



# ***Policy Dialogue***

## ***Habitability, Climate Change and Human Rights***

Geneva, 26-27 June 2023

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **Background**

Rising global temperatures and their adverse impacts on food, water, and livelihoods are jeopardizing the effective enjoyment of fundamental rights, putting pressure on people to leave their homes, and causing displacement. The **HABITABLE Project - Linking Climate Change, Habitability and Social Tipping Points: Scenarios for Climate Migration** aims to significantly advance the understanding of the links between climate change effects and human mobility, to better anticipate their future evolution and adequately address climate migration challenges. The Project proposes a fresh outlook on the topic through **habitability** and **social tipping points** within a **socio-ecological system (SES)**.

Understanding habitability requires the adoption of a **human rights-based approach**. The two notions are, in fact, clearly linked. On the one side, habitability is a pre-condition for the effective enjoyment of fundamental rights and for living a life with dignity. In this sense, the concept of habitability has been recalled by national courts and international monitoring bodies, such as the UN Human Rights Committee, and the recognition of objective



uninhabitability determine the need for the State to **adopt preventive and protective measures**.

On the other side, the relevance of human rights in the context of climate migration is not limited to situations of habitability because fundamental rights shall be guaranteed even when the area is no longer habitable, and people are forced to flee. For this reason, a **comprehensive perspective** is needed to prevent possible human rights violations. Such a perspective encompasses adequate **adaptation measures**, appropriate **emergency responses** and the **protection of persons** affected by both sudden- and slow-onset events.

## Objectives

The Policy Dialogue represents an opportunity to actively engage stakeholders in processes of changing approaches, regulatory and institutional frameworks, programs and plans that shape existing legal and policy fields and activities.

The primary objective of the Dialogue is to **engage key stakeholders** to **discuss preliminary findings** of the research conducted within the HABITABLE Project and **share perspectives** about the relationship between habitability, climate change, and human rights.

Second, the policy dialogue, taking advantage of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), is also aimed at reaching a wide range of actors, experts, and practitioners to seek their views, **raise awareness** and **assess policy solutions**, recognizing the **benefits of adopting a comprehensive and human rights-based approach** to climate impacts and related migration and displacement.

## Methodology

The Policy Dialogue will be composed by a technical session of the HABITABLE Project, organized on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to **share knowledge** and preliminary results of the Project WPs, and a policy session, on June 27<sup>th</sup>, to **discuss** the main **policy implications** deriving from the relationship between habitability, climate change, and human rights, as well as options to manage migration and prevent displacement related to the adverse effects of global warming, with the objective to guarantee the exercise of fundamental freedoms.

A **participatory approach** will be adopted by allowing enough time and space to audience to intervene, share views and comments, and ask questions to the speakers.

The events will be conducted in English.



# Technical Session

26 June 2023, 14:00-17:30  
International Environment House, Geneva

## AGENDA

26 June: Technical Session	
Time	Session
14:00-14:20	<b>Opening of the Technical Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>François Gemenne</i>, Director of the Hugo Observatory, University of Liège, Principal Investigator of the HABITABLE Project</li><li>- <i>Sergio Marchisio</i>, Professor of International Law, Sapienza University of Rome</li><li>- <i>Iulia Sevciuc</i>, Chief of Section a.i. for the Management of Social Transformations and Foresight Programme, UNESCO</li></ul>
	<b>Methodology and Preliminary Findings</b>
14:20-14:40	<b>Developing global international migration models for scenario-building</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Karim Zantout</i>, Postdoctoral Researcher</li><li>- Presentation and discussion</li></ul>
14:40-15:00	<b>Long-term analysis of links between climate events and migration in Mali</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Flore Gubert</i>, Senior Researcher, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)</li><li>- Presentation and discussion</li></ul>
15:00-15:20	<b>Initial results of Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping in Ghana and Kenya (TBC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Diana Reckien</i>, Associate Professor of Climate Change and Urban Inequalities, University of Twente</li><li>- Presentation and discussion</li></ul>
15:20-15:40	<b>Initial results of Focus Group Discussions on migration impacts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Harald Sterly</i>, Senior Scientist, Department of Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation and discussion</li> </ul>
15:40-16:00	<p><b>Identifying policy options on climate migration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Gianfranco Nucera</i>, Research Fellow, Sapienza University of Rome</li> <li>- Presentation and discussion</li> </ul>
16:00-16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
	<b>Overall and Cross-sectoral Issues</b>
16:30-16:50	<p><b>Intersectionality, human rights and migration in a changing climate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Sara Vigil</i>, Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)</li> <li>- Presentation and discussion</li> </ul>
16:50-17:10	<p><b>Good practices in addressing climate-related human mobility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Emily Wright O'Kelly</i>, Consultant, adelphi</li> <li>- Presentation and discussion</li> </ul>
17:10-17:30	<p><b>Conclusion of the Technical Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>François Gemenne</i>, Director of the Hugo Observatory, University of Liège, Principal Investigator of the HABITABLE Project</li> <li>- Concluding remarks and discussion</li> </ul>



# Policy Session

27 June 2023, 13:00-14:00  
Palais des Nations, Geneva

## AGENDA

27 June: Policy Session	
13:00-13:10	<b>Opening of the Policy Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Václav Bálek</i>, Chair of the Human Rights Council</li><li>- <i>Atle Solberg</i>, Head of the Secretariat, Platform on Disaster Displacement</li></ul>
13:10-13:50	<b>Panel discussion on habitability, climate change and human rights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Lien Vandamme</i>, Senior Campaigner, Center for International Environmental Law</li><li>- <i>Sergio Marchisio</i>, Professor of International Law at Sapienza University of Rome</li><li>- <i>Samuel Lanwi</i>, DPR of the Marshall Islands</li><li>- <i>Benjamin Schachter</i>, Human Rights Officer, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</li></ul>
13:50-14:00	<b>Conclusion of the Policy Dialogue</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>François Gemmene</i>, Director of the Hugo Observatory, University of Liège, Principal Investigator of the HABITABLE Project</li><li>- Concluding remarks and discussion</li></ul>

