ADDRESSING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MIGRANTS’ RIGHTS

1. TAKE AMBITIOUS MEASURES
Take ambitious action to mitigate climate change in accordance with the Paris Agreement in order to prevent its impacts from worsening and reduce its role as a driver of human mobility.
Address the impacts of climate change on the enjoyment of all human rights through adaptation measures that benefit the most vulnerable, facilitate safe and voluntary movement, and minimize forced movement, including through strengthened social protection systems.

2. INFORMED PARTICIPATION
Ensure the meaningful, effective and informed participation of all persons, and especially women, in decision-making processes related to climate change and mobility.
For communities displaced from their traditional territories due to climate change, empower them to make decisions about their futures and, to the greatest extent possible, ensure their continued access to traditional lands, resources and livelihoods.

3. PROMOTE SAFE MIGRATION PATHWAYS
Promote and expand safe, regular, dignified and accessible pathways for human mobility that respect and protect the rights of persons affected by climate change, including through specific protection mechanisms.
Facilitate the integration of climate change-related migrants in host communities.
Regularize their legal status and their access to labour markets.

4. REFRAIN FROM RETURNING MIGRANTS
Refrain from returning migrants to territories affected by climate change that can no longer sustain them.
Uphold the fundamental principle of non-refoulement and other international human rights law obligations.
Provide protection for persons who are unable to return to their homes as a result of climate change.

5. ADDRESS DATA GAPS
Address data gaps through collection of disaggregated data related to the drivers of human movement and to measure the adverse effects of climate change.
Conduct human rights impact assessments of climate change and climate actions.
Enhance monitoring, review and technical support by human rights mechanisms on the issue of climate change-related cross-border movement.

WHAT CAN WE DO?
All persons are rights-holders regardless of migration status. All States have ratified at least one international human rights treaty. States have the obligation to take measures to mitigate climate change and prevent its negative impacts on human rights, to ensure all persons have the capacity and means to adapt; and to ensure accountability and effective remedies for harms caused by climate change.

Let’s promote a human rights-based approach to climate action and migration, which addresses the needs of people affected by climate change and protects their rights before, during, and after migration!