



UNITED NATIONS
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UNU-EHS

Institute for Environment
and Human Security

Barcelona Climate Change Talks (2 – 6 November 2009)

UNU side event: „ Climate Adaptation Continuum, Human Migration & Displacement “

Speakers: Koko Warner (UNU), Frank Laczko (IOM), Jenty Kirsch-Wood (OCHA), Jean Francois Durieux (UNHCR), Vikram Kolmannskog (NRC), Robin Mearns (World Bank)

Date: Wed. 4 Nov. 2009

Time: 15:30 – 17:30 (see draft programme below)

Location: Room 4 of Barcelona Conference Center

Host: UNU (contact: warner@ehs.unu.edu, in Spain: +34 69 199 4707)

Introduction: The First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued in 1990 noted that the greatest single impact of climate change might be on human migration and displacement. This claim was further substantiated by the findings of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (2007), which provided ample indications that climate change will raise the risk of humanitarian emergencies, as a result of, inter alia, increasing intensity of natural hazards. The UN University (UNU), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Organization for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) – agencies directly concerned with migration and displacement issues – are already facing the growing impact of climate change on human mobility.

In this session experts & delegates discuss state-of-the-art understanding of climate adaptation & human mobility. Parties reflect on environmental triggers, migration processes, governance & legal matters, & adaptation options.

Central messages:

Enhanced Action for Adaptation

- Build coherence at national and international levels between mitigation and adaptation policies and other relevant policy domains, such as development, humanitarian action, migration and health.
- Include migration, both internal and cross-border, as a possible adaptation strategy, especially at early stages of gradual environmental degradation.
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Shared Vision

- Include the consideration of the impacts of climate change on population settlement and movements and the need to manage these impacts, including as part of the adaptation strategies and activities.
- Include the recognition of humanitarian consequences of climate change, including migration, displacement and, in some instances, statelessness, and of the need to take action to minimize them, including through prevention of displacement, and to prepare for and address the unavoidable consequences.

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Introduction & Moderation	Koko Warner, United Nations University	Introduction: Empirical evidence to date on climate change and migration
	Frank Laczko, IOM	Migration and the Environment: Findings of a New International Study and Priorities for Future Research
	Jenty Kirsch-Wood, OCHA	Disaster displacement in the context of climate change
15:30 – 17:00	Party Reflections and Comments	Bangladesh, Sweden, Philippines, US, Maldives, Japan, Sri Lanka (as delegate schedules permit)
	Jean Francois Durieux, UNHCR	Forced migration hot spots: from humanitarian response to area-wide adaptation
	Vikram Odedra Kolmannskog, Norwegian Refugee Council	Displaced by climate change: Protected by law?
	Robin Mearns, World Bank	Climate change, human mobility, and fragile states
	Party Reflections and Comments	Norway, Mozambique, Switzerland, Mexico, Denmark, Egypt, Senegal (as delegate schedules permit)
17:00 – 17:30	Audience Discussion	

