

## **IOM 114<sup>th</sup> High Level Segment Video Message**

Good morning.

Let me tell you about Houa.

Houa is from Cameroon. There she lived with her people.

The rains started falling less and less, the land became drier and drier, and the people had to take their cattle further and further away to drink.

Until they came to an area with streams.

Streams used by another people for fishing.

It started with name calling.

Soon there was physical violence.

It ended with murder. Houses and people burned. Women and children killed.

Houa fled the violence, along with 30,000 others.

Climate change brings storms, floods, disasters.

Disasters bring poverty, misery, hunger.

Hunger brings conflict, violence, war.

So it's time to start talking about climate change and migration.

Drought in the Horn of Africa caused displacement of nearly 3 million people.

Floods in Pakistan forced 10 million people on the move.

Wildfires displaced 150,000 people in France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Last year 32 million people became internally displaced. Because of floods, storms, droughts and wildfires.

Climate change will make things worse.

Today, around 3.5 billion people live in areas at high risk of climate change. Asia and Africa are especially exposed.

Rising sea levels could put between 10 and 100 million people at risk of displacement.

And the world's most fragile areas are most at risk.

The World Bank predicts climate change could displace more than 200 million people by 2050.

We must address the causes of climate change and effects of climate change.

The causes with the Green Deal, the EU's ambitious climate package. And we must empower people to help them adapt to a changing climate.

The European Union supports the most affected regions. With targeted relief and by fostering strategies to help people adapt.

We were one of the first to set up big programmes on climate change and displacement. For example in Somalia.

And we are the world's biggest donor of climate finance.

30 per cent of our development and cooperation funds support climate goals. One third of global public climate finance comes from the European Union and its Member States.

And we need to counter irregular migration and promote instead regular migration.

Today we present proposals for new EU rules to step up the fight against smugglers.

I am not with you in person because – as we speak – I am hosting a conference to strengthen global efforts against smugglers.

And I am working to improve legal pathways for migration.

All of our societies need green skills to cope with climate change. Skills to design, build and repair solar panels and wind turbines.

In my home country, Sweden, there are severe shortages of skilled people to produce the batteries needed in electric cars.

Upskilling and reskilling will not be enough. We need migration.

As part of our overall strategic migration management we are building talent partnerships with key countries. And two weeks ago we launched a talent pool. So people can come to Europe to learn new skills and EU companies can find skilled staff from abroad.

To the IOM I say: Thank you for putting climate change on the global migration agenda.

It's also high on the EU agenda. This year we organised a major conference on climate and migration. And chaired the Platform on Disaster Displacement.

We can only manage migration together. We can only tackle climate change together. We need to put climate change at the heart of our cooperation on migration.

