



International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)

Nearly four years have passed since the first-ever internationally negotiated UN agreement on a common approach to managing international migration was adopted by the UN General Assembly, following a two year process of consultation and negotiations. Although the “**Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**” (GCM) is not a legally binding agreement, a review process is built into it, and the first “**International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)**” took place in New York from 17-20 May 2022. Discussions focused on progress in the implementation of the 23 Action proposals with a view to identifying the gaps and the challenges impacting implementation as well as the sharing of good practices developed in the context of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. A **Progress Declaration** was agreed by consensus and adopted by the UN General Assembly by acclamation.



In a recent meeting of the **NGO Committee on Migration**, some positive factors of the Declaration were highlighted:

- Points raised by NGOs and the **Civic Society Action Coalition** during negotiations were incorporated, leading to a strengthening of the **Political Declaration**
- **Climate change was seen as a ‘risk-multiplier’** and the displacement and environmental degradation related to it were widely acknowledged as being a major factor driving migration. It requires urgent attention.
- The **Progress Declaration** was adopted by consensus in the **UN General Assembly**, despite the fact that five countries (including the United States) had voted against the Global Compact in 2018.
- There is clear reference to regularizing the situation of **irregular migrants** and the need for **international protection measures for migrants’ rights** is recognized.
- The significance of **racism and wage theft is acknowledged** and the need for **pathways leading to the regularization of migrants** is recognised.

Did you know that?

- Current global estimates indicate that there were **281 million international migrants in 2020**, representing **3.6 %** of the global population.
- Over the last 12 years, extreme weather has forced an average of **21.5 million people** a year to move.
- **UNHCR** data reveals that, over the last decade, weather-related crises have triggered **more than twice as much displacement as conflict** and violence:
- According to the **UN Migration Agency**, **1,146 people** died attempting to reach Europe by boat from January to June 2022.
- Despite COVID lockdowns and related job losses, remittances sent back by international migrants to family members in their country of origin in 2020 amounted to \$702 billion. This is **4.4 X** the total value of **Official Development Assistance**.

Some of the gaps that were identified were: No clear progress was made on the issue of ending detention of migrant children. Inadequate attention paid to opening up protecting safe pathways for migrants. Ensuring migrants’ labor rights remains a major concern. The lack of adequate opportunities for Civil Society to engage with Governments during the Review Forum was regretted. Inadequate attention paid to opening up protecting safe pathways for migrants. ➡ [Watch a short video](#)

➡ [And another ...](#)

CARITAS – Protecting People and Planet

The hybrid side event co-organized by **CARITAS Internationalis** at the IMRF focused on the theme “**The Cross Cutting Call**



to Protect People and Planet”. A panel of speakers stressed the integrated approach needed to address migration and displacement and called for special protection status for those impacted by climate change. Good practices shared by **CARITAS Papua New Guinea and Caritas Zimbabwe** highlighted the important role of strengthening community resilience, building on traditional knowledge systems, investing in local products rather than dependence on external resources and strengthening capacity of family farmers. The importance of developing of early warning systems and building preparedness for extreme weather events (such as **Cyclone Idai in 2019**) was also highlighted. In her summary at the end of the event, Maria Amparo from CI noted ‘that migration must always be a choice, not a necessity. There is need to build bridges and break down walls. ➡ [Read more....](#)

Laudato Si Week 2022 -

May 22 - 29 marked the 7th anniversary of **Laudato Si** with reflections, prayers and calls to action on the theme “**Journeying Together**”. Webinars addressed such sub-themes as of **Biodiversity loss**, **Empowering Eco-community** and **Faith-consistent Investing**, - many of which are currently at the heart of the inter-faith response to the climate crisis.



➔ See [recordings and prayer/reflection](#) resources

Faith For Earth

For more than 80% of humanity, spiritual beliefs and values are seen to be the main drivers for individual behavior as well as social, and political engagement. In 2008, the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** passed a resolution calling for the “promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace”. Since then, the UNGA has encouraged the promotion of interreligious dialogue, with a view to building mutual tolerance and understanding.



The important role played by faith-based organisations in working with people at the local level in eradicating poverty, improving people’s health and protecting the environment has been increasingly recognized by the UN. In 2017, the **Faith for Earth initiative** was officially launched by the **UN Environment Programme** with the mission to “encourage, empower and engage with faith-based organizations as partners, at all levels, toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilling the 2030 Agenda”. It draws from the strength of the growing global interfaith movement that is increasingly bringing people together to protect and sustain life on Earth and has as its core vision a world where everything is in balance. A valuable inter-faith publication was launched at an event during the recent UN Environmental Assembly.

➔ Learn more re [Faith for Earth](#) ➔ [Read the Update](#) ➔ [Watch a video...](#)



RSHM News briefs

★ For the last 7 years, the **UISG** has sponsored a project to respond to the **needs of migrants**, with the creation of two inter-congregational communities in Sicily. Initially the focus was on the emergency needs of migrants, welcoming and accompanying them as they reached the Sicilian coasts and helping to build bridges of understanding with the local people. As the project evolved, the mission has evolved to a need for a mission of advocacy and integration. At beginning of May, **Sr. Ines Gizzarelli RSHM** joined the community in Lampedusa where she is now based in the name of all **RSHM**.



The next edition of *News from the UN* will feature the **UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon**.

★ In May 2022, the class of **Atmospheric Science** at **Mary-mount School of New York** published the results of the 2022 global survey that they had undertaken on **Youth Perspectives on Climate Change**. Following an earlier survey undertaken by the school five years ago they sought to analyse what factors influence a teenager’s perspective on the crucial issue of climate change and the extent to which opinions had changed. Comparing their results with the responses received five years ago, they found a small increase in the percentage of teenage respondents attributing the changes to human activity. Scientific research, the internet, social media and teachers influence students’ beliefs on global warming and climate change. Support for a **carbon tax** increased significantly from 2017.



★ 8th and 9th grade students from **Colegio Sagrado Coração de Maria, Fatima** participated in the **Youth Assembly of Ourém** on May 24th, exercising their active citizenship in the Municipal District. With the theme “**Water, spend less, save more!**”, their project was voted the best proposal of those offered for debate in the Youth Assembly. Built into their project were constructive ideas and proposals including the installation of touchless faucets and showers in public buildings and improvement of the quality and efficient use of fountains and ponds with better and more effective integration into the surrounding landscape. Rejoicing in the award and commenting on its significance, Professor Eliana noted that “*It is also a symbol of the civic and global awareness that we instill in our students*”. ➔ [Read more....](#)

Distribution

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