



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



working for Zero Hunger

**HIGH LEVEL PANEL | WORLD WATER FORUM 8 | 18-23 MARCH 2018  
BRASILIA, BRASIL**

# Water stress and human migration: making the link

**MONDAY 19 MARCH - 16:30 - 18:00  
ALVORADA AUDITORIUM**

## BACKGROUND

Migration is a universal and common process and is linked to development in multiple ways. When mainstreamed in broader frameworks, especially in development planning, migration can benefit the communities at both origin and destination. Migrants can and do support their home communities through remittances as well as the knowledge and skills they acquire in the process while contributing to the host communities' development. Safe, orderly and regular migration can contribute to agricultural development, economic growth, food security and rural livelihoods. Migration can also be a part of climate change adaptation efforts. Yet, those migrants who are poor and low-skilled face the biggest challenges emanating from migration that occurs on involuntary, unsafe and irregular basis.

This high-level panel has been organized by FAO on behalf of UN-Water.

## Objectives of the event:

The event will focus on the linkages between water stress and migratory movements globally. Countries, UN agencies and the audience will:

- identify the water related drivers of migration in different regions of the globe;
- showcase diverse migratory experiences, including opportunities and challenges, of different countries and best practices to improve water security and the livelihoods of rural communities, including refugees;
- elaborate on required interventions on the water sectors to address migration, including policy, investment, data needs and partnerships; and
- discuss ways and means of cooperation to ensure a safe and orderly channel for population movements.

## Participants:

*Moderator: Mr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, Editor-in-chief, Water Policy*

*Panelists:*

H.E. Helder Barbalho, Minister of National Integration, Brazil

H.E. Suleiman Hussein Adamu, Minister, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Nigeria

H.E. Charafat Afilal, Secretary of State in charge of water, Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, Morocco

H.E. María García Rodríguez, Secretary of State for Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment, Spain

H.E. Teresa Ribeiro, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Development, Portugal

Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment

Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Chair, Global Water Partnership

Prof. Ahmet Saatci, President, Turkish Water Institute, Turkey

Ms. Isabel Marquez, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Representative in Brazil

Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO

## Agenda:

16:30 -16:35	Introduction by the moderator
16:35 -16:40	Video statement by Gilbert F. Hounbo, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Chair of UN-Water
16:40 -17:00	Panel discussion on migration experiences (internal and international) and the relation with water
17:00 -17:05	Video statement by Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and co-chair of the United Nations Global Migration Group (GMG)
17:05 -17:25	Panel discussion on host countries perspectives, including hosting of refugees
17:25 -17:30	Video statement by José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and co-chair of the United Nations Global Migration Group (GMG)
17:30 -17:50	Panel discussion on the perspectives and roles of UN Agencies and International Organizations
17:50 -18:00	Engaging with the audience