**Abstract type:** Oral Presentation

**Name:** Jakob Schou Kupferberg

**Institution:** Human Rights Consortium, School of Advanced Study, University of London

**Email address:** [Kuffy001@gmail.com](mailto:Kuffy001@gmail.com)

**Topic:** 8. The implications of climate change for human rights and migration

**Migration With Dignity - Pitfalls and Alternatives to Planned Relocation to Fiji in the Face of Climate Change Displacement in the Pacific - a Human Rights Perspective**

*This paper examines migration as a result of climate change in the Pacific through a human rights perspective. While climate change is becoming one of the most pressing issues of our time, migration arising in its wake poses new challenges for mankind on a scale which is unprecedented in history. Though migration as a result of environmental changes is not a new phenomenon, the scale, speed and urgency poised by global warming in terms of rising sea levels, water inundation and displacement is. Millions of people in exposed and vulnerable regions are thus expected to be displaced by the middle of this century, predictions and estimates ranging from 25 million to 1 billion leaving in its wake a massive task for policymakers at the national and international level to grapple with. One of the most vulnerable ‘hot spots’ where climate change is making its mark on a daily basis are Small Island States in the Pacific. While international law is currently insufficient in providing protection to those who will be forced to migrate, Fiji has taken matters into its own hands and is at this moment finalising its ‘Migration With Dignity’ policy which will be presented at COP23 between November 6-17th. A comprehensive resettlement scheme offering a new home for Pacific Islanders whose islands and ways of life are threatened by rising sea levels, namely Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru and the Marshall Islands, ‘Migration With Dignity’ faces a range of challenges which can potentially compromise its success in the short and long run. This paper seeks to examine critically existing shortcomings and pitfalls of Fiji’s ambitions from a human rights perspective by looking at previous planned relocations in the Pacific, both internal and cross-border, and the key obstacles that these past resettlement schemes have highlighted. It claims that the legalistic side in terms of nationality and property rights will constitute the first hurdle to be overcome to secure a ‘Migration With Dignity’ in Fiji; access to financial resources to facilitate relocation and investing in housing, transport, enterprise, social and health infrastructure will be the second hurdle; and a fair and head-on approach to maintaining and practicing cultural links and the social and racial tensions which may arise as a result of relocation the last hurdle. It argues that basing policies on fundamental human rights principles by securing the minimally good life for all stakeholders involved is the way forward. It also considers the prospect of labour migration as a short and long-term alternative to planned relocation.*