

Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage
Bonn, Germany, 2–5 February 2016
Inputs from the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility

Context

COP19 (November 2013) established the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage in order to guide the implementation of the Mechanism. The second meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage will be held 2–5 February 2016, in Bonn, Germany.

The *Initial two-year work plan (2015-2016)* of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage includes:

Action area 6: Enhance the understanding of and expertise on how the impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility; and the application of such understanding and expertise			
	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Indicative timeline</i>	<i>Expected results</i>
(a)	Invite relevant organizations and experts to provide scientific information on projected migration and displacement based on projected climate and non-climate related impacts in vulnerable populations	Jan-June 2015	Enhanced understanding, based on sound science, of migration and displacement, including of characteristics of vulnerable populations that may become mobile owing to factors related to climate change impacts Enhanced understanding and collaboration Synthesized information made available on the relevant information, lessons learned and good practices from the activities of organizations and experts
(b)	Invite United Nations organizations, expert bodies and relevant initiatives to collaborate with the Executive Committee to distil relevant information, lessons learned and good practices from their activities	Jan-June 2016	
(c)	Identify follow-up actions, as appropriate	July-Dec 2016	Identification of follow-up actions

COP 21 Agreement Article 8

5. The Warsaw International Mechanism shall collaborate with existing bodies and expert groups under the Agreement, as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Agreement.

COP 21 Decision

48. Decides on the continuation of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, following the review in 2016;

50. Also requests the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism to establish, according to its procedures and mandate, a task force to complement, draw upon the work of and involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention including the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention, to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change;

51. Further requests the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism to initiate its work, at its next meeting, to operationalize the provisions referred to in paragraphs 49 and 50 above, and to report on progress thereon in its annual report;

Advisory Group recommendations

Provisional agenda Item 4. Of the two-year workplan of the Executive Committee and the delivery of activities

(a) Updates on progress in relation to: (v) Action Area 6, activity (a) Invite relevant organizations and experts to provide scientific information on projected migration and displacement based on projected climate and non-climate related impacts in vulnerable populations

- The Envoy of the Chairmanship of the Nansen Initiative, Prof Walter Kaelin participated as an Expert and he presented findings from the Nansen Initiative process at the Informal pre-meeting of the Excom of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (Excom 1) in September 2015. Two documents were submitted to the Excom in preparation for the meeting on: 1) Regional Dynamics of Disaster-Related Human Mobility, and 2) A Nansen Initiative Discussion Paper on the Relationship between Climate Change and Human Mobility. In the meeting itself, Prof Kaelin presented the Nansen Initiative, gave an overview of displacement dynamics and displacement risks in the context of climate change. He also outlined various policies options for responding to disaster displacement and the relevance of the work of the NI for the work of the WIM.
- The Advisory Group is composed of the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Norwegian Refugee Council and its Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (NRC/IDMC), Refugees International (RI), the Center for International Relations Studies de Sciences Po (Sciences Po-CERI), and the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED).
- The goal of the Advisory Group is to provide technical support to UNFCCC Parties on human mobility in the context of climate change, and to ensure that aspects of human mobility – including migration, displacement, planned relocation and other forms of mobility – which are addressed under the UNFCCC are coherent and based on the most recent evidence, findings and experience (research, best practices, data, etc.).

- The members of the Advisory Group are available to provide scientific information on projected migration and displacement based on projected climate and non-climate related impacts in vulnerable populations according to their mandated areas of work and expertise in this area, these areas of work and expertise include amongst others:
 - UNHCR leads the Global Protection Cluster and consult with UNICEF and OHCHR in case of natural disaster situations or complex emergencies. States can prevent and prepare for increased displacement in future when the right policies are in place. Therefore UNHCR, Brookings and Georgetown have developed guidance on planned relocation in the context of disasters and climate change that is relevant for National Adaptation Plans.
 - IOM has a mandated internal structure devoted to Migration, Environment, Climate Change (MECC), and lead of the Camp management and Camp coordination cluster in natural disasters. IOM implements activities around the world with providing response, preparedness, capacity building and recovery activities for displacement situations and for the integration of human mobility issues within climate change and migration policies. IOM gathers evidence from its Displacement Tracking Matrix, its research programme on Migration, Environment and Climate Change.
 - NRC is an operational organization with country offices in more than 30 countries; NRC has firsthand experience in addressing displacement, also in the context of climate change. Further, NRC has undertaken research on resilience and displacement in the context of disasters and climate change and can share operational and research recommendations with Parties, also through learning events on displacement and protection, DRR/M, CCA etc.
IDMC gathers evidence, data, and modeling each year in IDMC's global data and probabilistic risk modeling of weather-related disaster displacement, together with distilled knowledge from its monitoring and research on displacement dynamics, causes and impacts on vulnerable populations.
 - RI conducts independent field missions to countries experiencing climate-related disasters or stress to enhance understanding of the assistance and protection needs of those displaced, or at risk of displacement. RI is able to share findings and recommendations to national governments, donors, and international humanitarian and development actors to address shortcomings in institutional, policy, and operational responses to climate displacement.

(c) Updates on any other work undertaken intersessionally

Key findings so far include:

- Climate and disaster-related human mobility is a cross-cutting issue that requires strengthened action at all levels and sectors, including humanitarian response, human rights protection, migration management, protection of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change adaptation, land use

planning, and development. At the international level, the UNFCCC and its relevant bodies including the Adaptation Committee and the Executive Committee of the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage provide a significant framework to address the impacts of climate change on human mobility.

- Evidence shows that weather-related disasters result in significant levels of population displacement worldwide. Considering the impact of sudden-onset, weather-related hazards alone, a global average of at least 22.5 million people have been displaced each year from 2008 to 2014, and disaster displacement since the 1970s is on the rise. Since 2008, close to 175 million people who live in developing countries have been displaced by disasters, accounting for 95 per cent of the global total (IDMC 2015). The IPCC AR5 concluded that levels of forced displacement due to both large and small-scale, recurrent hazards linked to climate change will increase in the coming decades. Those displaced by disasters are entitled to protection and assistance and should be supported to return and rebuild/recover their homes and livelihoods as soon as possible. In addition, measures must be put in place to mitigate or avoid [disaster] [climate] displacement through climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, land use planning and the like.
- Well-managed migration, whether circular, temporary or undertaken with the intention to settle elsewhere, has the potential to increase the resilience of climate vulnerable populations by creating new livelihood opportunities and strengthening resilience to future risks. Migration also supports economic development in the areas to which migrants move to, while supporting families back home through remittances. When not properly managed, however, migration can lead to significant risks including trafficking and exploitation. It is therefore essential to ensure that migration occurs in a manner that fully respects and protects the dignity and human rights of those who move and those who stay behind.
- In some cases, the impacts of climate change may make life unsustainable or render certain areas uninhabitable owing to high exposure to extreme or frequent hazards or by severely limited livelihoods options. Planned relocation, if implemented in consultation with, and with respect for the rights of the people and communities involved, can protect vulnerable populations from climate risks and impacts through settling them in safer, more secure locations. Where planned relocation related to climate change cannot be avoided, its scale should be minimized and the process should always involve affected communities, fully protect their rights, and support them to fully restore their standard of living.

(d) Review of Action Areas; (e) Specific work to be undertaken in the first half of 2016.

Although Parties to the UNFCCC have increased their knowledge and understanding of the impacts of climate change on displacement, there are some gaps that need to be filled in the second phase of the Workplan of the Excom and or by the task force established by COP 21. (Please see our recommendations on the task force under Item 5 below.)

Provisional agenda Item 5. Consideration of any relevant requests arising from COP21.

- Decision of the COP 21 establishes a task force to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Following are the Advisory Group's suggestions related to the Task Force:

Task force on Human Mobility:

Objectives of the Task Force:

“a task force to complement, draw upon the work of” ... “to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change;”

Constitution of the Task Force.

“involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention including the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention”

- (a) “existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention including the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries” – this suggests that the Task Force will need to ensure that it links its work to the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and potentially other bodies such as the Green Climate Fund, the Nairobi Work Program, etc...
- (b) “as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention” - this suggests that expert groups such as the Advisory Group could be members of the Task Force, which the Advisory Group supports to the extent that it represents a mix of relevant academic, policy and operational experts and organizations in the field of climate change and human mobility.
- (c) In addition to experts on displacement and migration, the Task Force could include experts from other relevant sectors including climate science, disaster risk reduction, land use planning/human settlements, development, human rights, and gender.
- (d) The task force could include representatives from civil society organizations, including from least developed and other climate vulnerable countries.

Funding. Clarity would be helpful on funding sources for the Task Force. Will members of the Task Force bear their own expenses (or their organizations bear their expenses) for their participation and tasks in the Task Force?

Mission and Function of the Task Force.

“develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement”

This may include:

1. Enhancing knowledge: e.g. facilitate information sharing of best practices, latest findings and access to existing guidance, research, projects and initiatives that exist outside the UNFCCC, as well as in the UNFCCC (e.g. info shared through the NWP) and with Parties to the UNFCCC (e.g. through the establishment of a webpage, through workshops) and in particular developed and implemented by the members of the Advisory Group.
2. Enhancing policy coordination, analysis and sharing of national policy and regional approaches to climate displacement: e.g. facilitate dialogue and foster collaboration with UN agencies, international and regional organisations, initiatives, civil society and Parties to the

UNFCCC to avoid duplication and identify future needs and action on the issue. (e.g. through a matrix to map out all the relevant activities/initiatives and ensuring coordination with other relevant processes such as The Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, The Agenda for Sustainable Development, the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), The UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), Regional Consultative Processes on Migration and inter-governmental organizations dealing with diverse aspects of human mobility including displacement.

3. Enhancing action: e.g. by sharing best practices, developing guidance and implementing trainings regarding climate adaptation measures that avoid and reduce displacement, including through disaster risk reduction and resilience-building measures, facilitating voluntary migration, and encouraging participatory and dignified planned relocation.
4. Enhancing technical and capacity building support to national and local authorities, and (sub) regional organizations, to integrate human mobility considerations into climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and policies, including through collaboration, as appropriate, with UNFCCC bodies and processes.

For more information, please contact Advisory Group coordinator:

Marine Franck: franckm@unhcr.org