

# An Equitable Response to Climate Change

In order to increase the visibility of climate-induced migration and displacement in the context of climate change and mobility, the Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP) in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organizes a trip of delegates from five regions around the world to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change SB 58 in Bonn](#) and to the [53rd Human Rights Council Session in Geneva](#). The objective is to include perspectives of directly impacted communities and vulnerable populations and identify approaches and resources necessary to address people's rights in just and sustainable ways when it comes to climate change, migration, and displacement. The delegates bring in the results from four previously held regional consultations in the Pacific, South and Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as well as the Republic of Georgia, conveying emerging advocacy messages and priorities from the regions to multilateral spaces. There are 11 delegates this year to the conference.

## Maina Talia



**Maina Talia** is from Vaitupu, Tuvalu. He has been attending Conference of Party (COP) meetings as part of Tuvalu's delegation since 2012 and organized side events in 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021. Since 2017, he has been the Pacific representative to the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IPFCC), speaking as a climate activist on issues such as climate change, oceans, sea level rise, seabed mining, migration, and traditional knowledge. He recently completed his doctoral studies at Charles Sturt University, where he explored the concept of neighbors in the context of climate change and geopolitics.

### How is displacement and migration happening in your community?

Tuvalu is a low-lying atoll, and any rise in sea level poses a serious problem for those living in coastal areas. Families living along the shorelines have been displaced from their traditional lands due to rising sea levels. This raises a crucial question: How far inland do we have to move to remain safe?

The displacement of people due to sea level rise has been a long-standing issue in Tuvalu, and has been especially damaging to local farmers as water invades their farm lands. Many have been forced to abandon their homes and relocate miles away from their traditional lands. This has resulted in the loss of livelihoods and cultural heritage.

We must consider the implications of sea level rise and global warming in order to find a solution to the displacement of people in Tuvalu. Currently, there is no clear answer to the question of how far inland people must move in order to remain safe. However, it is clear that we must take action to protect the people of Tuvalu from the impacts of climate change. This will require investing in infrastructure and technology that will enable coastal communities to better withstand the effects of rising sea levels.

### What is the role of the UN in supporting your community in addressing climate-induced displacement and migration?

The United Nations (UN) has a long history of working to protect and promote the human rights of individuals around the world. In 2020, the UN released the Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, which highlighted the importance of protecting the rights of individuals displaced due to climate change. Additionally, Dr. Ian Fry recently released a report titled, "Providing legal options to protect the human rights of persons displaced across international borders due to climate change."

Apart from these two documents, however, it is difficult to identify a specific role the UN is playing in providing support and facilitating solutions to address the displacement of people due to climate change. The UN is actively engaged in addressing the root causes of climate change and its effects, but there is still a need for a more direct and practical approach to helping those displaced due to climate change.

#ClimateMigrationVoices

