

Conference on Climate Change, Human Rights and Forced Human Displacement

Co-Chaired by Displacement Solutions and UNHCR Canberra, 10 December 2008

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the co-chairs, Displacement Solutions and UNHCR, of the meeting on Climate Change, Human Rights and Forced Human Displacement, issue the following statement on Climate Change and Displacement:

The co-chairs of the meeting urge all interested and affected states to:

1. **Ensure** that all persons and communities affected by climate change, in particular those who are forced to flee their homes and lands, are afforded the respect and protection of the full spectrum of rights enshrined within the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and subsequent human rights treaties;
2. **Undertake** immediate measures to identify available land and other appropriate resources for the purposes of relocating and resettling all forced climate migrants, both those displaced internally as well as those likely to seek resettlement in third countries;
3. **Carry out** intensive public consultations with communities currently or likely to be affected in the future by rising sea levels or other consequences of climate change, with a view to developing viable and practical plans to protect the rights of forced climate migrants, in particular their housing, land and property and related rights;
4. **Develop** local, sub-regional, national, regional and international plans to ensure respect for and protection of the rights of forced climate migrants;
5. **Develop**, in full partnership, cooperation and consultation with communities affected by climate, policies, strategies and practical programmes that mitigate the worst effects and consequences of climate change on affected populations, and enable and empower such populations to adapt to changing environmental factors;

6. **Devote**, where mitigation and adaptation responses are likely to insufficient per se, adequate resources, in particular financial resources, to practical measures designed to assist forced climate migrants to relocate and resettle in a manner consistent with their rights and in ways that secure for them an adequate standard of living and sustainable livelihoods;

7. **Explore** creative and innovative methods of identifying long-term relocation and resettlement options for forced climate migrants, consistent with their housing, land, property and related rights. In this regard, efforts should be made to explore options such as land banking, setting aside policies for parcels of public land for future resettlement initiatives, progressive usage of land expropriation for the purposes of resettling forced climate migrants, community land trusts, beneficial terms of financing for land purchases;

8. **Ensure** the rights of other populations affected by the forced displacement of climate change migrants, such as host or receiving communities in areas where climate change migrants are settled, are fully and adequately protected;

9. **Integrate** servicing costs into medium and long-term land banking initiatives, including planning, tenure and management, and including access to safe water and sanitation, infrastructure (social and physical); housing resources; environment and livelihoods; and

10. **Examine** how best to encourage forced climate migrants' access and usage rights to customarily held lands in countries where land is held under customary arrangements.

10 December 2008
Canberra, Australia