

**ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs
3 – 5 JULY 2012 - International Conference Center Geneva**

BACKGROUND PAPER

Climate change – People on the move

Tuesday 3 July 2012, 14h30 – 18h30 – Room 3

The session will be broadly divided into four parts:

Part 1 – Introduction:

Sensitization and awareness-raising: The participants will hear an overview of current knowledge about climate change and its impacts in relation to displacement.

Part 2 - Legal dimensions and gaps:

The participants will learn what is being done to fill the legal, knowledge and policy gaps in this area. This will include an introduction of Kälin and Schrepfer's report on cross-border displacement (listed below in reading materials), the pledges made by member states at the UNHCR ministerial conference in December 2011, and follow up being undertaken.

Part 3 - Sharing challenges and good practice:

The participants will learn about a new UNHCR-UNU study entitled *Climate change, vulnerability and human mobility: Perspectives of refugees from the East and Horn of Africa* and will be asked to speak of experiences at national level with populations displaced or at risk of displacement owing to natural disasters linked to climate change and the work of national actors.

Part 4 - Discussion on managing the negative environmental impacts of humanitarian operations

What can be done to limit the impact?

Part 5 - Summing up - Key messages:

Parts 1 and 2 of the session are geared towards information/education, whereas parts 3, 4 and 5 of the session are intended to encourage discussions on. The respective roles and responsibilities of local to international level actors, including displaced populations

themselves, authorities, civil society and UN actors should be drawn out in relation to each part.

Suggested reading material for participants:

- UK Government for Science, Executive Summary, Foresight Final Project Report: Migration and Global Environmental Change, Future Challenges and Opportunities, 2011,
<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/bispartners/foresight/docs/migration/11-1116-migration-and-global-environmental-change.pdf>
- Kälén and Schrepfer, Protecting People Crossing Borders in the Context of Climate Change, Normative Gaps and Possible Approaches, Division of International Protection, February 2012, UNHCR,
<http://www.unhcr.org/4f33f1729.pdf>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation, 2011, WMO and UNEP.
http://ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/images/uploads/SREX-SPM_FINAL.pdf
- Afifi, Govil, Sakdapolrak and Warner, Climate change, vulnerability and human mobility: Perspectives of refugees from the East and Horn of Africa, UNHCR, UNU, London School of Economics, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and Boon University, June 2012,
<http://www.ehs.unu.edu/file/get/9907>
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Displacement due to natural hazard-induced disasters: Global estimates for 2009 and 2010 (June 2011),
[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/15D7ACEC7ED1836EC12578A7002B9B8A/\\$file/IDMC_natural-disasters_2009-2010.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/15D7ACEC7ED1836EC12578A7002B9B8A/$file/IDMC_natural-disasters_2009-2010.pdf)