



THE CLIMATE LAND STATEMENT

ON IMPROVING LAND ACCESS FOR
CLIMATE DISPLACED PERSONS AND COMMUNITIES

Geneva, 26 April 2016



Photo: Panama

WE, THE PARTICIPANTS AT A ROUNDTABLE ON IMPROVING LAND ACCESS AND CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT, ORGANISED BY DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS WITH THE GLOBAL MIGRATION CENTER OF THE GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE, AND HELD IN GENEVA FROM 25-26 APRIL 2016 EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN THAT EVENTS AND PROCESSES CAUSED OR EXACERBATED BY CLIMATE CHANGE HAVE CONTRIBUTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LARGE-SCALE DISPLACEMENT OF POPULATIONS.

We are cognizant of the fact that climate displacement, if not properly planned for and managed, may lead to the violation of internationally recognised human rights, as well as tensions and instability within States and across national borders.

While some States have initiated important steps to find viable, land-based solutions to climate displacement, we remain concerned that, in general far too little has been done by States to develop institutions and implement concrete measures to assist climate displaced communities and those threatened with climate displacement.





Photo: Bangladesh

WE THEREFORE CALL UPON STATES, INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS AND OTHERS, TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING SEVEN ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE DISPLACED PERSONS AND COMMUNITIES WITHOUT DELAY:

1. **Apply and enforce** human rights laws and guidelines, including the *Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement Within States*, as core elements within effective national strategies recognising that climate displaced persons and communities are rights-holders under human rights law;
2. **Reaffirm and enhance** the protection and promotion of the rights of climate displaced persons, in particular their housing, land and property (HLP) rights;
3. **Recognise** the right of climate displaced persons to remain in their homes and retain connections to the land on which they live for as long as possible, and to ensure that any planned relocation measures are entirely voluntary in nature and in conformity with international standards;
4. **Affirm** the central role of land in resolving climate displacement in a sustainable manner, and the need to increase secure access to land in the development of viable domestic strategies, laws and policies designed to prevent and repair climate displacement;
5. **Identify, Acquire and Allocate** viable, high quality and affordable land resources at a level commensurate with the scale of present and likely future climate displacement in all countries to all persons and communities requiring such resources;
6. **Assemble** national land inventories to act as central repositories for land set aside for the use of climate displaced persons and communities; and
7. **Develop** clear national policies and effective institutional frameworks dedicated to preventing and repairing climate displacement.