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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

in association with
NRC and the RSG on the HR of IDPs

CLIMATE ADAPTATION CONTINUUM, MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT: COPENHAGEN AND BEYOND

16th December 14:45-16:15
Bella Center, Room Liva Weel

Already today, climate change is contributing to human migration and displacement across the world. In the years to come, increased human mobility might well become one of the major impacts of climate change.

Although there are no reliable estimates of the numbers of people who will move as a result of climate change impacts, the rise in the scale of migration and displacement is expected to be substantial – potentially, greater than anything experienced before. Populations of the least developed countries and belonging to most vulnerable groups are expected to be affected the most. All these factors present an unprecedented challenge both to humanitarian action and migration management. At the same time, voluntary and managed migration also offers an important opportunity – such migration has recognized development benefits for countries of origin and has been used as an adaptation strategy to environmental change for millennia.

The International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations University together with the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Representative of the Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and other key UN and non-UN humanitarian agencies concerned with different aspects of population movements have been working on addressing the growing challenge that climate change presents to humanity. The Heads of these Agencies and the delegates will discuss state-of-the-art understanding of climate adaptation, migration and displacement and highlight the existing and emerging challenges in policy, research and practice in this area. They will also share their vision on the way forward and the role of the UNFCCC framework.

andBEYOND

SPEAKERS

- Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration
- Prof. Konrad Osterwalder, Rector of the United Nations University
- Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Prof. Walter Kälin, Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons
- Ms. Elisabeth Rasmussen, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council

DISCUSSION

Delegates of Sweden and Bangladesh* will provide comments and reactions to the issues raised by the panellists. This will be followed by an open discussion with Parties and side-event participants on ways to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of climate-related population movements in the context of the expected outcome of the Climate Conference in Copenhagen as well as the roles of different stakeholders, including the humanitarian and climate change communities.

For more information, please contact Alina Narusova, Migration Policy Officer, International Organization for Migration at anarusova@iom.int

*To be confirmed subject to the delegates' schedules.

