruguay (24,000 people) (IDMC, 2016). While the Intergovernmen-

tal Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2020a, 2020b) does not dig deeper into the differential impact of climate change on men versus women, it does point out that, in extreme weather events, women are more vulnerable to precarious conditions resulting from an evacuation. In relation to this, it is worth highlighting that the feminization of migrations in the context of climate change requires an analysis not only of the population expelled from their place of origin but also of the environmental factors influencing the reproduction of living conditions at the destination locations. Women are displaced from ecologically vulnerable territories, but they are sent to spaces characterized by other socio-environmental vulnerabilities, which are equally impacted by effects derived from climate change and by capitalist production methods (Nejamkis, López and Rajoy, 2021). Given the current focus on the climate crisis, various perspectives point to thinking about this phenomenon as a global environmental crisis, considering at the same time the different inequalities and the methods of consumption and production that the capitalist system produces, reproduces and deepens (Baptise and Rhiney, 2016; Svampa, 2018; Beck, 1992). From this perspective, it is possible to see gender inequalities, the socio-economic and the socio-environmental issues that intersect and impact migration flows (IOM, 2017; Magliano and Domenech, 2009), furthered promoted by the neo-extractivist model and the climate impacts.

Therefore, we understand that it is essential to be able to localize global debates in the framework of specific contexts that allow us to know the main site-specific issues that are currently connected to the environmental crisis and people movements.

This article is based on the experience with a participatory research project carried out on a conglomerate of shanty towns and settlements with a strong rural migrant imprint that were built in an area in the basin of the Reconquista River in a district called San Martín, in the greater Buenos Aires area (Argentina). This is a highly contaminated area, closed to an open-air dump site (CEAMSE Norte III). There, we worked with women migrants from rural areas of Paraguay, the Pluri-national State of Bolivia, and some provinces of northern Argentina that maintain transnational links with their areas of origin through urban environments. We know that, in the case of women migrants, the displacement has been motivated in many cases by the scarcity or depletion of natural resources due to environmental degradation, the advancement of the agricultural frontier, monoculture of GM soybean, and the environmental effects of this process. The arrival, permanence and working situation of these women and their families in Argentina is complex, since they relocate to the Reconquista Area (AR) —right on the banks of the Reconquista River (Municipality of San Martín, Greater Buenos Aires)— around the largest dumping site in the country, which presents multiple environmental issues, which intersect with gender issues. Women's migration is thus framed within a set of socio-environmental strategies developed by the women living in these RA neighborhoods to cope with the processes of social reproduction of their nuclear families, with responsibilities that fall, for the most part, on them.

The proposed objective for this paper is to resume the results of the research, in order to analyze what variables are prioritized by these women who are

rural migrants, regarding what they represent as optimal environments to obtain improvements in their living conditions and life projects, in their rural/urban journeys, which are never linear or unidirectional. At the same time, the study aims at detecting the significance they assign to climate risk and environmental conditions, to understand them in the context of their location.

To this end, this paper is structured in four sections. In the first one, we will outline the research methodology used, whose results are analyzed in this paper, and the context in which the study was carried out. Then, in the next section, we will develop conceptual tools and background used for the analysis of the empirical material that we will present in section three. In the third section, we will examine the empirical material collected, which answers the questions posed in the paper, by organizing it in two blocks that refer to rural experiences, on the one hand, and urban experiences, on the other hand. Finally, we will present our conclusions and the reflections that emerge from the analysis carried out.

METHODOLOGY AND TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

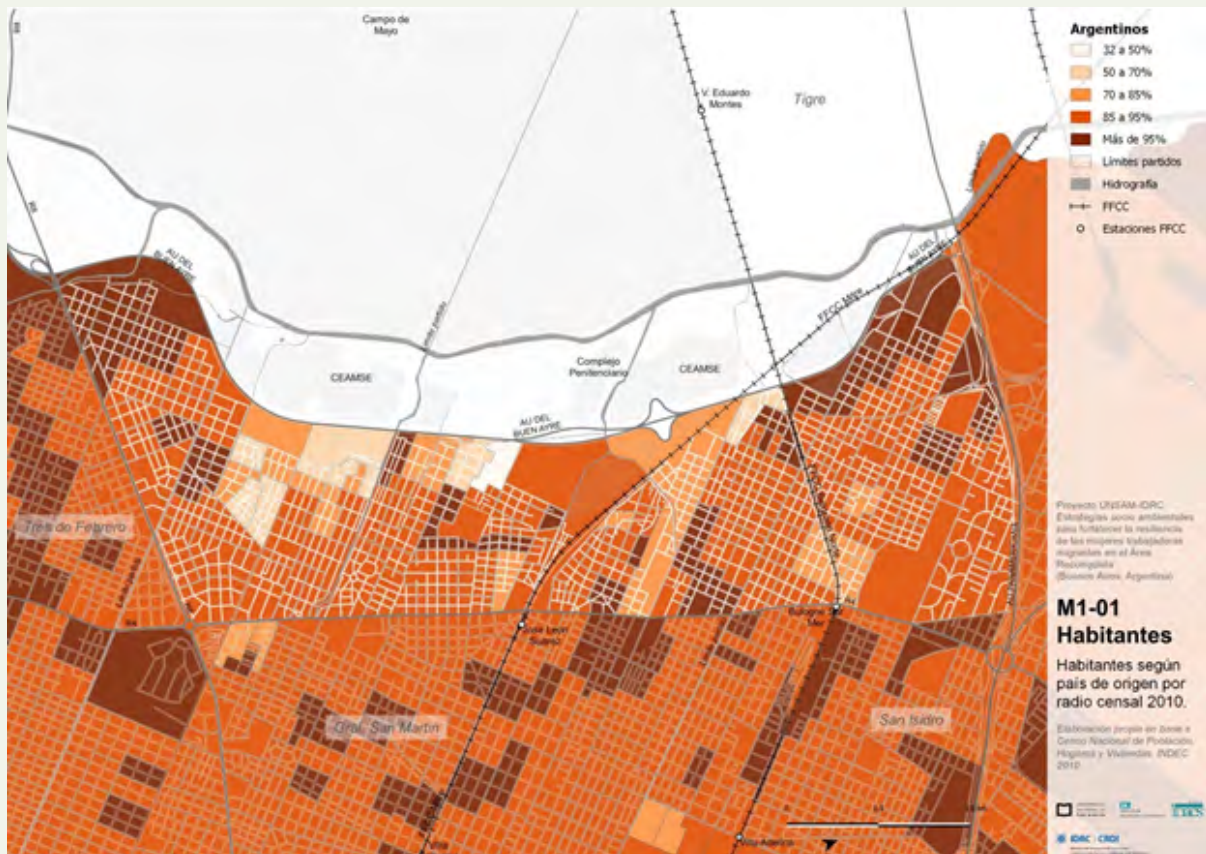
More than 4.2 million people inhabit the Reconquista River Basin (an area known in Spanish as CRR), despite the fact that it is one of the most polluted areas in the country -especially when you get to the northwest of the Buenos Aires Metropol-

itan Area (AMBA) or Greater Buenos Aires (GBA), in the district of General San Martín-. There are almost 15 settlements in the region known as the Reconquista Area (AR) (see Image 1), located in the area of this Buenos Aires district farthest away with respect to the City of Buenos Aires (CABA), where a large proportion of the population is migrant population (see Image 2), both from Paraguay and Bolivia, as well as some provinces in northern Argentina. Particularly in the case of the area under study, although we are still analyzing the specific causes of this migration, our starting point was the following hypothesis: migrants come mostly from rural areas and this relates to the growing depletion of natural resources in their places of origin, as a result of recurrent flooding and droughts, and the advance of the agricultural frontier as large agricultural companies use larger extensions of land.

Also, we cannot fail to mention that the two countries with the highest number of migrants in Argentina, namely Paraguay and Bolivia, have growing environmental problems arising from the capitalist exploitation of their resources. In the case of Paraguay as the country of origin of migrant women that are at the core of this article, the players with greater responsibility for the environmental degradation are linked to agribusiness exploiting the natural resources of the country, mainly those devoted to transgenic soy production (Fogel, 2012). These environmental effects have an impact on poverty in that region, where peasant populations are expelled out of their territories, in a vicious circle where both crises seem to be part of a feedback loop (Ibid.)

IMAGE 2

National population vs. foreign population in the Reconquista Area (AR)



Source: prepared by the team of architects and urban planners of the IAP Women Migrant Project in the Reconquista Area (UNSAM-IDRC), 2019.

However, these displaced populations also find that their destination presents other socio-environmental problems, linked to flooding on the banks of a highly polluted river with toxic chemical products in the lower basin and with industrial waste in the middle and upper area with streams flowing into these neighborhoods. Pollution in these neighborhoods is aggravated by the presence of the largest dump site in Argentina: the Environmental Complex called North III of CEAMSE (acronym in Spanish that stands for State coordination

of the waste treatment facility for the Metropolitan Area). The proximity to the landfill, despite health problems due to air, soil and water pollution, is one of the largest sources of work, particularly for the unemployed inhabitants or informal workers.

The general objectives of our research focused on analyzing to what extent climate change determines the migration of women to the Reconquista Area (AR); then, we examined how conditions such as social class, ethnicity and gender entail differential effects in these socio-environmental and cli-

mate contexts, in connection with their ability to enjoy their rights to resources and decision-making. Regarding this, one of the main challenges is related to an interdisciplinary approach, which implies a dialogue to exchange knowledge between exact and natural sciences with humanities and social sciences.

It also implies an encounter between academic knowledge linked to these disciplines and experiences derived from the territory and linked to the place of origin of migrants and/or women's work, for example, with garbage or community care.

For this reason, our starting point was Fals Borda's proposal (2013) of participatory action research (IAP by its acronym in Spanish), combining the process of knowing and acting where the population is involved in the realities addressed. That includes observation and participation in various communal spaces, as well as in depth interviews. Thus, we undertook an investigation from an ethnographic perspective, assuming a double role, which demanded an exercise in reflexivity. Following Da Matta (1999), this involved "familiarizing the exotic", for those of us who never resided in the area, or shared the daily life of migrant women and, in turn, "exoticizing the familiar", by understanding that we share the same national and local culture and (especially, the women researchers in our team who were born and raised in one of the neighborhoods where the research is conducted). In that sense, this paper pursues collaborative ethnography (Rappaport, 2018), where the objective goes beyond the mere wording of the issue, to generate a committed activist contribution, which in this case is a feminist one.

Regarding this last aspect, the feminist perspective has been chosen not only as a driver in our research, but as part of the proposed methodological scheme. Thus, the methodology and epistemology of feminist thinking leads us to bring areas, themes and perspectives to the table, which traditional androcentric scientific standards have historically "de-hierarchized" (Harding, 1987; Fox Keller, 1991). This guides our research to return to the issues under study from the perspective of women's experiences. In addition, our methodological approach takes up the warnings of non-colonial feminism around whom speaks on behalf of whom among different groups made up of women. Thus, the critique of hegemonic academic feminism and the exclusion and erasure of women's voices as less important (Mohanty, 2003) add an intersectional perspective to the research procedures used. Taking these warnings into account, we recognize that the conclusions reached in our analyses are not translations of these "secondary" voices but intersubjective results of the dialogues we engaged in during the research process, which include the knowledge of women who belonging to the social groups under study. On the challenge that still exists in feminist epistemology to reconcile "reflection and action" (Doucet and Maunther, 2006), the combination with the methodological perspective of the IAP enables an interesting meeting point that helps to propose an investigation where, there is no spokesperson as a proxy for the women under study, but the intention is to involve them and their own concerns (Olivera and Arellano Nucamendi, 2014; McNamara, 2009).

So far, more than 100 in-depth interviews were conducted with both women and men migrants, as well as public officials and representatives of civil society. There are also as many observations of participants in multiple spaces, both communal and individual in the different neighborhoods of the so-called AR.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL CRISIS, ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES AND MIGRATIONS

As we have expressed in previous papers, from a feminist perspective on economics, the current crisis be understood as a multidimensional crisis where vital processes are at risk (Nejamkis and Fois, 2022). In this regard, Pérez Orozco points out that this multidimensional crisis comprises an ecological crisis, which in our countries is linked to the destruction of biodiversity, agribusiness, CO2 emissions, as well as a crisis connected with social reproduction, which translates as the growing difficulty to meet material and people's emotional expectations. And finally, there is a care crisis, where networks that used to ensure essential care (of dependents, of the home, etc.), key for the reproduction of life and families are broken (Pérez Orozco, 2019; Nejamkis and Fois, 2022).

In this context, it is not a minor fact than the productive matrix in several South American countries (Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina, among others) reflects a model based on concentration for agricultural and livestock production, which is cur-

rently boosted because of the soybean boom. This production and economic model, marked by high concentration of capital and technology, and a low labor demand in the traditional agricultural sector, was consolidated on the dispossession of productive peasant and Indigenous land and the consequent displacement of these populations, pushed towards the margins of economic growth (Nejamkis and Fois, 2022).

This is partly explained by an imperial cartography where "marginalized" societies have been the suppliers par excellence of goods and services consumed by concentrated dominant societies, and which require environmental exploitation. As a result of this, the populations of the south have experienced a greater vulnerability and exposure to socio-environmental risks and disasters, which is still a distinctive feature of modern colonialism. In this sense, ecological imperialism and environmental racism, as dimensions that are inherent to the colonial nature of the modern order, acquire a decisive political relevance in the current context of an acute global environmental crisis and a critical geopolitical scenario of "global depletion" (Machado Araújo, 2011).

In turn, if we consider the environmental as another sphere of the organization of care, as indicated by various investigations around the care economy (Tronto, 2015; Alvarez Escobar, 2020), gender appears as a variable that aggravates environmental injustices affecting groups that have historically suffered unequally environmental conditions. Thus, women appear as the most vulnerable groups facing environmental issues, while they are the ones who assume the burden of addressing health and housing issues, among other issues

rooted in the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation at the global and local level (Guzmán Sanhueza et. al., 2018).

Therefore, we understand that migrant trajectories become relevant to studies trying to trace environmental injustices. Thinking about the disadvantaged positions that women face in connection with the environment is connected to concepts such as that of environmental (in)justice. This perspective started to be explored and considered in the decade of 1970 by American studies analyzing how marginalized social and racial groups suffered a disproportionate burden of environmental conditions (Bullard, 1993; De Andrade, 2018). As a recent example of such investigations, committed to analyze social and environmental injustices, we can mention the work of researcher David Pellow (2004). After studying the disputes over urban waste in Chicago, Pellow uses the conceptual framework of environmental justice to account for how environmental issues emerge in processes where social, racial and class relationships are strongly involved. These analyses were also taken up to think about inequalities in the experiences of vulnerability due to climate conditions in Latin America in general (Auyero and Swistun, 2008; Porto, Pachecho and Leroy, 2013), and those associated with the natural resources extractivist model, in particular.

These studies led to linking this conceptual framework of environmental justice with our colonial history and the inequalities it has produced in our continent, which are still very much in effect (Martínez-Alier, 2002). Thus, recent research proposes that studies around the policies related to these models incorporate the racial/ social/ class

category to understand uneven distribution of environmental vulnerabilities produced in current and local contexts (Moncada Paredes and Mancheno, 2021). In this line, environmental justice in our region is understood taking into account the premise that environmental issues emerge from and in contexts of racial, colonial and socio-economic inequality, affecting to a greater extent social and "racialized" groups that have been historically disadvantaged in global and local socio-ecological systems.

As is the case with our investigations, while it is often difficult to find a direct relationship between climate change and migration, a review of the literature has highlighted that environmental degradation resulting from climate change affects populations and plays a key role in the decision-making process to migrate. In general, extreme weather phenomena (storms, hurricanes, droughts, etc.) often force populations to leave their homes more abruptly and dramatically than environmental degradation processes. The most obvious difference between these two scenarios is that, although in the first one the causal relationship between climatic phenomena and population movements is relatively clear, in the case of environmental degradation processes other causes are involved, such as for example, political or socio-economic factors (Sedó Boixadera, 2017).

In general, the populations affected by climate change do not move across international borders, as they tend to be the most economically vulnerable groups and undertaking an international trip requires certain resources. This is the case of "trapped populations", which turns out to be the groups that are most vulnerable to climate im-

pacts and environmental degradation (The Government Office for Science, 2011). Often, populations that are more vulnerable are in poor rural communities, which have no means to migrate to other countries and usually opt for a destination near their village of origin, or sometimes they migrate to cities. However, the urban sector is also susceptible to expulsion of populations due to deterioration of the environment quality.

An interesting aspect of Eva Sedó Boixadera's work (2017) has to do with the typology of climate change effects in the migrations that she takes from Martin (2010). Within this typology, our research on the Reconquista Area considers: (a) the increase in temperature and dry spells that affect agricultural production, reducing the capacity to earn a living for the population and access to drinking water; (b) competition for natural resources, which could result in conflict and precipitate displacement of the population.

Along the same lines, Matijasevic Mostajo (2014) wonders how the impact of climate change has influenced a massive rural-urban migration and how this migration, in turn, has an impact on climate change. The author shows temporary changes in migration flows: previously temporary migrations are becoming permanent, encouraged by economic improvements, a phenomenon that occurs mainly in younger populations. In turn, these disorderly and unplanned settlements in peri-urban areas turn into CO₂ emitting sources that con-

tribute to global warming and, consequently, to climate change. In other words, the effects of climate change increasingly encourage permanent rural-urban migrations, and this effect results in a vicious circle: migration resulting from climate change leading to a messy urbanization that contributes to climate change, which in turn is causing migration.

Now, if the effects of climate change generate an internal migratory process, these migrant populations also contribute to a deterioration of environmental quality due to the footprint caused by their arrival in urban centers, which in some cases do not have the infrastructure to accommodate them. The processes of accelerated and uncontrolled urbanization undermine human security by creating poverty belts and overcrowding around urban centers, as a result of unplanned urbanization process, where it is impossible to provide adequate basic services (Sedó Boixadera, 2017). Social vulnerability to the effects of climate change is very serious, and translates into this constant migration, which results in the occupation of territories in a manner that is messy and unplanned. This in turn causes deterioration of water basins and, consequently, it increases poverty. This scenario is comparable with the situation at the Reconquista Area, where a process of accelerated urbanization that was not organized by the State has taken place on the banks of a river.

FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL: ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITIES IN AREAS OF ORIGIN AND RESIDENCE OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN THE RECONQUISTA AREA

Socio-environmental perceptions and frameworks in rural contexts and migration trajectories.

The moment when migrant women decide to migrate is described by our interlocutors as a naturalized instance in the scenarios that are considered in their regions of origin, where there are repeated landscapes and circumstances. These scenes combine socio-economic and environmental problems that, from their perspective as women, young mothers, and impoverished peasants given the social settings they are in, are perceived as obstacles that limit their possibilities of accessing greater well-being.

Diana¹ is a migrant from Paraguay who has 5 children and has been a resident of AR for more than 13 years. She says that she decided to migrate “to improve” her situation, since obtaining money in the rural area where she used to live was difficult and “you have to go out to the capital, which is four hours away, and... also the bus fare is very expensive, it was not convenient for me.” This is why when the time came to look for resources and sustenance for herself and her first daughter who

was one year old, she came to Buenos Aires: “I just came...without thinking twice... because if I gave it some thought, maybe I wasn’t going to do it.” When we asked her again how that opportunity came about, she described the scene like this:

“My dad, he said ‘your uncle Marcelo came, he said maybe you want to go to Buenos Aires with him to work.’ And I said, ‘Yes, of course, I do’, I mean, it was just like that (she snaps her fingers). ‘well tomorrow he leaves early, so, get ready if you want to go.’ I got ready and came” (Diana, rural migrant from Paraguay, 5 children).

In the case of Diana, the breakaway moment came later, after experiencing migrant uprooting, after her trip to Buenos Aires. She remembers: “I cried all the way. I had a tough time... I had a hard time adapting. It was really tough.”

Like Diana, Lara, a migrant from Villarrica, in Paraguay, also had a network of acquaintances in Buenos Aires that supported that naturalness with which these migration flows occur between Paraguayan rural areas and the Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires. In her case, her contact was her godmother, her mother’s sister, who got her a job as a cleaning lady in a private household in the neighborhood of Palermo, in the City of Buenos Aires. In this sense, people talk about migratory flows since it is not a unidirectional or static movement in these trajectories. Lara portrayed these dynamics in which migration operates as a tool to obtain resources very well:

1 For the purposes of the article we have used fictitious names in order to preserve the anonymity of our interlocutors participating in the field for our research.

"I turned 18 and left. I went to Paraguay, and I stayed for three months. And I came back here. When I returned here, I got pregnant. Being two months pregnant, I went back to Paraguay. And then I came back when my baby was 4 months old. I came back here to work. And I came and stayed for one year. When my son was fifteen months old or so, I went back to Paraguay," (Lara, rural migrant from Paraguay, 3 children).

Then, she tried to stay for a while in Paraguay, to complete her high school, while she worked as a cleaning lady and, at the time, she returned to her mother's home because she had fallen ill. She tried to get into college. She managed to stay in college for six months, until it became very difficult for her to continue, since she did not have enough money to buy food, to the point of getting sick from it: "I had to pay for my rent, college, give money to my family and pay to the bank. So, I couldn't make ends meet, I couldn't, and I ended up quitting college." At that time, she started dating her current husband, and they decide to live together and stay in Villarica until he got sick and migrated back to Buenos Aires, because there it was possible for them to continue with his medical treatment and have the surgery that his condition required). He asked Lara to follow him, saying "if things get worse, you can work and deal with things on your own," she paraphrased.

The city of Buenos Aires usually appears in the stories of women migrants as the point of contrast against their rural places of origin, which are characterized as less-favored areas, especially when it comes to getting a job, and as places that provide a precarious quality of life. During a cooking

workshop that we shared with two migrant women from rural areas in Paraguay and in the Argentine province of Misiones, Élide and Carolina, respectively, they described these scenes when they imagined the possibility of returning. Élide said that, maybe, when she gets older, she could return, but after Carolina pointed out that over there life was very strenuous physically and that "it really takes a toll on you." She added that she would never go back to live there again, and then Élide recanted, stating that she would only return if she found some resources that she did not have before since "out there if you don't have money, you don't eat." Similarly, in the conversation we had with Lara at her house, she said: "You know that all the sacrifice on the farm, is just to afford food. You will not be able to get money to buy a motorcycle, to buy a bike, to buy things or to pay for school to be able to study." She added that environmental problems affect those limited resources peasant workers have access to. One of those problems is drought, which she associates to deforestation caused by large foreign agribusiness companies, as is the case in the department of Caaguazú, adjacent to her hometown:

"There is deforestation, done to clean large plots of land, which are then sold to foreigners (...) who burn the fields down to the ground to be able to work the land and plant, and grow agriculture in it. (...) Because since they have the capacity and monetary resources to be able to do it, they do it. (...) Maybe they do not live in the country, but they have many, many acres. And you know, maybe Paraguayans themselves, who occupy the land in Paraguay, whether they built houses or have their plantations, are kicked out just like that. And they grab

a little piece of land to have a house, and nothing more”(Ibid.).

Lara links deforestation to “irresponsible people who burn pastures,” the drought and wildfires, all factors that are part of a feedback loop fueling a cycle of disasters that devastate peasant lands. In turn, she distinguishes these effects caused by large landowners-mainly foreign- from small farmers-like her own family-, “who are actually the ones who plant for consumption, because those who plant soybean grow hundreds of acres, or two or three hectares, I do not know... but people who are not from here have large extensions of land.”

According to Lara, this situation is also affected by fumigation that degrade both plantations and the health of the population residing in the areas surrounding the plots that are sprayed with chemicals. This causes congenital malformations and health conditions that lead to increased mortality of the population, mainly according to Lara, among children and elderly people. The way in which this happens is described by the interviewee as a situation linked to fumigation processes carried out without caring for the population living there or the plantations they depend on for food:

“You had to go inside and close the doors, until it was over. I had to wait until I could hear the sound of the helicopter no more (...) without warning to us or my neighbors, nothing. They came and just did it. They were the owners (...) and in the end the land that you planted for your own consumption, like cassava, corn, or anything, it didn’t come out. Everything got rotten (...) because of fumigation that the wind brought but was not ok for that plantation, it was for another, theirs. It was for soybean

or for sugarcane, or for anything else but for what we, the little farmers, had planted. Then everything was ruined (...) The corn didn’t come out, the cassava didn’t come out, the peanuts didn’t come out. And those things are staples for our consumption, the ones who live there. Because if you go and buy everything, no... You do not have enough money to pay for all that” (Ibid.)

Similarly, the advance of the agricultural frontier is part of Carolina narrative, when she mentions the environmental issues that her relatives have to deal with in their rural areas of origin in Misiones, a province in the NE of Argentina. She said that his environmental degradation was noticeable in actions such as “planting something and then watching it burn down.” When we asked again what she meant when she said that “plants burns down”, she explained that those scenes appeared After the arrival of the paper mills:

“The canopy of fruit trees, for example, they are all spotted, the fruit is all stained, as if splashed with bleach or acid or something. (...) And that comes from the paper mills installed there. My brother, for example, is in charge of a yerba mate drying facility. He is the one that receives the yerba mate and if the leaves are in good conditions, he accepts them; otherwise, he has to reject them because yerba mate leaves last for a certain time, once they are cut. If too much time goes by, the leaves turn black. They are called “burned leaves,” right? The leaf is burned, so you can’t use them. They can’t be accepted.” (Carolina, rural migrant from Misiones, Argentina, 7 children).

Regarding the shortage of jobs for “tareferos” (manual harvesters), Carolina explained that to

this environmental issue that has been detected, we need to add the unfair competition small farmers are exposed to due to low prices offered to small *yerba mate* producers, “about 15 cents nowadays,” as well as market concentration where “cooperatives are no longer a big player” and the people who used to work the land end up leasing their plots for little money to large agricultural businesses.

SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL PERCEPTIONS AND FRAMEWORKS OF MIGRATION TRAJECTORIES IN URBAN CONTEXTS

According to our respondents, in their rural areas of origin, the provision of basic services such as water, power or gas usually depends on utility providers that are very elusive. Carolina provides an example of this. She points out that in the area near Wanda, the town where she lived with her family, in the province of Misiones, there are none of the “amenities” that you find in the Metropolitan area of Buenos Aires, in reference to asphalt, transport, power and water.

“There they cut off your water or power pretty much whenever they please, and no one can say anything because nobody really listens to complaints. There’s nowhere you can go, and everyone know that no one will address your complaints (...) In Misiones, there are many sources of fresh, clean water but you

have to pay a fortune to get tap water.” (Carolina, rural migrant from Misiones, Argentina, 7 children).

Similarly, Lara said that the tool to solve the environmental issues they had to deal with came mainly from social organizations and collective empowerment of peasant producers and small farmers, instead of appealing to the State, the private sector or third-party organizations:

“... people began to wake up too, to demand for their rights and stopped keeping quiet. Before you would just keep your mouth shut, you just managed, you just watch your animals die of thirst, but not anymore. Now people cut the fences and their animals roam free into the neighbors’ plot. (...) In part it is a relief for the neighbors. You end up getting used to living like this. People do whatever they want, and you have to shut up. People who had more, had access to more. But nowadays it is much better. Besides, many more people know how to read and write. Many more young people, say, my age or a little older, are literate. They have received basic education, and that is an eye opener. They’re not so blinded to what they see there. But... I mean, things have improved a lot too” (Lara, rural migrant from Paraguay, 3 children).

In Lara’s case, she sits on the neighbors board with her husband who currently works for the municipality where they reside. In line with what Carolina pointed out, urban frameworks provide a structure through State institutions that is quite different from their rural areas of origin. At the same time, for migrants Metropolitan areas mean opportunities that are scarce in the rural areas where they were born. In the case of Lara, she refers to

that concept in terms of gender equality, and a social configuration that is much more limiting in her hometown than in the urban area in which she resides now. She mentions this specifically in connection with the education of younger people, which "depends on each family" in her hometown, where decisions are framed in a "male dominant thinking" where "women should stay home because they are only good to have children, and for chores and to take care of the home." In contrast, she points out that in urban centers there is a greater "accompaniment of the State", with educational policies aimed at young people. For her, her current area of residence is one with "many more opportunities than over there." Thus, many women say that they would only return to their region of origin when their children "can manage on their own."

This does not imply that they dismiss environmental problems that they find in rural as well as urban areas. In fact, Lara points out that some environmental problems, such as the accumulation of garbage that she detects in the city is something that she doesn't see in the countryside:

"As for garbage disposal, in urban areas there is garbage collection, something you don't have in rural areas. The same goes for basic services but... in rural areas there is not as much garbage as here. Because instead of going and buying one bag of bread, you go and get cassava right out of the plant. Instead of buying flour, you go and get corn. You make things with that. Then the garbage that we know as garbage here is not so much in rural areas" (Ibid.)

Like Lara, Carolina detects environmental problems associated with urban waste and she raises a more serious alert when talking about how it can affect children, such as those who attend the community kindergarten where she works. While she indicates that she does not detect that burning effect that she observed in the leaves in Misiones, "because I have fewer plants, perhaps", she does detect deterioration in the health of people in her community that she links to environmental issues, specific to urban marginalized areas like the one where she lives:

"... Since I don't smoke, I realize than the air is heavier, there are times during the day when I prefer not to open the windows. In the afternoon or in the morning when activities begin, and traffic starts moving, I try not open the window, maybe from 9 to 11 AM. Sometimes you have to keep an eye on the truck to see if they take the trash. Our own home garbage is not that bad, but garbage accumulates at the corner, and that is a problem. (...) First because of the smell, and second because they burn it. People are fed up with the garbage problem and they end up burning it, but that harms the whole environment. It gets inside the kinder and the rooms fill with smoke (...) The cables (that people burn) ... And yes, that thick black smoke is terrible. When they burn the garbage many times, we called the firefighters because sometimes the garbage takes a long time to burn, and the flames get almost to the kinder wall." (Carolina, rural migrant from Misiones, Argentina, 7 children).

As we have pointed out in previous papers, in a context such as the area under study where a large part of the population works in waste management (in relation to or in parallel to the open-air dump run by CEAMSE North III), garbage has an ambivalent component, both as an environmental problem and as a resource (Nejamkis, López and Rajoy, 2021). On the other hand, the air pollution generated after burning causes health conditions affecting the skin and the respiratory system, while the chronic accumulation in deregulated dumps promotes the spread of pests and diseases associated to them, like dengue. On the other hand, garbage is usually a source of employment for many people who work in recycling cooperatives, in private or semi-private companies, dealing with the municipal solid waste management, as is the case for “carreros” (collectors who use carts), “quemeros” (collectors of incinerated garbage remains), and “cirujas” (scavengers)² who are sole workers devoted to recycling and reselling in neighborhood warehouses or other sites.

The water, which is contaminated, is also a problem that migrant women detected as a serious issue in urban centers. Élide set the example in a conversation held one afternoon in her house in one of the neighborhoods adjacent to the kindergarten where Carolina works, after the cooking workshop. She spoke about her theory linking one of his sons’ health with the quality of the water that they consumed. According to her, her son was born “with constipation”, but when he was eight months he got chronic diarrhea, and the

doctors could not find its origin. Some professionals told her that the child was healthy, after running tests at Hospital Gutierrez, one of the best public hospitals in the City of Buenos Aires, and she even received recommendations from health care professionals suggesting she should take the boy to a “curandera” (a native healer). Only after they finally were able to move to another neighborhood, where they had access to tap water, her son’s condition changed: “I don’t know what to blame, that’s why I say that it is the place, right? (...) When we came, it was like... like this (snapping her fingers), and just like that he was cured.”

These stories appear once and again in different interviews and conversations that we have maintained with migrant women living in the Reconquista Area, which leads us to understand that there are different environmental conditions that emerge in the daily lives of the population. These do not necessarily refer to similar environmental issues and conditions, although they are related insofar as they are problems that affect those who are social and economically disadvantaged in both rural and urban social configurations. In summary, we can say that the reflections around environmental injustice and racism provide grounds to think that disadvantaged population due to structural social inequalities are more seriously affected by climate and environmental issues either in their countries of origin or destination. In these contexts, the gender variable deepens this inequality, especially if we take into account the

2 These three terms refer to different strategies used by garbage workers. In the case of “carreros”, we refer to people who use a horse-drawn cart to collect elements from the trash; “quemeros” collect and sell whatever is of value among what they find in garbage sent to the incinerator or processing plant. And finally, the term “ciruja” refers to scavengers who search through the garbage and then sell what they find.

social organization were our interlocutors in the field are assigned the role of caregivers. At the same time, these women are in charge of mitigating the impacts on their homes and on people's health conditions of environmental degradation and damages. There, the environmental variable is recognized -and suffered- by them as a problem, even when it is not very high in the hierarchy at the time of choosing the sites where to settle in order to obtain better opportunities for their well-being.

FINAL THOUGHTS

It is interesting to return to the idea that climate change is part of a multidimensional, anthropogenic crisis that has a direct relationship with the production and consumption system in which we have been immersed for centuries. This system expels entire populations from their natural ecosystems without giving them a choice in terms of the sustainability of life.

In this context, and based on our work in the field, we have been able to show—from an intersectional perspective—that women are a specially disadvantaged group. These differential burdens

occur not only in the case of their exit from environmentally vulnerable communities but also throughout the migration process, since they have to be in charge of the care tasks, a list to which we must add environmental care in the places of destination. Here it is essential to emphasize the rural-urban relationship in order to think about the migration process and how in both destinations the environmental issues manifest in different ways.

In our study, we worked both with international and internal male and female migrants. Internal migrants is a group that in fact requires deeper studies, since most environmental migrants and displaced persons remain within their country of origin and describe rural-urban migration trajectories that are often made invisible by the fact that they do not cross state borders. At the same time, these are disadvantaged groups due to the environmental injustices they encounter along their path. Anyway, in general terms, and on the basis of our research, it is possible to contend that, in rural communities, migration appears as an opportunity to adapt to perceived environmental and socio-economic risks, where the latter are prioritized. People find greater opportunities in urban centers, even when these centers are also degraded, compared to their rural areas of origin.

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MIGRANT RESISTANCE. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AS A NEW DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM

Macarena Romero

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL CRISIS AND STRATEGIES OF COMMUNITY INTERVENTION

The current Latin American neo-extractivist cycle is transected by new stakeholders. Mining, monocultures, expansion of the oil frontier, agribusiness and the former urban extractivism, among other activities, are linked to the current conjuncture in what Maristella Svampa (2020) calls “the increase in social metabolism of capital”, which presses in an exacerbated way on goods and territories so that raw materials and energy are extracted from them. This implies a redistribution of responsibilities between the global north and the global south, and a differentiated distribution of risk at the global level with local impacts, which usually fall on the most vulnerable populations.

Development models in countries like Argentina have deepened the intensive use of natural resources through technological advances, in a context where the “commodities consensus”, produced by the boom in International commodity prices, has provided incentives to governments, both progressive and neoliberal, to promote exploration, exploitation and commercialization of natural resources (Svam-pa and Viale, 2014). To the use of extractivist technologies, such as glyphosate, open pit mining, fracking and lithium exploitation, we have to add the authorization to trade seeds and products derived from transgenic HB4 wheat on the market, largely in the wake of the war between Russia and Ukraine, two countries which, together, produce one-third of the world’s wheat supply. Socio-environmental demands not only question the great economic interests, but challenge the hegemonic development model,

and force us to think about other paradigms to address the relationship between society and nature.

Environmental sacrifice zones, where populations that have been made vulnerable reside, as a result of a development project that is not questioned but deepened from the political and economic elites, are also the territory of conflict and socio-environmental resistance.

Women migrants in the Reconquista Area is a research group from the Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales of the University of San Martín, in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, which together with students, scholarship holders, artists and territorial organizations, such as Cultural Center and “Merendero” *Los Amigos de Barrio Sarmiento*, a feminist economy organization, and the Popular Library La Cárcova, work in the territory of the Reconquista River Basin in the Province of Buenos Aires, with migrant women from the 15 neighborhoods in the Reconquista basin. The project seeks to find convergence between research and action, focusing in getting to know the realities of migrant women who live and work in neighborhoods located next door to the CEAMSE Norte III landfill and open-air dump site on the banks of the Reconquista River.

Through socio-environmental intervention strategies they work to enhance the actions that migrant women develop to maintain their nuclear families and, at the same time, making the relationship between gender, migration and climate change visible in the lower Reconquista River basin, where the largest open-air dump in Argentina (CEAMSE) is located. This dumpsite is also the source of sustenance for a good part of these

women. The CEAMSE Norte III (a state-run coordination service for ecological landfill management in the Metropolitan Area) was founded in 1977, when the Military Dictatorship ordered that solid urban waste from fourteen municipalities of the Buenos Aires peripheral districts and the City of Buenos Aires were disposed and buried as landfill in lowland and flood areas on the banks of the Reconquista River.

Despite the conditions of vulnerability and environmental risks in the Reconquista Area, the migratory displacement of people from Paraguay and Bolivia, as well as from the northern provinces of Argentina to the 15 settlements in the area was caused by the combination of socio-economic, environmental and climatic factors. These migrations are related to the increasing depletion of natural resources, as a result of recurrent floods and droughts, the advance of the agricultural frontier and the monocultures of transgenic soybean. These issues meet other socio-environmental problems found at the destination, derived from the pollution of the river and the dump, which generate floods and health problems in the population, predominantly young women, girls and teenagers from migrant families. The organization focuses on the 2000 women

who work in the dump located on the banks of the river, and intends to identify and enhance the set of socio-environmental strategies, developed by them for the sustenance of their nuclear families.

The Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires (AMBA) is a great pole of attraction of migration due to the number of job opportunities it offers. “In the case of the Reconquista Area, on the one hand,

the appeal lies on the availability of land, which at the end of the 1990s was quite extended and, on the other, to family networks, which often end up organizing the migration. In the stories migrants tell, in general, there is a family member who is already living in the area. The dynamics of urbanization often have to do with taking land or irregular purchase of plots," says Natalia Gavazzo, PhD in anthropology from the UBA, researcher at the CONICET, professor at UNSAM and director of the project "Migrantas en Reconquista" (Women Migrant Project in the Reconquista Area).

In one of the 15 neighborhoods in the basin there are two Paraguayan friends from rural areas who arrived to settle in *Los Eucaliptus* more than ten years ago. They are part of the Women Migrant Project in the Reconquista Area".¹

María is the head of her household, and she works as a cleaning lady, in addition to having been a chronicler in a book about medicinal plants edited in Paraguay by UNSAM, and volunteering in "Bosque Urbano", a 3200 square meter green space opposite the university campus, which used to be a parking lot and today is home to several species of native plants, geodesic domes, a bio-digestor, solar energy panels and several orchards.

Natalia Gavazzo explains that "In the neighborhood, people eat, dress and build their houses out of garbage. Garbage is not seen so much as a pollution problem, which it is, but rather as a resource for survival".

Before migrating to Argentina, María worked at a farming establishment and also in his mother's garden, but It was not enough because to cultivate "you have to have money." Many women in the area come, like her, from rural areas of Paraguay, and became migrants due to the advance of the soybean frontier, due to floods, droughts, and the disappearance of family agriculture with the arrival of large landowners and agribusiness. "Environmental migration is produced by an extractivist development model that destroys natural resources and expels the population from their places of origin, because they cannot ensure survival and reproduction," says Gavazzo.

Suana was born in Asunción, Paraguay, but she grew up in Concepción, on the banks of the river. Her grandparents lived in the countryside and together with her mother and her brothers, she was a seasonal migrant during the cotton harvest, starting at the age of eleven. At 12, she dropped out of school and started working at private homes, because in the countryside "during one season there was money and the next one, we had none." In the face of the bad situation, she migrated to Buenos Aires with her mother and her sister. She arrived at the *Los Eucaliptus* neighborhood in 2008, when she was eight months pregnant. The land was not divided in plots and the streets were mostly dirt roads. There were no power lines, no gas pipelines, or running water. To get water she had to walk the 15 blocks that separated her house from the main water pipe, in another neigh-

1 In order to preserve the identity of the interviewees, their first names have been changed.

borhood, and return with full buckets and cans of water. Later, the neighbors got organized and collected the money to buy the pipes and do the extension, but those who did not get connect to the water pipes had to resort to the water well, even though groundwater is contaminated due to leaks from the landfill, and the water that comes out is not fresh water and it is not drinkable.

Climate migration causes people to leave their communities, but there are few studies devoted to the analysis of environmental well-being at the location of destination. “We have a very significant information deficit on the specific effects of migration on the well-being of these populations. Moreover, these communities have fewer resources to settle in healthy areas, which creates new vulnerabilities,” says Pablo Escribano, Regional Thematic Specialist on Migration, Environment and Climate Change of the International Organization for Migration (Personal interview, February 17, 2022).

There is no international convention or definition of what constitutes environmental or climatic migration. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), human mobility is understood as a multi-causal phenomenon. Therefore, an environmental crisis has an impact on other migration factors: “A clear case has to do with economic factors, because environmental change has an impact on resource availability, use, and welfare in general. Environmental and land degradation factors are combined with processes relative to changes of the use of soil, food insecurity, and loss of employment,” points out Escribano.

There are working definitions, though. One of them is the definition provided by the International Organization for Migrations (IOM) in their glossary² where environmental or climatic migration is defined as “Movement of persons or groups of persons who, due to mainly to sudden and/or gradual changes in the environment that have a negative impact on their lives or on their living conditions, are forced to leave their habitual place of residence or decide to do so, on a temporary or permanent basis, and move to other parts of their country of origin or habitual residence, or move abroad.”

The continuum between voluntary and forced migration often reflects dynamics where the decision to migrate is voluntary and constitutes a survival and resilience strategy against initial adverse conditions, but in the face of lack of planned migration programs on the part of the receiving governments, ends up generating seemingly forced settlement conditions in unhealthy areas where the availability of land and the cost of living are accessible for the migrant population.

This definition of work serves an analytical purpose and raises awareness, but has no specific legal value. Migration due to climate reasons is a subcategory of migration for environmental reasons. It corresponds to a specific category, in which the factor that generates the change in the environment is climate change. In this context, migration can be linked to increased vulnerability of those affected, especially in cases of forced migration. However, migration can also be a form of adapta-

2 <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml-34-glossary-es.pdf>.

tion to environmental stressors, thus contributing to the strengthening of resilience in affected people and communities (IOM, 2019).

In the analyses of climate migration, the focus has been placed on the communities of origin, and why people leave them, but the analyses fail to focus on what happens when migrants arrive in the countries of destination. They usually settle in areas that present great difficulties to access services, with high prevalence informal employment, polluting industries and new threats.

Escribano explains: "Many times, what determines a decision to migrate is not linked to these factors themselves, but the communities' perceptions of these factors. Here we have what is known as macro, "meso" or micro factors. Structural factors such as migration networks facilitate new migration movements, while in micro factors, which are individual issues, gender becomes a very important dimension".

According to a study carried out by the IOM and the ECLAC (2021) titled "Promoting gender equality in environment, migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean", the gender variable is a fundamental factor when it comes to understanding environmental migrations and climate disaster displacement, since traditional gender structures put women, girls, Indigenous peoples and LGBTI groups in situation of greater vulnerability, especially in times of crisis or during transitions. This also affects the capacity of vulnerable groups (gender) to access resources in their communities of origin during migration, in the destination and in the possible return processes.

"At times of crisis, women can be victims of gender-based violence and human trafficking. In addition, they are one of the groups facing the biggest problems when trying to rebuild their lives or find long-term solutions when the need to move. This point is related to social factors such as role that women fulfill as caregivers and as the ones responsible for security of their homes, limited access to health care, drinking water, resources and opportunities, among other issues," according to the document.

The difficulty in accessing the labor market generates negative impacts on inclusion and sustenance for women. In addition, many of them, are heads of the household since they pioneer the migration project. According to 2019 IOM data, 53.97% of migrants in Argentina are women; 44% of them are heads of the household, and 87% are responsible for children under 18 years of age (ILO, 2020). Their inclusion in the local labor market is primarily informal and/or low-paid. Many of these women are workers in private homes (domestic work): 47% of the migrants perform this type of task (Mallimaci and Magliano, 2018). In this regard, the domestic work (cleaning houses) is a feminized niche with high non-registration rates, a situation that is even worse among the female migrant population, where the rate of informal/unregistered employment reaches up to 53% (Debandi, Nicolao and Penchaszadeh, 2021). This situation was aggravated during the lockdown months when restrictive sanitary measures were imposed due to the COVID 19 pandemic: "Given the fact that circulation and public transport were limited, commuting to work at private homes was

one of the activities that was most affected. Given the structural situation of informal/unregistered work (in 2019 60.2% of migrant women in the sector were not registered as workers), this collective was not under the radar and employment protection measures, such as the prohibition of layoffs failed to reach many of them" (IOM, 2020:32). The unemployment rate among migrant women is evidence of this trend, where gender is a decisive variable: while the unemployment rate among migrant women went from 7.5% in 2019 to 15.7% in 2020, that of migrant men went from 9.3% in 2019 to 10.6% in 2020. If in 2019 out of the total number of unemployed migrants 38.9% were women, in 2020 women represented 54.9%. (IOM, 2021: 32).

These contexts give visibility to the fact that, although climate change effects -among which we could include the COVID-19 pandemic itself- can be characterized as global, they especially affect women and children, and therefore, women assume a leading role as caregivers for their families, as well as the people, the neighborhood and the environment. "We should not only focus on the vulnerabilities but also, on specific capabilities. There are important implications for women in risk management, since they lead self-management processes that are very efficient: communal organization, valorization of traditional knowledge. These phenomena should not only be observed from the prism of vulnerability," concludes Escribano.

Migrant women are social agents of change and leaders in their families and communities: the Reconquista Area is an example of this, since it is women who lead the communal soup kitchens, they preside over many of the cooperatives to do recycling, and participate in cleaning crews,

among many other activities that turn them into the caregivers for families, children and the environment.

THE PARADIGM OF GOOD LIVING" (SUMAK KAWSAY)

The proposal of "Good Living" appears as an emerging alternative in the Latin American context, in contrast to the development models in industrialized countries identified with political models, governmental and cultural patterns that should be imitated by the countries of the global south, usually labelled as "developing countries". The idea of development revolves around a linear progress, in terms of economic growth.

According to Marqués, T., and Roldán, M. (2020), the paradigm of "Good Living" (*Buen Vivir* in Spanish) involves ancestral knowledge and practices of the Indigenous peoples (Barrionuevo and Luc, 2016: 158) that expanded into social movements and political construction processes (Gudynas and Acosta, 2011:76). They challenge assumptions about economic growth, exploitation of nature, the market, consumption, and unlimited progress (Barrionuevo and Luc, 2016: 159). Rather on the opposite side of those views, they focus on the well-being of people and the defense of a different type of relationship with the environment, where well-being exceeds consumption and other relevant dimensions appear, such as the spiritual one and, emotional one, and "living better" is not something that occurs at the expense of others.

Apart from food, economic, and energetic sovereignty, Good Living contributes other categories such as inclusion, equality, biodiversity and caring for natural resources.

Extractive processes produce alterations in the territories and the living standards of Indigenous peoples and peasant farmers. However, the affected subjects, mainly women, have generated alternative proposals to these methods of production, which operate following a different logic and seek to establish other practices in gender relationships, other than those that establishing extractive processes and the patriarchy (Ulloa, 2016).

The UNSAM Women Migrants Project in Reconquista can be read within this paradigm, as a participatory action research project that focuses on socio-environmental strategies to strengthen the resilience of migrant women as caregivers in the environment in the Reconquista basin area.

Addressing adaptation and mitigation of climate change characterizes the project and is part of feminist methodologies, understanding the power to generate strategies on the part of the migrant women themselves, who are the ones who preside, in many cases, the recycling cooperatives, the neighborhood soup kitchens, they organize "*ollas populares*" (communal hot meals), they coordinate recycling sheds, and cultural activities anchored in ancestral knowledge of their communities of origin before relocation.

Displaced rural populations migrate to urban peripheries, characterized, in many cases, as environmental sacrifice zones, where polluting industries such as, tanneries, mining companies, landfills, etc. are installed under the premise, in many cas-

es, that they are part of the economic development of the country. The care, health and enjoyment of common natural goods are often off-limits to migrant and poor populations, which end up being expelled to environmental high-risk areas.

Studies on inequality, poverty and the marginalization in Latin America often fail to analyze comprehensively the new forms of inequality and suffering caused by environmental imbalances, which are not reflected in major national statistics. The differentiated distribution of risk evidences the local effects of global production, consumption and disposal dynamics. It is the south within the Global South.

Populations in sacrificial areas such as the Reconquista River basin come mostly from rural areas, territories affected by environmental phenomena such as floods, droughts, hailstorms or fires. "These situations are thought about in connection with agricultural modes of production with large areas devoted to monocultures (mainly soybean) that aggravate environmental phenomena with consequences that are more and more devastating on the lives of these rural populations. The issue of socioeconomic inequality in rural areas can become more relevant than environmental degradation when these people choose to leave their homes" (Canevaro, 2021: 115).

Natalia Gavazzo explains that "The Reconquista Area has a very strong organizational framework, since San Martín is the municipality with the most civil society organizations in the country, and most of them are led by women, who are the ones that are affected the most by climate change". An intersectional approach, proposed by postcolo-

nial feminism, enables us to shed some light on the links between the different overlapping forms of oppressions suffered by some groups, namely poor migrant women, who are victims of racial discrimination, and are urban popular-economy workers.

From the perspective of the Good Living paradigm, which is a departure from the logic of development as a capitalist, modern, Western model, it is necessary to understand that the preservation of what is common to us all is everyone's responsibility (Rivera Cusicanqui, 2015: 151). "Thus, harmony between the living beings, human and non-human, and the building of other forms of sustenance, are only possible under equal conditions" (Marqués and Roldán, 2020: 65).

TENTACULAR PRACTICES

Such egalitarian conditions imply a struggle for the defense and recovery of women's territory-body, as well as rethinking human exceptionalism and limited individualism. From the prism of community feminism, biologist Donna Haraway constructs the multispecies utopia of the "Chthuluceno" Era (2019), to oppose the Anthropocene Era, and to describe this time as the one in which humans and non-humans are inextricably linked by tentacular practices.

Chthulucene, Haraway explains, requires *sim-poiesis*, or doing-with, instead of *auto-poiesis*, or self-creation. According to the author, learning to

cope with the problem of living and dying together in a wounded land will favor a type of thinking that will provide the means to build more livable futures.

From a paradigm of responsibility, action focuses on collective doing: "it matters what ideas we use to think other ideas," the equivalent to "the tools of the master they never dismantle the house of the master" as Audre Lorde puts it (1979). Hybridization and doing-with enable us to think about migration as Haraway's *sim-poiesis*, a doing-with, instead of *auto-poiesis*, or auto-creation, characterized by a localist and self-centered perspective.

Uncovering the local impact of global effects in migrant populations, particularly in women and children, highlights the role that women assume as the caregivers for individuals, families, children and the environment.

The process of feminization of migration, which, according to the IOM (2019), reflects the fact that more and more women are migrating in an independent way rather than as a member of a household and are actively participating in the job market is a global phenomenon. These territories reflect both urban migration or countryside-city movements due to the effect of landslides or the advance of the soybean frontier, floods and droughts, the disappearance of family farming and the advance of large landowners, the depletion of the soil due to transgenic plantations, pollution of the water tables, among many other processes that are already occurring. These phenomena can and should be read in the key of environmental inequalities, to be re-politicized. Climate risk is a systemic risk, transversely impacted by develop-

ment, economic, racial and gender issues that require communal strategies from universities, private players, civil society organizations, as well as the State involvement in planning to ensure that mobility is safe, orderly and regular, respecting human rights.

The metaphor of tentacular practices can be used to refer to the construction of these networks. An example is the recent creation of the Diploma in Gender, Environment and Territory at the Institute of Higher Social Studies (IDAES by its acronym in Spanish) at UNSAM (National University of San Martín), as a synthesis and knowledge transfer, but also as an instance to value and recognize the production of knowledge and content in the territory. This training seeks to bring a cross-cutting perspective of gender and history to the analysis of social processes that is based on women's own practices and their organizations. Organized around a teaching methodology that pairs college professors and field referents from the territory, this course includes theoretical classes and practical workshops, both in the campus and in the territory and aims at rethinking the environment from a gender perspective, as well as the migrations and the organizational experiences in the Reconquista Area. "It has been designed from the point of view of Popular Pedagogy, where students are also educators. We are planning to share the results of our research of Women Migrant Project in the Reconquista Area, to discuss them, and create management tools for territorial projects," says Natalia Gavazzo.

Well-being does not start with an ideal environmental context, but with communities that put in motion strategies to improve people's well-be-

ing locally on a daily basis, and in that way, they modify the environment in which they live. The extractivist development model not only has direct implications for the environment, but also, and above all, for vulnerable populations that suffer its most immediate consequences. The environmental impact of the model has generated transformations in many everyday practices, which have not yet been analyzed in depth. "For example, family care-related activities, environmental management and relationships inside couples are transforming. New daily habits have been generated in relation to territory, the environment, the family, and gender relations" (Ullua, 2016: 130). One of the forms of violence that we see daily, expressed through the impacts of extractivism, is when Indigenous, Afro-descendant and peasant women are persistently stripped of the available common goods, and are forced to leave their territories.

The alternatives that migrant women weave together in the sacrificial territories they occupy are, basically, alternatives to economic dynamics derived from the modernity/coloniality relationship, which is currently expressed through extractive dynamics that involve the commodification of nature, and the appropriation of territories.

Resistance intersects alternative visions of the national development project, underpinning an exploitation-based matrix of nature, productivism, consumption and the culture of waste.

Reuse, and the very vision of garbage as a resource is part of a social and economic construction action that goes beyond the paradigm of consuming/discarding. Among the trucks that dumped garbage at the *Los Eucaliptus* neighborhood, at

one time, there was one that brought a load of wood. Susana says that with that wood, she assembled closets, and made furniture. "I made a lot of stuff for myself. I even used the wood for the floors, because at the time I had no floor. I would gather pieces of wood and put them together as best I could, and upstairs there was a carpet that we also brought from the dumping site." In times of flooding, some trucks loaded with rolls of cloth arrived: "Probably the rolls got damped at some store and the material rot. All that was thrown away in my neighborhood. Me and my neighbors said we were going "to the shopping mall", and we would take lots of fabrics that had been thrown away because they were all wet. It was a nice season, we enjoyed "going shopping."

Reusing, creating of alliances with territorial organizations, getting involved in leadership processes imply new cultural gender constructs and highlight the ethics of care and environmental justice. Focusing on social inclusion, the Good Living paradigm and feminist tentacular practices open the door to national development projects that contemplate protection of natural common goods, collective care strategies from community organizations and thinking about migration from its *sim-poiesis* potential, a doing-with others that contributes to the creation of more livable lives.

Judith Butler (2020) argues that an uninhabitable world means that destruction has triumphed. If a life is unlivable, it is because the conditions that made it livable have been destroyed.

The destruction of the Earth as a consequence of climate change turns the world into an uninhabitable place and reminds us of the need to set strict ethical limits to our way of living in the world. Human beings have better and worse ways to inhabit the world. Sometimes the world can only survive if the scope of human habitation is limited. Under climate change, imposing certain conditions on humans lays the foundation for a livable world.

"A life is not livable if the world is uninhabitable. Inhabiting a world is part of what makes a life livable. If humans inhabit the Earth without any care for biodiversity, without stopping climate change, without limiting CO2 emissions, we are producing an uninhabitable world." (Butler, 2020). Turning the world back into a livable world requires action by the State and also community organizations that, anchored in traditional knowledge, in sustainable practices, and in migrant and local women's leadership continue applying resilience strategies and re-appropriating territories for community enjoyment of natural goods, which are collective.

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LEGAL PROTECTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRANTS: BETWEEN THE DISCRETIONAL PARADIGM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Camila Wanda Landeyro

INTRODUCTION

Migration is a human activity that has existed since ancient times, even before the formation of States. Today, despite living in a globalized world, human mobility is limited and regulated through legal systems and regulations passed by States. Given this, the UN has as one of its fundamental objectives to achieve cooperation and participation of States in the management and governance of international migration.

Currently, one of the challenges facing the international community is the management of migra-

tions due to environmental reasons. In this regard, South American countries must cope with the environmental effects deriving from the economic development model prevailing in their extractive economies, which is starting to show symptoms of depletion of natural resources through processes such as droughts, desertification and flooding.

That is why we propose to explore and examine non-binding international agreements on environmental migration and the legal protection deriving from the extra-conventional human rights mechanism.

Before we start, we consider that it is essential to underscore that in this article we will use the term “environmental migrant” to refer to any dis-

placement that occurs outside the borders of a State, whether forced or voluntary, either due to the consequences of climate change¹ or due to factors connected to environmental degradation (IOM, 2021: 246).

Another definition that is significant to us for analytical purposes is also suggested by the International Organization for Migration (2019: 129). It refers to migrants for environmental reasons, such as sudden and/or gradual changes in the environment that negatively affect their lives, forcing them to leave their habitual place of residence — temporarily or permanently — to move internally within their country or abroad.

HUMANITARIAN VISAS: A RESPONSE TO THE PHENOMENON OF PEOPLE MOVEMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS

As we have pointed out, environmental degradation constitutes a factor that causes people displacement of people inside and outside State border. Therefore, reception States have responded

to this situation by granting special visas to those who cannot stay or return to the State of origin due to the effects of climate change or environmental degradation (IOM, 2021:157).

Next, we will see how Argentina and Brazil have responded to the management of humanitarian crises due to environmental factors.

ARGENTINA

In 2004, Argentina passed Migration Act #25,871 change², which meant a breakthrough in the management and regulation of migrations. This law includes as its central axis regarding migration the Human Rights paradigm change³ (Novick, 2004).

Article 4 of the Migration Act recognizes that “the right to migration is an essential and inalienable right of persons, and Argentina guarantees it on the basis of the principles of equality and universality.”

The Law stipulates that any foreign person who intends to reside regularly in Argentina must apply for recognition of any of the categories included in the text: Permanent residence (Art. 22), Temporary residence (Art. 23) or Transitory residence (Art. 24).

1 Although we consider that climate migrants are within the category of environmental migrants, we mention the definition proposed by the International Organization for Migration (219:129) which includes any movement by “a person or group of people who, predominantly due to sudden or progressive changes in the environment, owing to the effects of climate change, are forced or choose to leave their place of habitual residence, either temporarily or permanently, within a State or by crossing an international border.”

2 Migration Act #25,871 was regulated by Executive Order No. 616/2010. Both normative texts can be consulted in the official search engine of Argentine legislation: <http://www.infoleg.gob.ar/>.

3 Universal access to the right to health (art. 6 and 8), education (art. 6) and access to justice (art. 6) is recognized, regardless of administrative status in the country.

In the case of transitory and temporary residences, as provided in Article 25, those who are admitted under this category “may stay in the territory of Argentina during the period authorized, and any due extensions granted, and they must leave upon expiration of said term.”

Article 24 of the Migration Act regulates the different reasons why a person can apply for temporary residence.⁴ In turn, Regulatory Executive Order 16/2010 in the last paragraph of the article establishes that “the situation of those persons who, despite not requiring international protection, may temporarily not be able to return to their countries of origin because of the prevailing humanitarian conditions or due to sequences generated by natural disasters or man-made environmental conditions will be taken into account. To this end, recommendations not to return made by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) may be taken into account.”

However, neither the Act nor the Regulations establish a definition of what is considered consequences generated by natural or man-made environmental disasters, nor do they establish what specific protection these persons will have in the territory of Argentina, beyond regular residence.

In cases of international displacements due to environmental reasons, Argentina has opted for

granting temporary residences for humanitarian reasons (Art. 23, paragraph m).⁵

In this regard, we can mention the case of residences granted on humanitarian grounds to Haitian citizens implemented by the National Migration Agency (DNM by its acronym in Spanish) through Provision 1143-E/2017⁶ in order to contribute to the humanitarian aid that Haiti needed after two natural disasters: first an earthquake in 2010 and then Hurricane Matthew in 2016, which led to the displacement of thousands of persons.

On the other hand, on May 19, 2022, through Provision 891/2022, the DNM created a *Special Program to grant humanitarian visas to nationals and residents of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean who had suffered displacement due to socio-natural disasters*.

In Article 2, this Program establishes that a socio-natural disaster is “a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society on any scale due to natural phenomena interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, and causing one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.” Specifically, two natural phenomena are mentioned, which allow you to apply for this residence: “(a) Hydrometeorological: hurricanes, tornadoes, extreme rainfall and flooding; (b) Ge-

4 Among the reasons mentioned in the article are people who come for tourism, passengers in transit, neighbor border transit, international transport crew members, seasonal migrant workers, academics, people who need to receive medical treatment and other special reasons to be considered by the Migration Agency as valid cause to grant this residence.

5 For more information go to <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/disposici%C3%B3n-891-2022-364999/text>.

6 To consult these provisions go to <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/disposici%C3%B3n-1143-2017-272890/texto>.

ophysical: earthquakes, tsunamis, rock/landslides, and volcanic emissions.”

The beneficiaries of the program⁷ obtain a temporary visa for humanitarian reasons for a period of three years which, once completed, will allow migrants to access a permanent residence.

BRAZIL

Unlike Argentina, in Art. 5 of its Federal Constitution Brazil (1988) establishes that equality between Brazilian citizens and migrants who reside in the territory of Brazil is guaranteed, thus recognizing fundamental rights (such as the right to life, to freedom, to equality, to security, to property, to work, freedom of movement within the territory, and the right to nationality in the case of sons and daughters of foreigners who are born in the territory of Brazil).

In 2017, the Federative Republic of Brazil⁸ enacted Act #13,445⁹ which establishes the principles¹⁰

that will govern its migration policy, which will be based-like Argentina’s- on the paradigm of human rights.

Said Act also indicates entry and permanence requirements that every person must fulfill to reside regularly in Brazil, as well as the grounds to initiate expulsion proceedings. Article 12 of Act #13,445 indicates the different visas that can be requested by a person who wishes to enter the territory of Brazil: visiting visas (Art. 13), temporary visa (Art. 14), diplomatic, official and courtesy visa (Art. 15). Within the temporary visas, visas based on humanitarian grounds may be granted to persons who are nationals of any country that are affected by environmental disasters (Art. 14, paragraph 3)¹¹.

The Executive Order regulating this law, in Article 145, states that it falls within the competence of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Labor to lay down by means of a joint act “the requirements which persons wishing to apply for a humanitarian residence permit, renewal of the term of residence, or a change to indefinite status need to comply with.”

7 The only persons eligible for the program are those from one of the countries in Central and Latin America mentioned in Article 3 of the Annex.

8 The Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil in article 22 paragraph 15 establishes that it is “the exclusive competence of the country to legislate on issues related to emigration and immigration, entry, extradition and expulsion of foreigners.

9 Regulated by Executive Order No 9.199/17. Both documents can be consulted online using the following link http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2015-2018/2017/lei/l13445.htm

10 Articles 3 and 4 of Act #13,445 establish the principles and human rights recognized for migrants that are the basis for this migration policy. Without making an exhaustive list, we can mention a. non-criminalization against immigration; b. humanitarian reception; c. guarantee of the right to family reunification for migrants and their spouse or partner and their children, as well as those relatives who depend on them; d. international cooperation in order to effectively guarantee the protection of the human rights of migrants; e. prohibition of expulsions; f. recognition of the best interests of migrant children and adolescents.

11 The article mentions other cases such as stateless persons, or those affected by situations of imminent institutional instability, armed conflict, serious violations of human rights or international humanitarian law, or other situations specifically contemplated by this regulation.

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL PROTECTIONS IN THE UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

Currently there is no human rights international treaty that explicitly addresses migration for environmental reasons. However, this is no reason to conclude that they are unprotected within the conventional human rights system.

In principle, any person who moves across borders receives the general protection derived from the two International Covenants on.

As stated in both Covenants, in Article 2, the fundamental rights¹² arising from both these instruments apply to any person who is under the jurisdiction of a State, regardless of citizenship status, or their administrative situation as a migrant.

Regarding the human rights of migrants, the International Convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families¹³ adopted by the General Assembly in its Resolution 45/158 dated December 18, 1990 is mentioned.

In Articles 1 and 2 it establish the scope of application, which only includes persons who move beyond the borders of their State due to employment reasons. This article does not mention displacements due to environmental or climatic factors as a cause, either independent or related to work factors.

Now, we must bear in mind that, at the same time, the United Nations System has recognized that international migration is multi-dimensional and multi-causal, and different reasons¹⁴ for people's decision to leave their place of origin may converge (IOM, 2021: 250). For example, displacement for environmental reasons could be connected to other factors causing displacement, such as economic, labor, family reunification and even cultural reasons.

Let's consider the case of those migrants whose places of origin suffer the destruction of natural resources used for economic subsistence of the society they belong to, due to the environmental effects. In this case, we will be in the presence of migration driven by both the environmental factor and the economic and labor factors, thus being under the International Convention on the protec-

¹² Regarding the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Argentina ratified both Covenants and their optional protocols, while in the case of Brazil, although they have ratified both instruments, they are yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

¹³ Among the fundamental and basic human rights enjoyed by migrants – regardless of the reason for their displacement– it is possible to mention, without being exhaustive: 1) the right to life, 2) prohibition of torture and cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, 3) guarantee of due process, 4) prohibition of collective expulsions, 5) freedom of expression, 6) the right to health, 7) the principle of non-refoulement to the country of origin when the life of the person is at serious and imminent risk, (8) the right to family reunification, (9) the principle of non-discrimination and equality. Currently this document has only been ratified by 57 States, including Argentina (Act #26,202) in 2007. The Federative Republic of Brazil is among the 130 States that have not ratified or signed the Convention.

¹⁴ When the effects of environmental deterioration produce the destruction of natural resources used for the economic subsistence of society, we will be in the presence of migration driven both by environmental and economic factors.

tion of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.¹⁵

Outside the conventional system of human rights, there have been debates within the United Nations system on this issue that generates global concern. As the IOM points out (2021: 251) migration has been included in the agenda of negotiations on climate change, as well as the implementation of the Paris Agreement by the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).¹⁶

Although it is not the purpose of this paper to perform a thorough analysis of the documents that are passed within the United Nations system in connection to environmental migrations, we consider it appropriate to mention the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

NEW YORK DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

On September 19, 2016, the UN General Assembly organized a High-Level Summit for Refugees and Migrants intended to improve the way in which the international community responds to big displacements of refugees and migrants.

At that Summit, the 193 Member States of the United Nations unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, through Resolution A/RES/71/1, where the States subscribed to a series of commitments with the aim of initiating, a process of intergovernmental negotiations (2016) that would culminate in the approval of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration at a conference held in 2018.¹⁷

15 We must bear in mind that the application of the aforementioned international instrument is favorable, because its application period and scope extends – according to article 1 paragraph 2 – to the entire migratory process that includes “preparation for migration, departure, transit and the entire period of stay and performance of a remunerated activity in the State of employment, as well as return to the State of origin or the State of habitual residence.” On the other hand, this scope applies not only to the migrant person, but also to their family. Article 4 mentions that the term “family members refers to persons married to migrant workers or who have a relationship with them which, according to applicable laws, produces effects that are equivalent to marriage, as well as dependent children and other dependents recognized as family members according to applicable laws or applicable bilateral or multilateral agreements between the States concerned.”

16 As significant antecedents, we can mention that the treatment of this issue has been included in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third World Conference on Financing for Development.

17 The antecedents for the Declaration are a series of initiatives such as Migrants in Countries in Crisis, and the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change adopted within the framework of the Nansen Initiative.

The Nansen Initiative follows the Conference on Climate Change and Displacement in the 21st Century held in Oslo in 2011. (Cubel, 2017:11) It is a joint proposal made in 2012 by Norway and Switzerland aiming at addressing the issue of displacement for environmental and climatic reasons in order to achieve an operational agenda among the States that are part of the international society, which includes in the future the figure of people displaced due to environmental factors in the refugee status of the Geneva Convention of 1951. On the other hand, as Cubel (2017: 13) points out, among its objectives this initiative includes agreements based on the cooperation of States in order to achieve a series of future actions to improve “the understanding and analysis of movements and displacements caused by environmental reasons”. The Nansen Initiative was included in the Sendai Framework for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2015 Paris Climate Change Summit and the 2016 Istanbul Humanitarian Summit, among other initiatives and forums.

The Declaration emerges from the discussions that have taken place among States that concluded that they are unable to manage this displacement by themselves. Therefore, given that migrant and refugee¹⁸ movements are a global phenomenon, what is required is a global approach and solution aimed at:

a. Address the problems faced by migrants.

To this end, it is proposed that, at the time of drawing up migration policies, the gender perspective, the superior interest of the child¹⁹, the principle of non-discrimination and intolerance towards all forms of racial and cultural discrimination, as well as the specific needs of groups in vulnerable situations should be taken into consideration. It is also indicated that the assessment and prevention of the risks migrants face in connection with human trafficking and smuggling networks, as well as labor exploitation in in-transit and reception States will be necessary.

b. The coordination and cooperation of the States involved in the migration process.

People movements mean that the obligations to protect their human rights fall on the States of origin, transit and reception, regardless of whether there is a regional agreement between them, or not. This means that States must enter commitments at the international level in order to achieve cooperation on prevention and management of migration policies relative to assistance and protection of the fundamental rights of migrants and refugees (paragraphs 11 and 12).

In the case of migrations due to climate change, environmental factors or natural disasters, it is emphasized that States should preventively deal with the causes that provoke or exacerbate great displacements²⁰, which in themselves constitute the fulfillment of the commitments entered into in connection with the subject matter of climate change.

To this end, States should strengthen international cooperation to improve training of border officers and exchange information on migration, bearing in mind age, gender and causes for displacement.

¹⁸ While acknowledging that there is a difference in the legal regime applicable to migrants and refugees, the two groups enjoy the same universal rights and fundamental freedoms, and face the same problems arising from forced displacement.

¹⁹ On this point, States are requested to review their regulatory and legislative systems in order to examine the cases that allow for the detention of migrants in irregular situations, so as to reconcile that with the best interests of migrant children and adolescents (paragraph 33).

²⁰ Although no definition as to what large displacements consist of is provided, a series of guidelines make it possible to differentiate these movements from the usual transit currents. To differentiate migrant displacements, take these points into account: a. the number of people on the move; the social, geographical and economic context; responsiveness on the part of the receiving State; and the impact of sudden or prolonged displacement.

THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

Among the objectives included in Annex II of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the importance of convening a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018 was underscored. Hence, in the Intergovernmental Conference on Migration in Marrakesh (Morocco), held on December 10, 2018, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration²¹ was adopted.

The objective of the Compact is to achieve a non-legally binding framework of cooperation that constitutes the basis for the commitments entered into by the Member States of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, thus enabling mechanisms for review, follow-up and monitoring of its compliance. It has been established, as a fundamental objective, that States²² cooperate in order to reach agreements that comprehensively address the risks and challenges facing people who migrate.

The Global Compact is made up of ten (10) guiding principles²³ that are transversal and interde-

pendent upon the twenty-three (23) objectives contemplated in the document.

In relation to migration due to environmental causes, the second objective establishes the following factors to be taken into account in the policies to be implemented:

- a. Preventing migration by boosting policies that enable people to live a peaceful, productive and sustainable life in their own countries without being forced into migration. This leads to States promoting and financing programs aimed at eliminating poverty, fostering food security, health, education, gender equality, girls and women empowerment, etc.; as well as monitoring and anticipating the evolution of environmental risks and threats that can trigger or having an impact on migratory movements.
- b. Honoring environmental and climate change commitments derived from the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Based on this covenants, States should adopt actions to have accurate information on migratory movements due adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation. Only by counting on reliable data on the subject can they sub-

21 Among the antecedents of the Compact that are mentioned in connection to environmental issues we can mention: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification (UNCCD), the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the New Urban Agenda, and the Declaration of the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD, 2013).

22 The spirit of the Covenant aims at protecting migration at every stage, as set out in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. This should ensure that the different States involved in a migration process (origin, transit and destination) establish international cooperation in order to reduce the dangers and risk factors facing migrants, especially those in vulnerable groups, such as women and children.

23 The principles on which the Covenant focuses are: a. Focus on the person; b. International cooperation; c. National sovereignty; d. Rule of Law and Procedural Guarantees; e. Sustainable development; f. Human rights; g. Gender perspective; h. Children Perspective; i. Pan-governmental approach; j. Pan-social approach.

sequently develop agreements for international cooperation aimed not only at mitigating, preventing and detecting the imminence of natural disasters in early stages, but also enter agreements with other countries to provide humanitarian assistance to persons displaced for environmental reasons.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EXTRA-CONVENTIONAL SYSTEM IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MIGRATION DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

When States enter commitments connected to the human rights of persons forced to displacement due to environmental reasons, it is relevant to analyze the protection of the extra-conventional mechanism²⁴ of the universal human rights sys-

tem, in particular, thematic rapporteurships.

The Human Rights Council²⁵ consists of public and confidential procedures. Public procedures are composed of a) General procedures and b) Special procedures, which as Villán Durán points out (2016:103)— comprise investigative bodies with various names and mandates, which may consist of geographical or thematic procedures.

The holders of the special public mechanisms are independent experts who act in their personal capacity, after being selected according to their academic background²⁶. Among the functions they have as holders of this mandate we can mention a. visit countries; b. receive messages or complaints about violations to human rights²⁷; c. make recommendations²⁸ to the States; d. submit an annual final report to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly. Another important function consists of processing urgent actions.

Any person²⁹ who files a complaint can request that the mandate holder demands that the State

24 The extra-conventional mechanism for the protection of human rights made its first appearance — as Salvioli (2019:97) explains— in 1946 by resolution 9 of the Economic and Social Council that created the Commission on Human Rights as a subsidiary body. Initially, the only functions assigned to it were the drafting and promotion of international human rights conventions. However, due to a context of decolonization in the '60s and the problems arising from racial discrimination in South Africa, in 1967 the Economic and Social Council approved Resolution 1235, in which the Commission was empowered to publicly examine human rights violations, including racial discrimination policies, segregation and apartheid.

As Viegas e Silva (2011:84) points out, it is at that point in time when extra-conventional procedures are born, to enable investigations on violation of human rights in UN member countries, regardless of whether they had ratified Conventions or not, since the legal instruments that constitute the basis of this mechanism are the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Thus, two protection mechanisms started to develop in parallel – conventional and extra-conventional – to allow States control in terms of Human Rights (Salvioli, 2019).

25 Subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly created by Resolution 60/251 to replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. As indicated in Resolution 60/251, the main objective of the Council is to examine situations where there are human rights violations and make recommendations thereon, as well as to promote human rights and conduct the Universal Periodic Review.

26 Thematic mandates have a duration of three years with the option to extend for another 3-year period, as decided by the Human Rights Council. However, even if the mandate is extended, the incumbent expert who holds the position should not remain in office for more than six years.

27 Communications or complaints about human rights violations that are submitted must be related to the geographical or thematic mandate. In turn, these can be submitted by individuals or groups of people.

28 The recommendations do not constitute a statement on the responsibility of the State, but indicate the measures to be adopted or the adaptation of regulations needed, until the modification of public policies aimed at guaranteeing human rights.

take prompt and immediate action for humanitarian reasons so that the imminent danger situation or the threat over the life or safety of persons ends or is made to cease (Salvioli, 2019: 104).

In reference to the subject matter of this article, there are two rapporteurships that we will mention below. First, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants was created in 1999 by the Commission on Human Rights through Resolution 1999/44. Since then, the mandate of this Special Rapporteur has been extended by successive resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights (the last update was Resolution 43/6).

As established by Resolution 43/6 this Rapporteur is authorized to request and receive information from all kinds of sources (private or public, as long as they meet the reliability requirement), including information coming from migrants themselves or their relatives on human rights violations that they themselves or their families have suffered; conduct country visits, for which the States should invite or allow the Special Rapporteur to visit their territories; and take urgent action.

In the resolution to determine jurisdiction of the mandate, it is indicated that the Special Rapporteur can ask for information about violations of human rights of Governments³⁰, treaty bodies, or other special rapporteurs, intergovernmental and

non-governmental organizations in order to raise awareness about the human rights violations suffered by migrants.

Among the final reports that have been submitted, it is worth mentioning the one drafted by Rapporteur François Crépeau³¹ in 2012. Based on his expertise, in order to deal with problems arising from migrations due to climate change, he considered that it was important to achieve regional or multilateral agreements where the States, together with the international financial institutions and agencies, cooperate—humanely and financially—to achieving a migration policy oriented to providing prevention and assistance to environmental migrants, specifically, to groups in specially vulnerable situations such as Indigenous peoples, women, and children and adolescents.³²

Rapporteur François Crépeau also pointed out that any agreement aimed at orchestration of policies intended to assist environmental migrants, cannot leave aside and ignore environmental commitments undertaken by the States with respect to the reduction of greenhouse gases and the development of sustainable economic projects, from the ecological and social point of view.

Secondly, on October 8, 2021, by means of Resolution 48/14, the Council on Human Rights decided to create a *Rapporteurship on the promotion*

29 In this system, non-governmental and civil society organizations can also file complaints, participate in visits to States and follow up on recommendations to the States.

30 The resolution establishes that States are obliged to cooperate with the Rapporteur, either by providing the information requested, by allowing them to enter their territory, or by adopting the recommendations made to them, especially in cases where human rights victims request urgent action.

31 A/67/299. This report includes a thematic section on Migration and Climate Change.

32 It is relevant to note that, at the time when this mandate was created, the Human Rights Council pointed out that, although climate change affects people living around the world, there are certain individuals and groups that are most exposed, including migrants, women, and children.

*and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.*³³

Despite the limitations that this mandate has, it turned out to be very important, since it seeks to contribute to the compliance with international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 2030 Agenda, aimed at mitigating and reducing the effects of climate change, especially its impact on the human rights of certain vulnerable groups such as migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, women, children, and Indigenous peoples, among others.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Argentina and Brazil have responded to migration crises due to environmental reasons by granting residence/humanitarian visas, which are dependent upon elective decisions on the part of the State migration authorities, and on the requirements set forth by the regulations in force. Likewise, in the United Nations System, it is possible to find declarations and covenants that, despite not being legally binding in the proposed topic, constitute relevant precedents that must be taken into account by the States when it comes to adopting contingency plans to deal with migration due to environmental reasons.

However, it is essential that States work together, with a forward-looking perspective, in agreements and programs that comprehensively address compliance with migrant human rights, as well as the obligations arising from commitments on climate change.

Currently, the presence of thematic rapporteurships covering the issue of migration due to environmental reasons is a major step forward. However, this mechanism faces time constraints, and its continuity is dependent upon the decision of the Human Rights Council.

That is why it is essential to continue working in order to achieve long-term commitments, which are legally-binding and are geared towards the construction of an interstate system for data collection that ensures accuracy regarding how many and what people migrate due to environmental factors. To this end, the countries of origin and reception should process the data taking into account gender, ethnicity and racial identity, in order to take into consideration the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations.

On the other hand, we cannot fail to point out that these proposals must be accompanied by the creation of an interstate monitoring system that enables us to analyze the difficulties States face to host environmental migrants in connection to access to fundamental rights, such as housing, employment, health and education, in order to enable the construction migratory policies that are not limited to the granting of humanitarian residences, but that enable the development of a life project with dignity and equality.

³³ Argentina and Brazil are among the countries that voted in favor of its creation.

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