

FIJI PAVILION SIDE EVENT

DAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2017

TIME: 9:30-10:30

TITLE OF EVENT:

Climate-Induced Migration & Displacement in the Pacific: Adaptation or Loss and Damage?

SUMMARY OF EVENT:

This side event explores the interconnections between climate risks, human mobility, adaptation and loss and damage, with a focus on Pacific Island Countries. Over a decade of research on the migration-environment nexus has yielded several policy-relevant insights. On the one hand, it has shown that population mobility has the potential to contribute to adaptive capacity and sustainable development by making people and societies more flexible and resilient to climate change. On the other hand, this body of research has also shown that climate-induced migration often comes with economic and non-economic loss and damage on the part of migrants themselves, the places they come from and host communities. This is usually the case when people are displaced by climate-related disasters as well as when the pressure to migrate rises due to slow on-set events such as sea-level rise.

Despite its potential, migration often comes with logistical, political and societal challenges, especially when large numbers of people are uprooted and host populations perceive that absorptive capacity is limited. Such challenges can undermine the potential contribution of migration to sustainable development.

The event aims at mobilising knowledge for action by bringing together speakers and panelists from key research and policy organizations in the field of climate change and migration. As a kick-off for discussions, University of Hawaii will present new insights and evidence on migration-environment linkages in the Marshall Islands. After that, several panelists will reflect on policy and legal implications. The discussions will tie in the Global Compact for Migration, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, the work of the WIM Excom as well as the Task Force on Displacement.

FORMAT OF EVENT:

Short presentation of new findings from the Marshall Islands, followed by panel discussion and audience participation

MAIN CONTACT PERSON:

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