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Opening Remarks by Ms. Rabab Fatima

Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least  
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Small Island Developing States





Projections indicate a dramatic increase in climate change-induced migration in the coming decades, with estimates suggesting that by 2050, 1.2 billion people, roughly 13% of the world's population, could be displaced.

The repercussions of climate displacement are not confined to the individuals and communities affected -- they also extend to the countries and regions hosting them.

Climate migrants encounter numerous challenges and risks during their journeys and at their destinations, including physical dangers, psychological distress, social exclusion, as well as economic and legal hardship.

Confronting this urgent and complex issue demands a comprehensive, human-centric approach.

Solutions already exist in frameworks like the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.





Excellencies, Colleagues,

COP28 marks an important stop on our way to two major UN conferences next year. Firstly, the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Antigua and Barbuda in May, and secondly, the Third International Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Rwanda in June.

As Special Adviser for the SIDS Conference, and Secretary-General for the LLDCs Conference, I look forward to ensuring the widest possible coalition of support for these conferences, where climate action will be high on the agenda.

As I conclude, I would like to express my sincere thanks once again for your presence here today, and your support for this event.

Our discussions today, and those that will follow in the coming months, will play a crucial role in advancing the dialogue,

turning pledges and commitments into meaningful action for the world's most vulnerable countries.

Let me rest it here.

I thank you for your kind attention.