

# Migration related to climate change

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# Climate change

## Main causes:

- Greenhouse gas emissions;
- Deforestation

## Impacts on:

- Health;
- Food;
- Water;
- Security;
- Productivity;
- Socio-economics;
- Politics

These impacts can potentially lead to the **migration** of individuals or of entire communities and mostly concern vulnerable people.

## Migrant



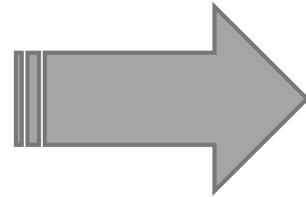
***“any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country.”***

However, this definition has to be determined depending on state policies. Every country has its own different concept of who is a migrant.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of:

- 1) The person's legal status;
- 2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary;
- 3) what the causes for the movement are;
- 4) what the length of the stay is.
- 5) International migration can be classified depending on the duration and on the reason of the movement.

The rising of sea levels,  
melting Arctic  
permafrost,  
desertification and  
other violent weather  
patterns



Force men, women and children to move

International  
migrants

173 million in 2000

220 million in 2010

258 million in 2017

200 million people are expected to be displaced by **climate change** by 2050

IOM describes Environmental migrants as:

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**“persons or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad”.**

## ... but are these displaced persons, migrants or refugees?

The term «**climate refugee**» does not exist in international law, therefore cannot be provided with international protection, including legal status and resettlement/integration solutions.

People forced to migrate by climate change are not recognized by UNHCR as climate refugees, but rather as «**persons displaced in the context of disasters and climate change**».

Although UNHCR does not endorse the term «climate refugee», it does however recognize that «climate, environmental degradation and natural disasters increasingly interact with the drivers of refugee movements».

Immigrants are forced to leave their homeland due to «pull» or «push» factors.

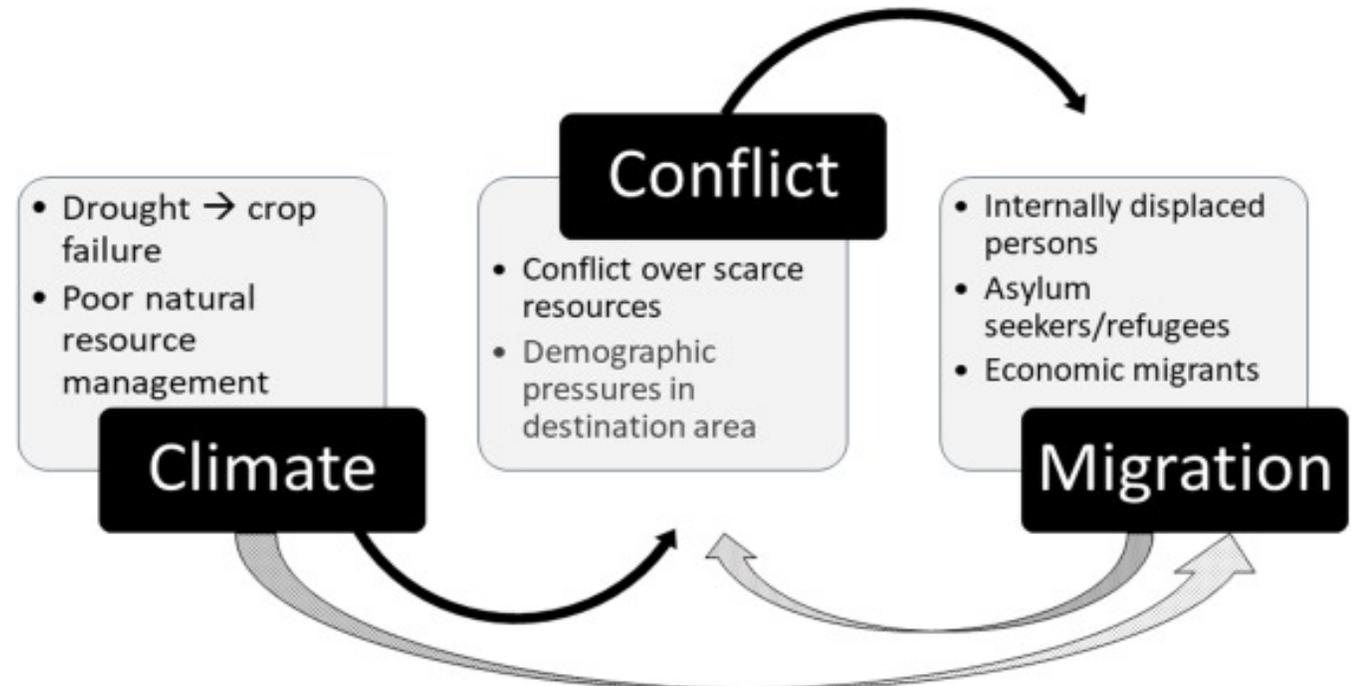
5 groups of factors which can be identified as environmental push elements



The IDMC reports 28 million newly displaced people due to conflict and disasters across 148 countries and territories during the year 2018.

Environmental migrants, compared for example to economic migrants, are more likely to remain in the country of origin, simply moving from the areas stricken by natural disasters to the nearest cities in search of a new livelihood or shelter whether this be permanent or temporary.

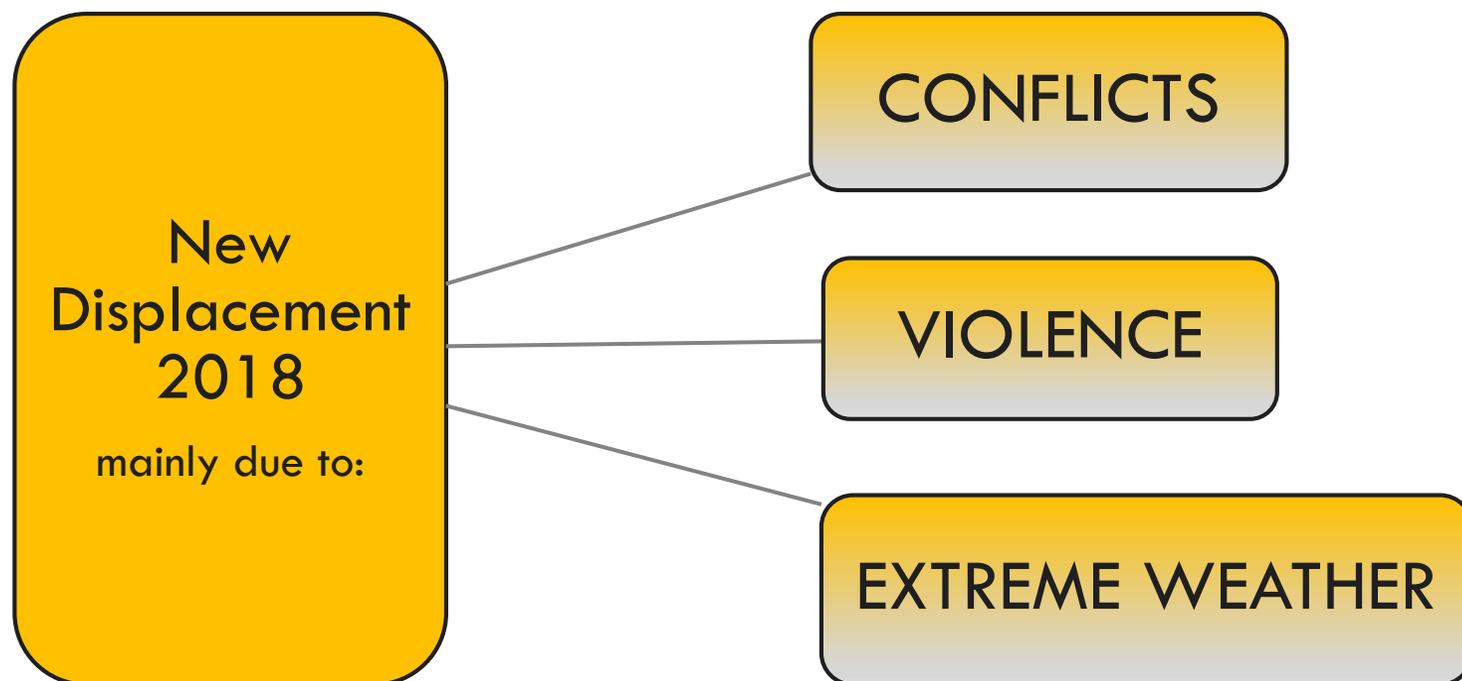
Human movements may follow conflicts but also conflicts may result from human mobility.



The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimates a total of 41.3 million people living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence as at the end of 2018.

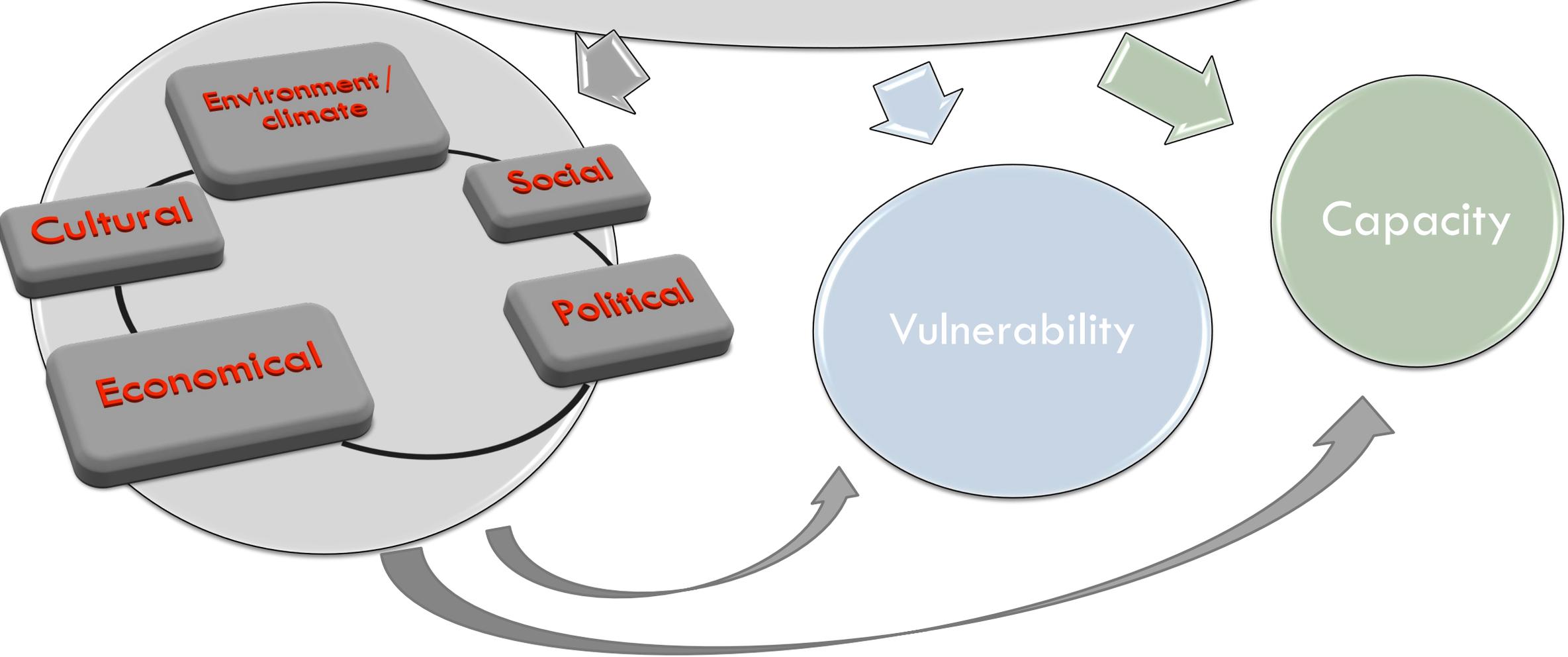
30.9 million people are located in just ten countries, including Syria, Colombia and the DRC.

The number of people who were displaced as a result of disasters that occurred in 2018 remains unknown.

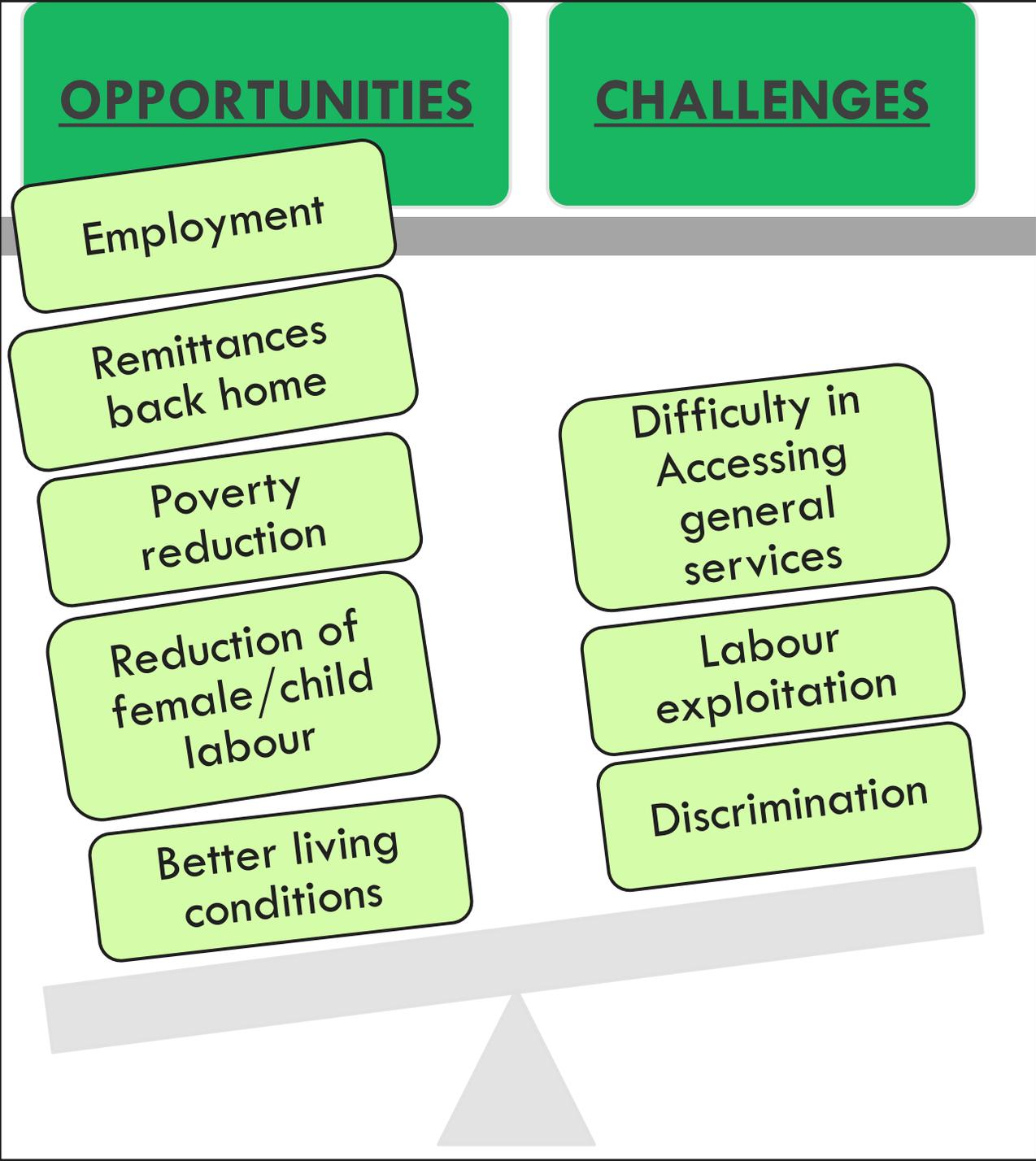
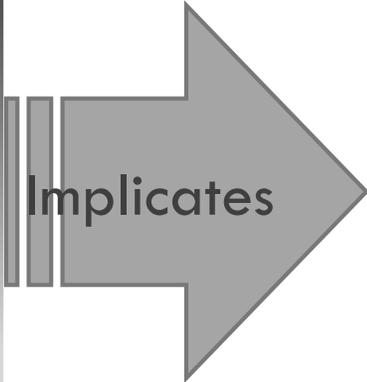


The migrant is seen by the local population as «**the other**» who poses a **threat** and becomes a **competitor** for jobs, shelter, food, water and other resources.

Interconnected factors that influence environmental migration



Migration as  
an  
**adaptation  
strategy**



The impact of climate change varies depending on social categories.

## Women

Responsible for food & water collection, agriculture, family care

More likely than men to lack education and ID documents (therefore have no access to financial aid and no possibility to migrate abroad)

Subject to abuse and gender discrimination

## Children

May be separated from their families

Vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation, abuse...

May have negative impacts on health, education, economic status...

## Elderly/Disabled

Difficulty in obtaining necessary aid and health care

Vulnerable to neglect and marginalization

According to IOM:

Environmental factors must be integrated across all areas of migration management, such as:

- prevention,
- preparedness and response to displacement,
- border management,
- labour migration and integration,
- and return and reintegration.

The immigration phenomenon will never be presented with reliable and definite data as there are too many uncontrollable flows to make a definitive picture at a certain point in time.

Although this type of migration may have negative aspects, it usually has a more positive overall outcome than normally believed. Those who leave the place of origin may only opt for temporary migration and send remittances to the family left behind helping them financially to adapt successfully to the changes in the living conditions in the place of origin.

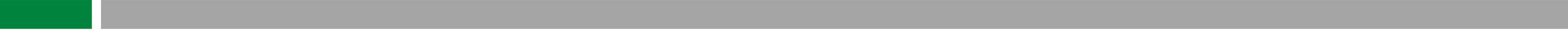
## What will happen in the future?

There are no certainties, but only forecasts.

Several factors that will influence the degree of impact that climate change as a driver may have on future forced migration are:

- The quantity of future greenhouse gas emissions;
- The rate of future population growth and distribution;
- The meteorological evolution of climate change;
- The effectiveness of local and national adaptation strategies.

The climate change and migration phenomena we are facing today can be coped with through **mitigation** and **adaptation strategies** that are launched by governments and institutions. Furthermore, migration should not be seen as an emergency but rather as a long-term change in the geopolitical and demographical structure which will affect the upcoming decades.



**Thank-you for your attention!**