

Side Event

At this year's UN [climate change conference](#), from Nov. 28-Dec. 9 in Durban, South Africa (COP17), UNFPA will be participating extensively. Here is a summary of our activities:

At the [UNFPA South Africa](#) level, we are part of the UN South Africa side event on **28 November**, titled "Innovative Approaches to Climate Change: Experiences From the UN system in South Africa."

The [UN system in South Africa](#) has had some interesting and promising success on climate change initiatives to be showcased at this event, which will bring together all UN agencies in South Africa under the mantle of finding synergies around delivering as one on climate change, highlighting their work and commitment on the subject.

UNFPA's topic is "Understanding the interactions among population, environment and development for sustainable human development: The Population, Environment and Development Nexus Training Programme in South Africa." The [South African Minister of Social Development](#), Hon. Ms. Dlamini recently launched a new book, "Sharing Innovative Experiences in Addressing Pop and RH Challenges," supported by UNDP/UNFPA, at the International Conference of [Partners in Population and Development](#) in Pretoria.

Presenters at the side event will be: Mark Bryan Schreiner, UNFPA South Africa Deputy Representative, and Jacques van Zuydam, Chief Director, Department of Social Development, Government of South Africa.

On **6 December**, UNFPA, with the support of 12 other UN and international organizations, is leading a side event on "Implementing the Cancun Adaptation Framework: Vulnerability, Changing Populations and Human Mobility."

Many countries, especially least developed ones, are experiencing rapidly changing populations, including urbanization rates that will double within 20 years, significant migration and displacement and large and increasing numbers of children and young people. These same countries are also projected to experience the most severe human impacts of climate change, both acute and long term, exacerbating current vulnerabilities linked to conflict, competition over natural resources, human rights violations, livelihood and food insecurity, lack of access to basic social services, poor health, extreme poverty and exposure to natural hazards.

This side event will focus on providing operational and applied experiences and recommendations to countries seeking to integrate population change and migration into their climate change response.

[UNFPA](#) will give the keynote address, to be followed by a panel of ministers, advisers to governments, UN representatives and others responsible for carrying out policies programmes on the ground.

UNFPA will also participate in two other events: as a member of the Science Reference Group for the [Durban Local Government Convention](#), which will bring representatives of cities around the world to Durban to share experiences and develop common approaches to urban adaptation; and to present [Learn, the UN's umbrella climate change training initiative](#). – DANIEL SCHENSUL