

CALL FOR APPLICATION

MENA Experts' Meeting on: Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change on Migration in North Africa and Middle East

**Research Laboratory
"Culture, Language, Education, Migration and Society"
Faculty of Letters & Human Sciences
Mohammed V University of Rabat**

**Regional Program on Energy Security and Climate Change
Middle East and North Africa – Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**

November 30th to December 1st, 2018, Rabat. Morocco

Aware of the necessity to join national and regional efforts to address displacement and human mobility challenges associated with climate change and environmental disequilibrium, the Regional Program Energy Security and Climate Change Middle East and North Africa of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS-REMENA) in collaboration with the Research Laboratory "Culture, Language, Education, Migration and Society" of the Faculty of Letters & Human Sciences - Mohammed V University in Rabat organize a Regional Experts Meeting on: **Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change on Migration in North Africa and Middle East**, at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of Rabat, from November 30th to December 1st, 2018.

Context:

Increases in the frequency and severity of chronic environmental hazards and sudden onset disasters such as increased strength and frequency of storms and floods, water scarcity, desertification, and sea-level rise are among the strong factors that can cause displacement, projected to alter the typical migration patterns of communities, especially in the North Africa and Middle East region (MENA). During periods of chronic environmental degradation, such as increased soil salinization or land degradation, the most common responses by individuals and communities is to intensify labor migration patterns. By doing so, families increase remittances and lessen immediate burdens to provide. Migration and displacement, thus, will be taking a different shape and be more significant in the coming years due to anthropogenic climate change as experts expect the effects of a warming world and more frequent extreme weather events to exacerbate already existing vulnerabilities, mainly in the global South, in the realm of food security, health issues, and fresh water supply (IOM, 2014, p. 38).

Although climate change migration is a rapidly expanding research field, the links between environmental change and migration remain under need of further investigation. For instance, one of the very few choices communities have faced to the hardships of climate change is to relocate to camps for temporary or long-term resettlement assistance. This option remains understudied but is frequently cited as the most probable response to Sea Level Rise in vulnerable countries of the MENA region. Predictive studies estimate the number of sub-Saharan migrants due to climate change might hit 85 million by 2050, and North Africa will have to partially deal with this demographic shift.

Aligned with the International Organization of Migration (IOM), we believe that national and regional efforts need to vest more time and means into addressing human mobility challenges associated with environmental factors and climate change. Therefore, in this context and with the fast approaching 11th Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) this year in Marrakech, and of which the sub-theme of Migration and climate change is given a discernible attention, this expert meeting aims at providing a platform for the MENA experts to exchange knowledge and joint synergies for answering pertinent questions that would be addressed during the GFMD.

Themes:

Assessing the current and future impacts of environmental and climate change on migration trends in the MENA region is a challenging task that entails looking rather on the factors that mitigate impacts. Therefore, the meeting will look into four salient aspects, by raising four questions:

- **Working Group 1: What is climate migration or environmental migrants from both academic and institutional standpoints, especially within the MENA region?**
- **Working Group 2: How are contemporary migrations' governances, policies and practices framed and implemented within the MENA region?**
- **Working Group 3: How can environmental factors be integrated across all areas of migration management through synergic collaborations of governments, academia and civil society?**
- **Working Group 4: How can governments facilitate migration in the context of climate change adaption and enhance the resilience of affected communities in the MENA region?**

Objectives:

This three day expert meeting will bring about experts, policy makers and academics from North Africa and Middle East to exchange knowledge, and to discuss and answer the four questions above. The aim is to generate ideas and recommendation that will be fused in a position paper document to be published as a meeting's proceeding

Format:

This is an expert meeting that welcomes actors and players from academic, governmental and civil society fields in two main arguments: 1) Round Table (RT) discussions; and 2) Working Group (WG) sessions.

Besides the plenary speeches that will be delivered by the Moroccan Ministry of Migration (TBA), the presidency of the Nation Economic, Social, and Environmental Council (TBA), and the UN-Rabat of refugees, the participating experts will be engaged, on the one hand, in round table seminars, presenting their papers, or expertise or/and current work on migration and climate change.

On the other hand, there will be 4 working group sessions. Each working group will focus on one of the four questions highlighted above. Toward the last day of the meeting, each WG will present the outcomes and recommendations generated from their WG's discussions. These recommendations will be collected and integrated in order to be published as a meeting's proceeding by the organizers, and it will be disseminated to various national and international relevant stakeholders. Foreseen in the meeting program is a site visit to either a research laboratory, an international NGO of a migration camp in Morocco.

Deliverables:

On the last day of the meeting, each working group will have to submit a synthetic position paper (3 pages) that answers one of the four questions and suggests recommendations.

Language:

The meeting will be in both French and English (interpretation will be provided); there might also the possibility of including Arabic as well.

Schedule and Venue:

The meeting will take place at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences- Mohammed V University in Rabat. The meeting will start on the evening of 29 November with a welcome dinner and finish on the evening of December 1st with a closing dinner. Therefore, international participants will arrive on November 29th and leave on December 2nd 2018.

Cost:

The organizers will cover all expenses related to the participation of the event. This will include:

Transportation: round trip economy ticket for international participants; for national participants travel reimbursements will be delivered under reception of their travel tickets.

Hotel & Meals: both hotel and meals will be provided to the participants during the period of the meeting.

Deadlines:

Deadline for submitting application is 15th November 2018

How to participate:

Interested participants should fill in the form and submit it to the email below as soon as possible. For international participants who need a visa, they should also fill in the travel form.

Contact to organizers:

For further inquiry do not hesitate to contact the organizers at the email address:
elki.yamina@gmail.com