



**RE: 2019 Economic and Social Council High Level Segment (HLS):
'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'**

**Written Statement from the Anglican Consultative Council,
July 2019**

The global Anglican Communion is playing a significant role in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals and “leaving no one behind”. Globally, Anglicans and Anglican agencies are delivering health and education services, supporting access to birth registration, welcoming refugees and internally displaced people into their communities, reducing child and maternal mortality, and helping turn the tide on HIV/AIDS and other diseases. In places of instability and conflict, churches are often among the only institutions left providing hope and relief to those in need.

The tragedy of forced displacement is a crisis that compels us to work together in innovative ways. The trauma experienced by the world’s 68.5 million forcibly displaced people, including 40 million internally displaced people, speaks to our common humanity and urges us to take meaningful action. Climate change is an existential threat to peace and security, human rights, economic prosperity and cultural and ecological preservation, especially in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Given the increasing likelihood of irreversible damage to the most vulnerable nations, confronting climate-induced displacement must be an urgent priority for international and inter-governmental action and is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. We urge member states to resolve the uncertain status of people displaced by climate change under international law, which existing international agreements have failed to achieve.

Mitigating the repercussions of climate-induced displacement, including loss of culture, history, sovereignty and identity, and increased risks of conflict, must also be prioritized. In addressing climate-induced displacement, we must listen to the voices of local and marginalized communities, particularly indigenous communities and women and girls, to understand how best to respond to their specific needs.

The churches, agencies, and networks of the Anglican Communion are already addressing these challenges by responding to disasters and building local resilience through Church Community Mobilization and an ‘asset-based community development’ process. Partnerships with faith actors, rooted in local communities, are vital in supporting groups affected by climate-induced displacement. The Goals under review at the 2019 High Level Political Forum remind all stakeholders that embracing a holistic approach to Agenda 2030 is important if we are to address the most pressing challenges of our world today.

In the spirit of “empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality,” the Anglican Consultative Council urges Member States to:

1. Adopt and implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and prioritize reporting on its implementation through Voluntary National Reviews

2. Scale-up and speed up implementation of an integrated approach to climate-induced displacement, using international agreements such as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees, and other human rights instruments within the 2030 Agenda
3. Ensure that civil society, including churches and other faith-based organizations, is guaranteed an active, substantive and meaningful role in decision-making, planning, implementation and evaluation, to ensure accountability and to leave no one behind in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.