



and  
**DEC Migration and Remittances Unit**

cordially invite you to a

**KNOMAD Seminar**

**Planned Relocation in the Context of Climate Change**

**Practical Tools**

**Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2017**

**Time: 12:30-2:00 PM**

**Venue: MC C2-131**

**Opening Remarks**

**Dilip Ratha**, Lead Economist, DEC Migration and Remittances, and Head of KNOMAD, World Bank

**Susan Martin**, Chair of KNOMAD's Thematic Working Group on Environmental Change and Migration

**Chair**

**Elizabeth Ferris**, Research Prof., Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University

**Speakers**

**Alice R. Thomas**, Program Manager, Refugees International

**Susanne Melde**, Research and Policy Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM),

**Mehreen Afzal**, Senior Policy Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**Discussant**

**Päivi Koskinen-Lewis**, Senior Social Development Specialist, World Bank

**Description:** The interplay of a range of drivers with increasing environmental change, including climate change, will lead people to leave their communities. Some will leave because of the effects of sudden-onset weather-related disasters, others because the long-term effects of environmental change have destroyed their livelihoods. These planned relocations can occur reactively after a major sudden-onset disaster – when it is determined that people simply cannot

return to their communities because the physical habitat is unsafe. In other cases, relocation will be planned as an anticipatory measure where hazards have increased the risk of continued habitation to unacceptable levels. The 2015 Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change (COP 21) requested to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change. Planned relocation is one such approach.

The Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University, the UNHCR, IOM, and the Institute for the Environment and Human Security of UN University have been working to develop guidance for States and other stakeholders on planned relocation in the context of natural disasters and the slow onset effects of climate change. The [Guidance on Planned Relocations](#) sets out general principles to assist States and other actors faced with the need to assess whether and how to undertake these programs. The next step is the development of practical tools, including specific measures and examples of good practices to assist States and other interested actors in translating these general principles into concrete laws, policies, plans, and programs. This KNOMAD seminar will discuss expertise on planned relocation to bear on the development of such practical tools.



**Elizabeth Ferris** is Research Professor with the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and also serves as a Non-resident Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution. From January-September 2016, she also served as Senior Advisor to the UN General Assembly's Summit for Refugees and Migrants in New York. From 2006-2015, she was a Senior Fellow and co-director of the Brookings-LSE project on Internal Displacement where she worked to support understanding and protection of internally displaced persons. Prior to joining Brookings, she spent 20 years working in the field of humanitarian assistance. She has written extensively on refugee, migration and humanitarian issues, including *The Politics of Protection: The Limits of Humanitarian Action* (Brookings Institution Press, 2011) and most recently, *Consequences of Chaos: Syria's Humanitarian Crisis and the Failure to Protect*, with Kemal Kirsici (Brookings Institution Press, 2016). She received her BA degree from Duke University and her MA and PhD degrees from the University of Florida.



**Alice R. Thomas** joined Refugees International (RI) in 2010 to launch the Climate Displacement Program which advocates on behalf of vulnerable communities displaced by extreme weather and climate change. Since joining RI, Ms. Thomas has conducted more than a dozen independent assessments of the protection and assistance needs of people displaced by climate-related disasters including Hurricane Matthew in Haiti in 2017, the 2015/2016 drought in Zimbabwe, historic flooding and landslides in Myanmar in 2015 and Super-Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2014. Prior to joining RI, Ms. Thomas was a staff attorney in the International Program at Earth Justice where she devised legal strategies to mitigate climate pollution and address climate impacts on vulnerable populations. From 2002 to 2006, she served as Deputy Director of the American Bar Association's Asia Law Initiative where she oversaw environmental good governance programs in Asia. She has a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School and a Bachelor's degree in History from Princeton University.



**Susanne Melde** is a Research and Policy Officer, Migration and Environment, at the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Berlin, Germany. Ms. Melde has more than 9 years of experience in working on migration policy and research at IOM. From 2010 to 2013 she was in charge of the research component of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Observatory on Migration in Brussels, Belgium, focusing on South-South migration and development. Over the past 3 years she has managed a major research project on migration as an adaptation strategy to environmental and climate change in 6 pilot countries and has moved from Geneva to Berlin in summer 2015. She has a BA in International Relations from the Technical University of Dresden, an MA in Human Rights from Sussex University in the UK where she is currently finalizing her PhD in Migration studies.

**Mehreen Afzal** is a Senior Policy Officer with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). She has a doctorate in international refugee law and ten years work experience with UNHCR Africa, Asia and UNHCR's headquarters in Geneva. She is currently working on the follow up to the New York Declaration addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.



**Päivi Koskinen-Lewis** is a Sr. Social Development Specialist in the Regional Safeguards Secretariat for SAR in OPCS. Previously she worked in the Africa region where she focused on a broad range of social development issues, including social safeguards. She is the lead author of the Small Island States Resilience Initiative Knowledge Note: Managing Population Retreat from At-Risk Areas. Prior to working for the WBG, she worked with the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations in the office of the gender focal point.

Light refreshments will be served

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