Integrated Approaches to Human Migration/Mobility in an Era of Rapid Global Change

Call Theme:
We solicit proposals that contribute to an integrated systems approach to accurately characterize migration and mobility and its intersection with Global Change, both closely related and intersecting phenomena. Successful proposals will focus on illuminating the determinants of migration - why people move, do not move, from and to where and when, and on what time scale, in relation to Global Change processes like environmental and climate change, demographic changes, consumption patterns, energy use and land-use. Exploration of dependencies, linkages, and / or impacts between Global Change, migration and mobility, human constructs, social science and humanities approaches, and other studies are encouraged. Within this theme, there are three areas to consider including (1) data and methodology, (2) policy, and (3) human-centric approaches that integrate human perspectives and needs in all steps and aspects of a project and beyond.

Migration and mobility inherently involves people and their wellbeing. Early studies have demonstrated a differential impact of gender, geography, and age, on migration and mobility factors which differs in many situations and reduces the ability to predict movement, address negative impacts, and develop sound, well-considered policies. It has the potential to allow people to adapt to global change, and yet global change is expected to create further barriers to immobility among the most vulnerable, leaving people further at risk for displacement or trapped in untenable situations. In this call, we solicit projects that put human well-being at the center of the analysis of migration and mobility determinants, under conditions of Global Change.

Approaches for investigating migration and mobility span environmental and climate science, development studies, political science, international relations, and social sciences at large. Bringing together experts from these areas to research the complex system of Global Change and migration and mobility is critical to developing integrated systems approaches that improve evidence production, public and policy debate, and decision-making.

Background and Rationale-
Human migration and mobility have been touted as a cooperative exchange opportunity between home and host societies, a security threat, an opportunity for development, an indicator of social welfare and human rights, and as a strategy for adapting to the impacts of climate change. Global change – including environmental and climate change, demographic changes, consumption patterns, energy use and land-use changes, pandemics, economic and financial crises – influence human

experience on a wide spectrum that spans from forced displacement to stability. The unprecedented combination and scale of these crises and emergencies have stretched the resilience and the capacity of many affected throughout the world.

Migration and mobility patterns range in scale from local to international, and occur for various timeframes, with most migration and mobility occurring internally within borders. Factors influencing migration and mobility include climate and environmental change, natural disasters, conflict and violence, demographic changes, social factors, and economic challenges and opportunities, and likely much more. Overlapping with the complex factors affecting migration and mobility are many of the factors driving global change but how, where, and under what circumstances? Understanding how Global Change interacts with migration and mobility patterns is needed to better understand, prepare and respond to the effects of Global Change.

Policies and regulations around migration and mobility are decided typically at the national level and governed at the state, regional and/or provincial level. International policy around migration and mobility focuses primarily around managing economic migrants or addressing humanitarian crises and currently does not offer definitive protections for migrants related to phenomena such as climate and environmental change. Environmental crises are typically addressed by national governments and humanitarian actors, yet these organizations typically focus on rapid-onset events, leaving little room for addressing the slower-onset crises also expected. In 2010, the Cancun Adaptation Framework conceptualized migration and mobility as an adaptation mechanism to climate change and the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, the 2016 New York Declaration and its two resulting global compacts (the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and on Refugees) reframed migration as a pathway towards sustainable development as opposed to a security threat to the Global North. Attention to these issues can also be seen in the work of the Thematic Working Group on Environmental Change and Migration in the World Bank's Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Task Force on Displacement. Integrating these and other approaches with transdisciplinary perspectives and community and stakeholders engagement is necessary to develop strategies that protect vulnerable populations, enhance well-being, and build resilience to global change. At the local and regional scale, decision-making entities often follow guiding principles and norms that locally shape governance of human migration, although this is often not well documented. Studying these cases can bring meaningful insight to governance frameworks and policy narratives from local and regional to international and global.

Area 1 involves developing, sharing, and combining innovative efforts for synthesizing, integrating, and supplementing data and models to better understand complex relationships among the many factors influencing migration/mobility and its relationship to Global Change. Development of innovative approaches for combining existing data and models, developing new geographic and longitudinal data, and combining this with participatory, coproduced research is encouraged for better

systems understanding, data-informed frameworks, and human-centric approaches. Methods for combining household surveying with other innovative sources of data (information value chain, earth observation/remote sensing, modeling, and data analytics, demographic data, social media and cell phone network analysis, and other informative data sources) are desired. In the context of Global Change, the collection of longitudinal data is encouraged to track both slow and rapid onset events on a variety of scales that may drive or impede migration for individuals, families, and populations. Methods for the collection and harmonization of microdata across a global landscape to enable greater granularity at a global scale is also encouraged to enable a detailed understanding of "who" is migrating, why, and how Global Change factors into this process. Some areas of interest include (but are not limited to) community and family networks, migration, and the ability to adapt to Global Change, and contextual evaluations of the extent to which, if at all, particular environmental factors weigh on migration and mobility patterns compared to other drivers of migration. Working and building from the regional or administrative scale is recommended to understand internal migration patterns, to make locally-informed decisions, and to build upon and provide an understanding of regional and global migration and mobility patterns. By linking various data sources at appropriate scales, this information can be used to answer and inform important policy-relevant transdisciplinary research questions.

Area 2 focuses on studying and creating integrative governance and legal and policy frameworks around migration/mobility and Global Change. Transdisciplinary projects that take into account perspectives from the fields of human rights, security, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and other factors weighing on the migration/mobility system are encouraged. A focus on integrating frameworks and perspectives as well as breaking down institutional silos relevant to this topic is also encouraged. Governance frameworks should link the complex drivers and decision processes that influence mobility such as policy at a variety of scales, climate and environmental change, natural disasters, conflict and violence, social factors, and economic challenges and opportunities. Characterizing local and regional governance structures to develop a granular understanding of push and pull factors as well as effective policy responses at those scales can provide potential insight into innovative solutions for adapting to Global Change and can inform national and international migration / mobility policy frameworks. Bringing together the diverse perspectives weighing on these topics in a human-centric approach that includes the perspective of migrants and bridges to policy is an important focus. Insights into ways to improve the evidence base for formulation and implementation of policies related to the nexus of Global Change and migration/mobility are also welcome. Considerations of policy frameworks in the post-pandemic era on migration and mobility are encouraged.

Area 3 focuses on human-centric approaches to studying and integrating data and frameworks on vulnerable communities under a variety of contexts, with perspectives inclusive of the Global South and understudied groups such as women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, Indigenous people, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Projects are encouraged to be inclusive of and address critical migration and mobility

priorities of these groups. With the causes and directionality of migration and mobility geographically and contextually specific, projects are encouraged to focus on areas with underrepresented research on migration and mobility patterns and to consider the local context and socio-cultural realities. Local knowledge and how processes such as ethnicity, identity, or outcomes of health and well-being are possible areas to be evaluated under this context. Frameworks should consider the well-being of the migrants' pre-and post-migration/mobility, impacts and benefits of migrants to their destination and origin countries, and the ability to utilize migration and mobility as a way to reduce risk and enhance resilience from Global Change. Transdisciplinary, participatory approaches for weaving together diverse understandings, building common languages across differing perspectives, and providing a voice to underrepresented groups are of critical value in this area. The equitable role within consortia both in terms of involvement and representativity by partners and stakeholders from the Global South is strongly encouraged.

Project requirements:
Proposals should include a strong and deliberate linkage between the societal and environmental aspects within Global Change to ensure that they meet the <u>Belmont Challenge</u> for international transdisciplinary research by providing knowledge for understanding, mitigating, and adapting to global environmental change. Given the complexity and scope of the challenges, research consortia must be truly transdisciplinary, thus including researchers from: a) social sciences/humanities/economics and b) natural sciences/physical sciences/technology, as well as c) societal partners (i.e. citizens, industry, civil society organizations), using participatory, co-design, co-development and co-implementation approach. Additional knowledge holders are welcome to be part of the proposing consortium once this minimum criterion has been met. Transdisciplinarity of the research consortia and the active input of involved stakeholders (including but not limited to relevant policymakers, regulators, NGOs, communities, or industry) in the research and innovation contents is a key criterion and should be clearly demonstrated in the application.

Eligibility criteria-
Successful proposals must address the Call Theme and deliver on at least **<u>two of the three Areas, with cross-cutting linkages across all three Areas encouraged</u>**. Submissions should clearly describe how the proposed project will address the Call Theme and accomplish the chosen Topics. Proposals should focus on human migration and take a current and/or forward-looking perspective. The scale of the study should be appropriate, and the data and information produced should meet a clear need, include a systems perspective, and undertake a human-centered approach. Successful proposals will include well-justified budgets, partitioning of funds, and allocation of responsibilities and time. Projects should have well thought out and detailed data management, project stakeholder engagement, and communication management plans. Plans for providing broad public accessibility of data, results, and findings should be described. **<u>Successful projects are expected to participate in coordinated</u>**

activities throughout the lifespan of the project including Kick-Off, Mid-Term, and End-Term activities held at the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress. The expenses for these activities should be accounted for in the budget to allow participation from at least three Research Consortium members.

To be deemed eligible for this call, research groups ("Research Consortia") require three or more Consortium participants, representing at least three different countries, each requesting support from at least three participating funding organizations. Each funding organization's specific eligibility requirements can be found in their annex for this call on the Belmont Forum Website. Projects are intended to be three years in length, however, individual annexes may provide support for varying lengths of time. Consortia members can request funding or in-kind support as outlined in each funding agency's Annex. Additional members may participate in a self-funded capacity if the minimum participants from three countries requesting from three funders is met. Each Research Consortium must have a Consortium Lead, which acts to facilitate collaboration and communication across the team, submit the research proposal, and submit annual reports. **Consortium Leads must request for funding from a participating funding agency and cannot participate in a self-funded or in-kind capacity.** It is critical that each Consortium Member and Consortium Lead review the funding agency's annexes for this Call to determine whether their funding request aligns with who is requesting support. Specific questions about eligibility should be directed to the relevant program officer listed at the bottom of each organizational Annex. We encourage the creation of a gender and geographically-balanced Research Consortia that provide opportunities for early career researchers to participate.