

**COP 24 Side Event**  
**Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**4.45pm - 6.15pm (1 hour 30 minutes)**  
**Room: Pleniny**

**Theme:** Promoting Implementation (Human Rights)

**Title:** Climate-Forced Displacement (CFD): Advancing Human Rights and Justice

**Sub-theme:** The disproportionate effects of climate change on vulnerable communities is causing severe human rights crises, and forcing many to leave their homes, lands and traditions. This event will explore progress to address CFD through policy and practice, with local contexts from the Arctic to the Pacific.

**Speakers:** Robin Bronen (Alaska Institute for Justice), Maina Talia (Tuvalu Climate Action Network), Harjeet Singh (ActionAid International), Salote Soqo (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee)

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### **Concept Note:**

#### Context

Climate change as a driver of human mobility is creating severe human rights crises amongst the most vulnerable communities, who have contributed the least to the climate crises. Although progress has been made, more action is needed to increase emissions reduction, to support communities adapt in place and the urgent need to establish strong and clear governance frameworks that protect the rights and human dignities of people in situations of cross-border migration, internal displacement, and planned relocation in the contexts of both slow-onset and rapid disasters.

However, in the absence of any specific governance frameworks, the most vulnerable communities -- many of whom are already experiencing the most adverse effects of climate change, -- have been left to find innovative solutions and ways forward on their own, including through grassroots organizing, advocacy, planning, and actions. This side event will reflect on the work and progress that grassroots group from Alaska and Tuvalu are doing to address and respond to the spectrum of risks associated with the ongoing multiple threats of climate change.

#### Background

The Paris Agreement called for the establishment of the Task Force on Displacement (TFD) under the Executive Committee (ExCOM) of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on Loss and Damage, whose mandate is to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change. The work of the TFD is not limited to Loss and Damage but also builds on parties' obligations under the Cancun Agreement. This is relevant to the extent that adaptation in place, as well as migration with dignity and planned relocation, can be forms of adaptation and must be supported.

Earlier this year in Bangkok, the TFD completed their mandate and released a set of recommendations for four main stakeholders: the EXCOM; Bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement; Parties; and UN Agencies and other stakeholders. The TFD's report will be presented to State Parties for endorsement at COP24.

The TFD recommendations, along with the final draft of the UN Global Compact for Migration (GCM) which will be endorsed by UN members states in Marrakesh, Morocco at an intergovernmental conference on December 11-12, 2018, reflect broad political consensus on the urgent need to address the impacts of climate change on displacement and forced migration. Together they provide a critical opportunity for governments - along with a wide range of other stakeholders - to address these challenges using a human rights-based approach. The GCM in particular provides new commitments to both address climate change as a driver of forced international migration as well as to enhance pathways for individuals and communities uprooted in these contexts while ensuring that the human rights of all persons on the move are upheld and respected.

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