

Thematic Workshop

The Impact of Climate Change on Labour Migration

Moderators and Speakers

Panel 1 - Labour migration as an adaptation strategy



Ms. Agi Veres, Director, UNDP Office in Geneva – Panel 1 Moderator is the Director of the UNDP Office in Geneva, responsible for UNDP’s external relations and advocacy as well as UNDP’s Geneva-based policy and programme work. Prior to this, Ms. Veres served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia (2019-2021) providing leadership, oversight and advisory support to 18 UNDP offices in the Europe and Central Asia region. Before her regional role, Ms. Veres was posted in the People’s Republic of China as UNDP Resident Representative (2018-2019) and Country Director (2015-2018), where she led UNDP’s development programme, as well as engagement on global development cooperation with China. She also served as Deputy Resident Representative (2011-2015) in UNDP Lesotho, and was assigned to UNDP’s Regional Centre in Bratislava, Slovakia (2006-2011), as Deputy Chief for Policy and Programme, and Senior Programme Coordinator. Her UNDP career started in UNDP’s Headquarters in New York leading the Corporate Reporting and Business Analysis Team (2005-2006), and ICT Communications (2002-2005). Before joining UNDP, Ms. Veres worked in the private sector as a Management Consultant for Accenture (1997-2002) in New York and Hungary, in the field of organizational change management. Ms. Veres is a native of Hungary and has a degree of Master of Sciences in Business Administration from the Budapest University of Economic Sciences (Corvinus University).



H.E. Mr Sumbue Antas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary is the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu in Switzerland. He previously was Director of the Department of External Trade, Secretary of the Vanuatu Public Service Commission, Acting Director General of the Vanuatu Ministry of Finance and Economic Management; Managing Director General for Vanuatu Public Financial Institutional Reforms; Director of Vanuatu Customs and Inland Revenue.



Kajsa Fernström Nåtby, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Division for Climate, Sweden, Co-Chair of the WIM Taskforce on Displacement, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) works at the Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, focusing her work on the UN climate process. Kajsa is a member of the Warsaw International Mechanism on loss and damage under the Paris Agreement, and in that role also the co-chair of the Taskforce of displacement. Additionally, Kajsa is the co-chair of the EU expert group of adaptation and the EU lead negotiator on the topic of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects

of climate change.



Dina Ionesco, Senior Advisor on Migration, Climate Vulnerable Forum joined in November 2022 the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the Vulnerable 20 Group (V20) as a Senior Advisor on Migration, seconded by the UN Migration Agency, IOM to lead the Migrants4Climate Initiative and develop activities with a focus on human mobility at finance, research and policy levels. Dina co-directs the Webster University Geneva Master of Arts in Migration, Climate Change and the Environment, launched in fall 2022. Dina worked with UNFCCC (UN Climate Change) secretariat, as a Manager in the Adaptation Division with a focus on human mobility, loss and damage finance and facilitating the partnership with the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF). Over the past decade, Dina spearheaded the work on migration and climate change at IOM, establishing the first ever UN Migration, Environment and Climate Change focused division, IOM's first Environmental Sustainability Programme, leading the thematic contributions for the Paris Agreement and the Global Compact on Migration and developing numerous programs and projects. She is the author of numerous publications, including the Atlas of Environmental Migration. Dina worked with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as an Administrator for the Local Entrepreneurship and Employment Development (LEED) Programme, with European Dialogue, a human rights organization, as well as with academia and as an independent consultant in Denmark, France, and Switzerland. A Romanian and French national, she is trained in social sciences at the London School of Economics, Sussex University, and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris.



Stephanie Sepúlveda, Immigration and Labor Specialist, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) is the Specialist on Immigration and Labor at the AFL-CIO where she supports policy and programmatic work regarding immigration in the United States and globally. In this role she collaborates with affiliated unions, labor organizations, and community partners to advance policies that promote workers' rights and support an immigration system that represents the needs and interests of all working people. Born in Venezuela, her own experiences as an immigrant have shaped her interest in immigrant and refugee rights. Stephanie holds an MA in International Relations and Economics from The Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).



Elizabeth (Liz) Warn, Head, Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM) has worked for IOM since 2001. Since June 2022, she has been Head of the Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion Division in IOM HQ. This is the second time for Liz in IOM's HQ working on issues of Labour Migration and Migration and Development. Liz has also served as thematic specialist covering areas including trade and mobility, Immigration and border management, migration, environment and climate change. Her regional postings have spanned three IOM regional offices - East and Horn of Africa, Southern Africa and South America. Liz has also worked in IOM national missions in Ukraine and Albania. Liz has an MA in International Relations and European Studies from Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, and an MSc in Development Management from the Open University in the UK.



Careen Joel Mwakitalu, Co-Founder, NoTakaTanzania is a Tanzanian Journalist and Climate Advocate. Her work is streamlined from the Civil Society Sector as she works with local and international organizations to execute projects on environmental conservation, climate action, inclusion, resilience, and recovery in Eastern and Southern Africa. Careen is the Co-founder of No Taka Tanzania, a mobile Eco Hub that employs technology to develop sustainable climate solutions. Through the Geospatial Data 4 Climate Mobility project, No Taka uses geospatial data tools offered by meteorological authorities to map out climate mobility-related aspects such as land degradation. Through the data generated, Careen hopes to inform policy and create solutions for affected populations. One of the initiatives that Careen aims to develop out of the Geospatial Data 4 Climate Mobility project is a sustainable agricultural initiative that will inform the usage and productivity of land in refugee camps located in the western part of Tanzania.

Panel 2 - Meeting new skills demand created by climate action - with a focus on youth



Michelle Leighton, Chief, Labour Migration Branch, ILO – Panel 2 Moderator is Chief of the Labour Migration Branch for the International Labour Organization (ILO), leading the Office’s global program on Labour migration and mobility related to migrants and refugees, including work on implementing fair and effective labour migration policies and frameworks, fair recruitment practices, and global skills partnerships for migrant workers. She is an expert in international law, international human rights and labour standards, climate displacement, and economic development, receiving her LL.M degree from the London school of Economics and Political Science in 1987. She currently serves as an expert appointed to the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, Task Force on Displacement related to climate change, and has formerly served on the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Agenda Council on Migration, as UN University Chair on Social Vulnerability, and as a United States Fulbright Scholar in Central Asia. She taught at international law courses at the University of San Francisco School of Law among other universities, and earlier in her career co-founded the NGO Natural Heritage Institute based in San Francisco, leading research and policy programs related to environment, migration, corporate social responsibility, and human rights.



Ambassador Federico Villegas Beltrán, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Argentina in Geneva is a lawyer and career diplomat. He entered the foreign service of Argentina with honours in 1993. He was appointed Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva in March 2020, after having been Ambassador of Argentina in Mozambique since 2016, where he opened the Embassy of Argentina. In Argentina, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was first desk officer for disarmament, chemical weapons and international security issues (1993–1995) and then twice Director General of Human Rights (2005–2007 and 2012–2015). He coordinated the project with the OHCHR for the elaboration of the first National Plan against Discrimination and the establishment of the

Center for Public Policies on Human Rights of Mercosur and the International Center for Human Rights of UNESCO, both based in Argentina. He represented his country before the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and the Global Action Against Mass Atrocities Crimes (GAAMAC). Previous to his posting in Mozambique, he was Alternate Representative to the Southern Common Market and the Latin American Integration Association in Uruguay (2008–2011), in charge of small and medium-sized businesses, social and political issues of the regional integration process and approval of regional structural cooperation projects. He was also Alternate Representative to the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. (1995–2003), in charge of human rights, cooperation for development and civil society issues. He holds a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, cum laude, from Georgetown University (1998). He was selected as United Nations Disarmament Fellow in 1994 and Young Leader of the Americas in 2004. He undertook intensive training on human rights at New College, University of Oxford (1999) and at the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France (2001). Assistant Professor of International Law at the national universities of Rosario and Buenos Aires, Argentina. He has published and lectured at the national and international levels on disarmament, human rights, international security and cooperation for development issues. During 2020 and 2021, President of the 6th Conference of the Arms Convention Treaty (ATT) and the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board. In 2022, President of the UN Human Rights Council.



Victor Kotey, Deputy Director, Waste Management Department, Accra Metropolitan Assembly is the Deputy Director of the Waste Management Department of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly and has over two decades of experience working in the urban waste management space. In Accra, Victor's interests and work actively promotes the social inclusion of informal workers, including women and migrant informal workers into the city's waste management system. With a background in water and sanitation and environmental health, his work focuses on inclusive urban planning to deliver effective and efficient waste management services to low-income areas and informal settlements in Accra. He has co-authored two papers on urban waste management in Accra.



Mirela Stoia, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, International Organization of Employers (IOE) is a Swiss legal professional with more than 15 years' experience in the Swiss and international corporate immigration landscape. Prior to joining the International Organisation of Employers in Geneva as Head of Stakeholder Engagement, she was leading the Corporate Immigration Practice of PwC Switzerland providing business immigration services to private and corporate clients.

RONNIE L. GOLDBERG, Senior Counsel at United States Council for International Business (USCIB) advises USCIB's President and CEO on strategic matters and regularly represents American business in high-level international forums. Ms. Goldberg served as USCIB's top policy executive for over 25 years, most recently as Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer



Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui, Chairperson of Department of Political Science, University of Dhaka and Founding Chair of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU). Her works on climate change adaptation and migration, drivers and impact of internal and international labour migration, safe and sustainable cities inclusive to migrants have been published in the journals of *Population and Environment*, *Development Policy Review*, *Urban Studies* and in different volumes of Palgrave Macmillan, Edward Edgar, Routledge, Springer etc. She led the drafting of the National Strategy for Disaster and Climate Induced Internally Displaced Persons in Bangladesh, the national Overseas Employment Policy, 2006 and was a committee member that prepared the first draft of the Overseas Employment and Migration Act of 2013. She is in the Global Editorial Board of Oxford Journal of Migration Studies. Since June 2019 she has joined the state led Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) as member of the Advisory Committee. She is also one of the members of Board of trustees, Transparency International, Bangladesh Chapter.



Marc Tilley, Refugee, Asylum & Migration Policy Adviser to the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration has a background in Human Rights, Forced Migration and Humanitarian Protection, and is particularly interested in advancing our understanding of how climate change exacerbates the vulnerabilities of those affected by instability and conflict. Marc was born in Algeria, travelled irregularly to France and grew up Stateless in the care system, before being adopted by British parents. This lived experience instilled an early awareness of the structural obstacles to human mobility- particularly facing

those from the Global South. Marc worked for several years in Mediterranean Search & Rescue operations, followed by junior roles in the UN System, Council of Europe and Red Cross Movement. Marc is a member of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative Youth Forum, and he also currently sits the Board of the Welsh Refugee Council and the Red Cross Youth Advisory Group on Climate.



Joy Hernandez, Communications and Advocacy Officer, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)-Asia Pacific is the Communications and Advocacy Officer of the International Trade Union Confederation - Asia Pacific, a regional federation of 59 trade union centres from 34 countries and territories in Asia and the Pacific region, representing an effective membership of over 60 million. Besides being responsible for communications, she also coordinates ITUC-Asia Pacific's programmes and activities around Just Transition and climate change, development policies, and Sustainable Development Goals. She also serves as the focal point of the trade unions and workers constituency at the Asia Pacific Regional CSO

Engagement Mechanism. She previously held roles that support the labour movement in the Asian region, particularly in areas of social protection, organising, and women workers' rights. Prior to joining ITUC-Asia Pacific, she coordinated Global South-led campaigns and advocacies for tax and fiscal justice in Asia and globally.



Paul Tacon, Labour Migration Specialist, ILO – Workshop MC has worked as a Labour Migration Specialist with the Labour Migration Branch of the International Labour Organization in Geneva since January 2021. His work covers ILO’s engagement on multilateral and interagency processes on international migration including ILO’s engagement in the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. He also provides technical backstopping for ILO migration activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Prior to joining ILO, he worked at the United Nations Secretariat at the Regional Commissions for Asia and the Pacific (2014-2020) and for Western Asia (2010-2014) covering population issues including international migration, and the International Organization for Migration (2008-2010). He holds a Master’s Degree in Migration Studies from the University of Sussex, UK.