

Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance (CCEMA): understanding impacts and finding solutions

Side event

Date: Wednesday, 8 December 2010

Time: 15:00-16:30 h

Location: Room: Jaguar, Cancunmesse

Panellists

- **Moderator:** Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration
- **Keynote:** Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Minister for Environment and Forests of Bangladesh
- Prof. Konrad Osterwalder, Rector of the United Nations University
- Dr. Thomas Loster, Chairman of the Munich Re Foundation
- Mr. Jose-Miguel Guzman, Chief of the Population and Development Branch, United Nations Population Fund

The consequences of climate change for migration present humanity with an unprecedented challenge. At the same time, migration is not only the last resort or the worst case scenario as is still too often assumed; it also offers important opportunities for climate change adaptation. The current UNFCCC negotiating text acknowledges the need to address the movement of people as a result of climate change (paragraph 6 (f) in FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/CRP.1)). The international community needs to start acting today to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities associated with the movement of people in order to help the most vulnerable adapt to their changing reality.



What concrete steps need to be taken and by whom? The side-event will seek to provide concrete suggestions to address this question.



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Discussion at the side event

The representatives of the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations University together with the Government of Bangladesh, the United Nations Population Fund and the Munich Re Foundation will share their experiences and ways to address it. Through a combination of short presentations and interactive debate with the delegates, panellists will seek to identify proactive practical approaches that States and other stakeholders can use to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities presented by the movement of people in the context of climate change adaptation.

Background

While 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 population movement, in particular within countries, will be substantial. Furthermore, it is the poorest and most vulnerable who are expected to bear the brunt of climate change impacts. The potential scale of future movements will require international support for those countries and communities most affected by internal and immediate cross-border environmental migration as less and least-developed countries will not have sufficient capacities or resources to manage or respond to such flows.

At the same time, voluntary and managed migration also offers an important opportunity - migration is one of the oldest adaptive responses to the changing environments used by human beings. And yet, the potential of migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change seems to be largely overlooked.

The linkages between policy frameworks for climate change, environment and migration are still largely absent, and activities to address the growing phenomena of environmental migration are conspicuous by their absence. The States and the international community at large need to come up with integrated solutions that link migration and climate change adaptation as well as other relevant policy frameworks such as disaster risk reduction, development and humanitarian action. Proactive approaches bringing these frameworks together need to be developed at the international, regional, national and, importantly, local levels to increase the resilience of states and communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and, ultimately, to contribute to sustainable development.

About CCEMA

Addressing the unprecedented challenge requires unprecedented and innovative multi-stakeholder partnership-collaboration among States, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and the academic world. The Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance (CCEMA) provides a framework for such a broad-based collaboration and coordination to bring migration considerations to the environment, development and climate change agendas and vice versa through a combination of awareness raising, research, policy development and practical actions.

For more information, please contact:

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