

DRAFT CONCEPT PAPER OF ACTION PANEL

Title <i>Water for Vulnerable People, including Refugees and Migrants</i>
Timing Thursday 21 June 2018 from 14.30 to 16.00
Co-organizers FAO on behalf of UN-Water and IOM, in collaboration with UNHCR and OHCHR
Background information and rationale <p>Insecure access to water for domestic and productive uses is a major constraint for poverty reduction. Approximately, three-quarters (74%) of people living in poverty live in rural areas. One and a half billion people living in rural areas, corresponding to 45% of the global rural population, lack access to safely managed drinking water. For many small farmers, water is one of the most important production assets, and securing access to, and control and management of water is key to enhancing their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability.</p> <p>Major climate change impacts on agriculture are expected to result from changes in the water cycle. Climate change is hitting the poor and vulnerable people hardest, and these impacts are largely exacerbated by inequalities that increase the exposure to risks from climate hazards. There is evidence that water scarcity and prolonged drought significantly increase the likelihood of migrating, mainly because of its impacts on rural livelihoods, agricultural productivity and poverty levels.</p> <p>Migration is very high in the international political agenda. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which expected to be adopted in December 2018 by the UN General Assembly, will be the first, inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a comprehensive manner.</p> <p>The Action Panel will focus on the linkages between water, poverty and migration and will contribute to on-going discussions on the strategies to improve water security and the livelihoods of rural communities, as well as to ensure the human right to access to water, including for migrants and refugees.</p>
Main questions for discussion <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) What are the water related drivers of migration in different regions of the globe?2) What are the required interventions in the water sectors to address vulnerability and migration, including policy, investment, data needs and partnerships?3) How can the poverty, migration and water nexus be addressed through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?4) How can migration policy address the challenges related to the migration-water nexus?
Key messages Water security is a key factor for poverty reduction and building resilience.

Understanding the linkages between poverty, migration and water availability is key to design development and migration policy responses.
Follow-up actions A summary document with the key messages presented by the panelists.
Draft program CHAIR H.E. Mr. Stéphane Dion , Prime Minister Trudeau's Special Envoy to the, European Union and Europe and Ambassador, to Germany, Canada (TBC) MODERATOR Alice Bouman-Dentener , Director of Diploria and Honorary Founding President of Women for Water Partnership KEYNOTE SPEAKERS H.E. Eng. Suleiman Adamu , Minister of Water Resources of Nigeria H.E. Mr. William Lacy Swing , Director General of IOM (videomessage) PANELISTS Burcu Calli , Expert, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) (TBC) David Michaud , Practice Manager, Water Global Practice, World Bank Patricia Mejias , Technical Officer, Land and Water Division, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Timothy Williams , Director for Africa, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Assem Chreif , Programme Coordinator, Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST) Adeel Zafar , Executive Director, Pacific Water Research Centre RAPPORTEUR Riccardo Biancalani , Project Coordinator, FAO
Any other relevant information
Contact person Patricia Mejias, Patricia.Mejiasmoreno@fao.org Eva Mach, emach@iom.int