

## SIDE EVENT UNFCCC WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE, BONN CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT



**Chair Koko Warner, UNU-EHS**, introduced the *Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility*, a group of UN agencies and NGOs that gathers evidence on climate repercussions for the mobility choices of vulnerable communities and provides advice on solutions to prevent displacement.

**Justin Ginnetti, NRC-IDMC**, outlined that the Paris agreement needs to recognize that climate change is expected to increase the displacement of people. He explained that people are twice as likely to be displaced now than they were in the 1970s. He also stated that at present, displacement risk is largely driven by the fact that more and more vulnerable people are living in hazard-prone areas, particularly in cities in developing countries. Climate change will likely increase this risk further due to changes in the frequency and severity of hazards. He added that the risk of climate-related displacement can be reduced through effective adaptation, disaster risk reduction and development planning, especially when these are integrated. Investments in resilience, for example, can help communities withstand climate-related shocks and stresses and help communities recover more quickly when disasters do occur.

**Mariam Traore Chazalnoel, IOM**, presented the opportunities and challenges associated with considering migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change. She stated that supporting safe migration channels to help affected individuals and communities cope in a changing climate offers an innovative solution that can have positive impacts on the wellbeing of people whilst reducing pressure on too stretched environments. In this "Year of Climate 2015", there is scope for policy action to consider the question of migration as adaptation within the UNFCCC process. In particular, National Adaptation Plans (NAP) provide an ideal entry point to integrate migration as adaptation in national policy development. She added that guidelines exist to support Parties to the UNFCCC in their effort to mainstream migration across their NAPS.

**Marine Franck, UNHCR**, explained how planned relocation of populations can protect vulnerable communities from risks and impacts related to climate change. She encouraged States to plan for relocation in their National Adaptation Plans stating that planning in advance is the best way to ensure successful human rights-based relocation. She insisted that planned relocation should benefit to relocated persons, enabling them with the conditions for rebuilding their lives. She highlighted that it should be a participatory process, involving both relocating and host communities and taking into consideration their specific needs, rights and conditions of vulnerability. She added that guidelines are available to support Parties to the UNFCCC in their effort to plan for relocation in the context of climate change.

**Atle Solberg, Nansen Initiative Secretariat**, reported that the Nansen Initiative Regional Consultations in the Pacific, Americas, Africa and Asia have highlighted that disaster displacement has devastating impacts on people and their communities, raises multiple protection concerns and undermines the development of many States. He presented the Nansen Initiative draft Protection Agenda that consolidates effective practices by States and (sub-) regional organizations and presents a toolbox of potential policy options that includes: 1) preventing people from being displaced in the first place; 2) helping people move in a safe, regular and planned manner before disasters make forced movements inevitable; and 3) providing protection when displacement cannot be avoided and people are forced to move. He outlined that States can prevent and prepare for increased displacement in the future by stepping up and scaling up their adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts, such as migration and planned relocation and by anchoring their commitment to such measures in the Paris agreement.