

**Coalition on Dignified Climate-Related Planned Relocation**  
**June 2025 Convening Concept Note & Agenda**

**Proposed Coalition Purpose and Goals**

Planned relocations of entire communities to new sites are already happening and are likely to happen more as the climate crisis accelerates. Climate hazard-related planned relocations can endanger a wide range of human rights, but harms can be minimized when governments have policies in place that are rights-respecting, prioritize support for community-driven processes, and are well-resourced.

Currently there is a void in global leadership on these issues, which prevents knowledge-exchange between relocating communities (and their supporters) across contexts and prevents coordination to advance national policies that integrate global standards on rights-respecting planned relocation. The human rights principles are well known and documented; now is the time for *action* – to apply existing tools and strengthen *a global community of practice*.

The Coalition on Dignified Climate-Related Planned Relocation seeks to help fill this gap by working towards two collectively identified goals:

- (1) fostering knowledge exchange among frontline communities, researchers, and advocates through in-person convenings and a virtual hub; and
- (2) advocating for every country with a coastline (initially) to develop and implement a comprehensive, rights-respecting policy framework on planned relocation.

The coalition builds on existing networks to convene actors working on climate-related mobility and is unique because of the *global scope* and focus on *climate-related planned relocations of entire communities* and their distinct implications for policies and funding. Members include frontline community leaders, civil society advocates, researchers, and members of international organizations who are committed to protecting the rights, autonomy, and dignity of people undergoing planned relocation facing the climate crisis. Anyone interested – even if they are unable to attend the in-person convening in June – should contact Erica Bower (bowere@hrw.org) to get involved.

**Coalition Launch: June 19-20, 2025, New York City**

The first in-person convening for the coalition will take place on **Thursday, June 19 and Friday, June 20, 2025**, at Human Rights Watch's New York City office. At the convening, coalition members will share experiences and strategize on the coalition's long-term goals and short-term advocacy strategies to advance those goals. The convening and coalition aim to be co-created; many participants have influenced the agenda, and the goal is for every participant to have a role as a presenter, facilitator or note-taker in at least one session (if you haven't yet heard from us, stay tuned).

**Location**

34th floor, Empire State Building, 350 5th Ave New York, NY 10118 (entry instructions coming)

**Participants**

There will be ~40 participants. See bios and photos in the email attachment.

## Agenda

### Day 1: Thursday, June 19

8:30-9:00 AM	<b>Coffee and arrival</b>	
9:00-10:00 AM	<b>Welcome</b>	Introduction, including land acknowledgement, goals for the convening, introductions and logistics.
10:00-11:30 AM	<b>Session 1:</b> Community leaders share experiences	Community leaders will share their experiences determining what human rights-respecting approaches to climate-related planned relocation involve in their communities, including developing community protocols.
11:30-11:45 AM	<b>Break</b>	
11:45 AM- 12:45 PM	<b>Session 2:</b> Planned relocation and human rights principles	The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) will synthesize insights from Session 1 and the consultations leading to her 2024 Report on planned relocations. This will be followed by a discussion about patterns across contexts, the principles that are most relevant in certain contexts, and what is missing in existing compilations of principles.
12:45-1:45 PM	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:45-2:30 PM	<b>Session 3:</b> National policies on planned relocation	Presentations and discussion on current state of national policies on planned relocation, and the vision of “every country with a coastline” developing a national governance plan for rights-respecting relocation.
2:30-4:30 PM  <i>10-minute break, 3:30-3:40 PM</i>	<b>Session 4:</b> Strategies for influencing governments to develop rights-respecting policies	Full- and breakout-group discussion on approaches to advocate for development of national policies on planned relocation, exploring pros and cons of different strategies and coalescing around different coalition workstreams. These may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Community-led organizing strategies</i></li><li>• <i>Research and evidence gathering strategies</i></li><li>• <i>Top-down regional, international and state-led strategies</i></li><li>• <i>Creative capacity building strategies</i></li></ul>
4:30–5:00PM	<b>Wrap-up of Day 1</b>	Synthesis of takeaways from Day 1 sessions
5:00-6:30 PM	<b>Dinner &amp; Celebration of the Coalition Launch</b> (Human Rights Watch office)	

## Day 2: Friday, June 20

8:30-9:00 AM	<b>Coffee and arrival</b>	
9:00-9:30 AM	<b>Welcome</b>	Recap first day and warm-up activity
9:30-10:45 AM	<b>Session 5:</b> Deep dive into a national context	Presentations and discussion deep dive on efforts to push for rights-respecting climate hazard-related planned relocation governance in a particular geographic context.
10:45-11:00AM	<b>Break</b>	
11:00 AM-1:00 PM	<b>Session 6:</b> Visioning and work-planning	Breakout group work session in different workstreams identified and discussed in Session 4. Each group will undertake a visioning exercise culminating in a preliminary workplan for how their approach can influence governments to develop rights-respecting governance of climate-related planned relocation.
1:00-2:00 PM	<b>Lunch</b>	
2:00-3:15 PM	<b>Session 7:</b> How to work together going forward	Discussion of how coalition members will collaborate moving forwards - balancing goals with capacity and political constraints—e.g., map next steps, potential funding options for coalition and strategic opportunities for next convenings and advocacy (including COP30).
3:15-3:30 PM	<b>Break</b>	
3:30-4:30 PM	<b>Closing:</b> Next Steps	Closing synthesis of takeaways from convening and action items