



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



## Side Event

# Migration in the Context of Disasters and Environmental Change

### **Chairs:**

***H.E. Shabidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh (TBC)***

***H.E. Eduard Gnesa, Special Ambassador for Int. Cooperation in Migration, Switzerland***

### **Panelists:**

***Prof. Walter Kaelin, Envoy of the Chairmanship of the Nansen Initiative***

***Dilip Ratha, Head of KNOMAD, World Bank***

***Prof. Susan Martin, KNOMAD's Chair for Environmental Change and Migration***



**Wednesday, 14 October 2015**

**17.00-18.00 h**

**Venue: ICEC, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Hall F.**

**THE  
NANSEN  
INITIATIVE**

DISASTER-INDUCED CROSS-BORDER DISPLACEMENT



## **Context**

There is increased international recognition of the challenges of human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change. The 2010 Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Cancun Adaptation Framework Agreement) invited Parties to undertake measures to enhance “understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation,” while the 2012 Doha decision on loss and damage encouraged further work to enhance understanding of how impacts of climate change are affecting “patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility.” This side event will offer the opportunity to present the results of the Nansen Initiative and of the KNOMAD working group on "Environmental Change and Migration", two processes that have been engaged on this issue over the past years.

## **The Nansen Initiative**

The Nansen Initiative is a state-led, bottom-up consultative process intended to identify effective practices, drawing on the actual practice and experience of governments, and build consensus on key principles and elements to address the protection and assistance needs of persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters, including the adverse effects of climate change. The results of the Nansen Initiative consultative process will be presented and discussed at an intergovernmental Global Consultation on 12-13 October 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland, and this side event will be a very timely opportunity to learn about the immediate outcomes of the Global Consultation and discuss priority areas for action in the future.

## **KNOMAD’s Work on Environmental Change and Migration**

Findings from the most recent working papers commissioned by the Thematic Working Group “Environmental Change and Migration” of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) will be presented. These working papers examine the impact of environmental change on migration, displacement and planned relocation, particularly in and from developing countries, as well as the role migration plays in adaptation to environmental change. In addition, KNOMAD’s current work in the area of longitudinal research on environmental change and migration will be discussed. This kind of research is particularly important in understanding the effects of slow-onset environmental processes, such as rising sea levels and recurrent droughts. It also allows for better understanding of the long-term effects of different migration-related adaptation strategies. These strategies may aim at reducing emigration pressures to permit people to remain in situ, or they may facilitate migration as part of a mix of strategies to promote adaptive capacity. Understanding the long term impacts will help policymakers and practitioners undertake better planning and implementation.