



Joint Oral Statement

UN Human Rights Council, 56th Session

Agenda Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

21 June 2024

Delivered by Markus Hofer

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance and Caritas Internationalis welcome the Reports of the Special Rapporteur.

Under the right conditions, planned relocation can play an important role in minimizing the human rights violations and associated losses and damages due to climate change. However, under the lesser conditions, relocation can cause such acute distress that people prefer to risk returning to their initial home, as witnessed by Caritas organizations at the grassroots in the recent publication “Displaced by a changing climate”.¹

Therefore, we call on affected governments to fully integrate planned relocation in all development and climate action planning initiatives and base such initiatives on risk mapping conducted together with potentially affected communities.

We also call on governments to develop national relocation policies and legal frameworks, to ensure relocation processes preserve cultural identities and local practices through full participation of communities at all stages of the process, take a holistic approach to ensure all needs generated by relocation are responded to in the long run, and guarantee that economic, social and cultural rights are fully respected.

Additionally, we urge the governments of countries historically most responsible for climate change to ensure that the ‘Adaptation’ and ‘Loss and Damage’ Funds are in a position to fully cover all relocation needs through grants.

Thank you.

¹ https://www.caritas.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/caritas_climate_full_web.pdf