

## **Mobilizing agriculture and rural development as an adaptation alternative to climate-induced migration**

**6 July 2017; 14:00 – 15:30**

**Sheikh Zayed Centre**

**Webcast: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4389/icode/>**

### **Background**

The New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants (2016) recognizes that many migrants move in response to the adverse effects of climate change, disasters caused by natural hazards and other environmental factors. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change recognizes “the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change”. It also takes into account “the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities”, and acknowledges that, when taking action to address climate change, Parties to the UNFCCC should “respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights”, including the right of migrants.

Although climate change is a global issue, its consequences are local and it disproportionately affects the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, particularly in developing countries. Among these groups, rural populations are particularly vulnerable due to their exposure to natural hazards, their dependence on natural resources, and the overall lack of public investment in basic infrastructure in rural areas. Therefore, providing adequate climate change adaptation responses is of high priority for increasing rural resilience to climate change.

Migration is one adaptation strategy that can reduce exposure to immediate threats and help diversify rural household incomes. However, migration can also lead to a different set of risks and insecurities, for the migrants as well as the sending and receiving communities. Migration, resulting from extreme need or distress, is more likely to occur when migrants are ‘driven out’ of their homes due to lack of alternative options but to leave.

In this very complex setting, the role of agriculture and rural development (ARD) has largely been overlooked, despite the fact that over 70 percent of the rural poor depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. How does ARD address both climate change and related distress migration? In this FAO Conference side event on climate change and migration, we highlight the role of ARD and explore ways in which they can build alternatives to rural populations prone to climate-induced migration.

## FAO Conference 40<sup>th</sup> Session

Rome, 3 - 8 July 2017

### Rationale and Objectives

The side event will provide opportunities for FAO to raise awareness on the role of ARD, and to further define priorities for providing support to country-level interventions by facilitating climate change adaptation through ARD, with a view to preventing or mitigating the risks associated with distress rural out-migration. The objectives of the side event are to: Facilitate and contribute to a better understanding of the nexus between climate change and migration;

- Share experiences and lessons from successful policies and practices from country interventions;
- Highlight and identify key areas of support and early actions on addressing climate change and migration through agriculture and develop work programmes;
- Mobilize stakeholders for planning and implementing future joint work.

### Proposed Outline of the Side Event

The side event will be organized as a panel discussion, with opening remarks and a key note presentation.

Opening remarks will be made by:

**Mr Kostas Stamoulis**, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development (ESD) Department, FAO

- **Mr Federico Soda**, Director of IOM's Coordination Office for the Mediterranean

The key note presentation on "Climate Change, Migration, Agriculture and Food Security Nexus and The Role of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD)" will be presented by **Ms Junko Sasaki**, Director, Social Policies and Rural Institutions (ESP) Division, FAO

Moderator: **Mr Kostas Stamoulis**, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development (ESD) Department, FAO

Proposed panel members include:

- **Hon Viam Pillay**, Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management of Fiji;
- **Mr Abdus Sobhan Sikder**, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to FAO
- **Ms Harriet M. Nduma**, Chargée d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
- **Mr Louis Lahoud**, Director-General of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon
- **Mr Federico Soda**, Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, IOM

Closing remarks will be made by **Mr William Lacy Swing**, Director-General, IOM and **Mr José Graziano da Silva**, Director-General, FAO

*Languages: English, Spanish, French*

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## Agenda

Tentative Programme	
14:00 – 14:20	<p><b>Opening remarks</b> by Mr Kostas Stamoulis, ES-ADG, FAO</p> <p><b>Opening remarks</b> by Mr Federico Soda, Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, IOM</p>
14:20 – 14:30	<p><b>Presentation “Climate Change, Migration, Agriculture and Food Security Nexus and The Role of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD)”</b> by Ms Junko Sazaki, Director, Social Policies and Rural Institutions (ESP) Division, FAO</p>
14:30 – 15:05	<p><b>Panel discussion</b> <i>(Guiding questions will be shared with the panellists)</i></p> <p><b>Moderator of the panel:</b> Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development (ESD) Department, FAO</p> <p>Topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) can address climate change induced-migration;</li> <li>• How to strengthen the linkages between Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD), climate change and migration in policies and programmes.</li> </ul> <p>Panellist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon Viam Pillay</b>, Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management of Fiji</li> <li>• <b>Mr Abdus Sobhan Sikder</b>, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to FAO</li> <li>• <b>Ms Harriet M. Nduma</b>, Chargée d’Affaires a.i., Embassy of the Republic of Kenya</li> <li>• <b>Mr Louis Lahoud</b>, Director-General of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon</li> <li>• <b>Mr Federico Soda</b>, Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, IOM</li> </ul>
15:05 – 15:20	<p><b>Questions and answers</b> – Interactive session</p>
15:20 – 15:40	<p><b>Closing remarks</b> by <b>Mr. William Lacy Swing</b>, Director-General, IOM and by <b>Mr José Graziano da Silva</b>, Director-General, FAO</p>
15:40 – 16:00	<p><i>Light refreshments will be served outside the Sheikh Zayed Centre</i></p>