Climate Vulnerable Forum & IOM Luncheon Debate

THEME: “CLIMATE CHANGE MIGRATION & DISPLACEMENT”

Co-Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations & the International Organization for Migration

13:15-14:45, Wednesday 26 November 2014
Delegates’ Restaurant, Palais des Nations, Geneva

EVENT FOCUS

> During 2008 to 2013 140 million people have been displaced by extreme weather events worldwide, in particular due to floods and storms, representing nearly 90% of all disaster displacement during this period according to the International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

> Drought affected zones of Africa are also estimated to have led, in cases, to close to 20% of pastoralists moving to less-climate stressed areas, suggesting at a significant role for climate and environmental factors behind national and international migration flows

> The IPCC’s 5th Assessment Report Synthesis of November 2014 reaffirmed the high level of scientific agreement on the causal link between climate change—which increases heat, heavy rainfall and other weather extremes—and an increased displacement of populations, as well as the importance of migration as strategy for adapting to these developments

> The International Organization for Migration’s November 2014 105th Council Session includes a special focus on climate and the environment to contribute to policy advances that address these major emerging concerns for affected groups and the international community

More extreme weather, climate shocks to human health and to the agricultural and key sectors, global sea-level rise and other environmental hazards already affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide and entail increasingly significant implications for policy and for operational responses by governments and organizations active on migration and displacement. Effectively identifying, anticipating and addressing these emerging concerns, and their relationships with other closely linked issues, is a growing priority for policy-making today. The governing body meetings of key international migration and displacement organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council, are an important opportunity for advancing such policy reflection and the international community’s response.

THEMATIC LUNCHEON DEBATE

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) & IOM thematic luncheon brings together Permanent Representatives and senior delegates of missions and delegations to the United Nations at Geneva with international partners and experts including High-Level panelists participating in the 105th IOM Council session’s special Panel on “Human Mobility, Environment and Climate” being held the same day. The thematic luncheon is an opportunity for diverse partners and speakers to share in the IOM Council’s focused debate on climate change and for engaging wider Geneva-based audiences in this increasingly significant policy conversation.
EVENT PROGRAMME

Format
Seated, three-course served luncheon and refreshments, and thematic interventions together with moderated room discussion.

Agenda

13:15 Arrival
13:30 Welcome remarks:
   - H.E. Mr. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations
   - Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General of IOM
13:40 Viewpoint high-level presentations:
   - States
   - International organizations
14:00 Moderated room discussion by Dr. Robert Glasser, Secretary-General of CARE International:
   - Remarks and discussion among delegates and officials present
14:45 Closing thanks & departure

Venue
Delegates’ Restaurant, Building A (8th Floor), Palais des Nations, Geneva

ABOUT THE CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) is a climate change focused cooperation platform launched in 2009 involving more than 20 developing countries from all key regions of the world. The CVF has held major meetings in Maldives, Kiribati and Bangladesh, commissioned independent research, convened expert panels and stimulated multi-lateral dialogue all aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of responses to climate change. IOM and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are partners in the CVF Trust Fund and support and engage a range of CVF policy-focused activities together with other partners. The CVF Trust Fund has benefitted from the generous contributions of Bangladesh, Norway and Switzerland, and the parallel support of Germany. Costa Rica currently chairs the CVF and Bangladesh is the Forum’s lead country on migration and displacement issues.

More info at: www.thecvf.org

ABOUT THE 105th IOM COUNCIL & HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council is the organization’s highest governing body and is a leading international policy forum for debate on migration-related issues, meeting in full session once per year. The 105th Council session meets on 25-27 November 2014 and includes a High-level Panel on “Human Mobility, Environment and Climate” as a special policy dialogue initiative to increase the focus within the IOM’s migration policy deliberations and among relevant international processes on the key emerging concerns of climate change, the environment and migration and displacement issues.

More info at: www.iom.int