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Presentation Title: Rights and Resilience: Climate-Induced Community Relocations

Abstract
Climate-induced community relocations require new governance institutions based in human rights doctrine. In Alaska, winter temperatures have increased 3.5 degrees Celsius since the 1950s, arctic sea ice is decreasing in size and thickness and permafrost is thawing. These environmental phenomena are causing accelerated rates of erosion and flooding, which damage or destroy infrastructure and threaten the livelihoods and well-being of people residing throughout Alaska. The federal and state governments have issued numerous reports since 2003 documenting these climate change impacts on Alaskan communities and the need for immediate action to protect populations. State and federal government agencies are struggling to respond to the enormous new needs of these communities. Despite spending millions of dollars, the traditional methods of erosion control and flood protection have not been able to protect some communities. The inability of technology to protect people who reside in vulnerable risk-prone coastal and riverine communities is an issue that could affect millions of people all over the world. For several Alaska Native communities protection in place is not possible and community relocation is the only adaptation strategy that can protect them from accelerating climate change impacts.