

**Online Workshop hosted by the University of Calabria**  
**Climate Change and Migration in Euro-Med Region:**  
**Researches, Practices, Policies**  
**June 21-22, 2021**

**Opening Session, 21 June 2021**

**Chair: Carmit Lubanov, AEJI – Opening words**





**In the frame of the Project of Anna Lindh Foundation:  
"CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION IN EURO-MED REGION:  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE"**

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**INTERNATIONAL ONLINE WORKSHOP**  
**HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CALABRIA**

**Climate Change and Migration in Euro-Med Region:  
Researches, Practices, Policies**

## Opening Session, 21 June 2021 | Chair: Carmit Lubanov, AEJI

### Opening words

I am honored to be here, on the occasion of the international Workshop on Climate Migration host by University of Calabria.

The roots of this workshop are back about 3 years ago – when a small group from Israel together with colleagues from Africa, Nigeria and Cameroon, established a forum on cross-continental climate migration and the Mediterranean. We were then members of international climate working group, formed after the Paris Agreement.

The days of summer 2018 were of the international process of formation the Global Compact - for the first time having a potential to cause, in our view, a **significant paradigm shift**.

The 'Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration' (GCM), signed in New York on December 2018, seeks to cover “all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner”.

It is an intergovernmental negotiated agreement which is legally non-binding but - **opens a window for a stronger anchoring climate-induced migration** into the international migration discourse and agenda.

So, we thought there is no better time to bring the issue of climate migration – Officially to be part of Migration accord.

Unfortunately, we were not able to convince the heads of the Global Compact of the importance of raising the climate migration as part of the crowded discourse of migration back only 2,3 years ago.

But - to my delight, three years later - and ***the discourse is already changing***.

Although 'Climate migration' is not yet a legal term recognized by international institutions, but we are making constant progress - and the workshop here is hosting distinguished representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

In recent years, scientific knowledge is expanding, partnerships between organizations and various stakeholders are being woven.

The current project is an expression of this progress. Anna Lindh Foundation, an important stakeholder in the Euro-Med region, is a partner in this learning process, and we thank them for choosing the project and support this workshop.

Civil society organizations from Tunisia and Albania, Malta and Israel and 2 universities from Italy have joined forces to expand research, drive discourse, and raise social, intercultural, economic and political contexts for recent few months.

Just last Friday, the UN's annual report on the state of refugees in 2020 was published. The situation is concern.

Only in the context of "**forced displacement**" the year of 2020 was the 9<sup>th</sup> year of a steady rise of forced displacement around the world.

The rate of displaced persons in the world stands at 1%, and the number of forced displaced persons today is double in a decade, reach more than 40 million.

The efforts should be devoted to solutions. Sustainable Solutions.

To myself it is clear that the **climate here is not only in the 'active role' of inducing migration - but also, should play major role to drive solutions to the migration crisis – with understanding that solution for migration be within the framework of climate adaptation strategies for the long term.**

I would like to conclude my part here - and for a brief second to take you to a far distant history, when one of the probably first recorded crisis of climate migration was when the people of Israel, in the bible time, had to go down to Egypt because of a severe drought in Israel and the biblical Order became to be since then, to a universal message:

Leviticus 19:33-34: "***When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt***"

Thank you, and looking forward the interesting research, views and positions to be discussed in the next 2 days".

*Carmit Lubanov, Israel*