



COP 22 TECHNICAL INPUTS: CLIMATE & DISASTER DISPLACEMENT

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

22nd Conference of Parties (COP 22), Marrakesh, Morocco

HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT

On 12 December 2015, after eight years of negotiations, 195 countries adopted the legally binding Paris Agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions and hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C. This is a historic commitment from States to mitigate climate change, but the framework established by the Paris Agreement also serves wider purposes, such as combating poverty, promoting rights and peace. The Paris Agreement includes three important elements for human mobility issues.

1. The Agreement's Preamble recognizes that climate change is a common concern of humankind and includes a reference to migrants, asking Parties to respect, promote and consider their respective obligations towards migrants, among others, when taking actions to address climate change.
2. The Paris Agreement contains many references to the protection of people, the resilience of communities and the importance of livelihoods. These are essential entry points for addressing environmentally-linked root causes of forced displacement such as access to water, food, energy, and the need for livelihood opportunities to enable people to remain where they live.
3. Finally, the Paris Agreement requests the Executive Committee (Excom) of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) to establish a task force on displacement. Paragraph 50 of the Decision Text requests that “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”. This is also an acknowledgment of the dangers of displacement and a welcome recognition of climate change as a factor of displacement.

FROM COP21 TO COP22

- The **second meeting of the WIM Executive Committee** was held in Bonn Germany on 2-5 February 2016: UNHCR participated alongside other members from the Advisory Group (IOM, UNU, Nansen Initiative representative) to provide States with technical support and expertise to address the complex issue of climate and disasters-related displacement. The [Advisory Group Recommendations for the Excom2 of the WIM](#) were disseminated by the UNFCCC secretariat to Excom members¹ and were published on the [UNFCCC website](#). UNHCR, alongside IOM and a Nansen Initiative (NI) representative were part of a panel for discussion with member States during a morning session of the plenary. Discussion focused on the functions and added value for the task force on displacement, and the catalytic role in gathering community with regard to: policy and operational coherence, the need to enhance understanding, gather evidence and raise awareness on different forms of human mobility, actionable recommendations to address concerns of the most vulnerable. UNHCR and colleagues also provided technical support to the drafting of a call for inputs under Action area 6 (AA6(a)): Enhance the understanding of and expertise on how the impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility. UNHCR and colleagues also supported the application of such understanding and expertise.
- The **third meeting of the WIM Executive Committee** was held in Bonn Germany on 26-30 April 2016. UNHCR participated alongside other members from the Advisory Group. UNHCR argued for an action area on human mobility in the 5 year workplan of the WIM to take stock on progress of the task force work and move forward recommendations of the task force. UNHCR also contributed to the development of the Task Force TORs.
- On 27 - 29 July 2016, the **WIM Excom organized a Technical meeting on migration, displacement and human mobility in Casablanca, Morocco**. This meeting was part of Action Area 6 of its initial two-year workplan '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'. The Executive Committee invited UN organizations, expert bodies and relevant initiatives to collaborate with the Executive Committee to distill relevant information, lessons learned and good practices from their activities. This meeting was organized by the WIM Excom in partnership with IOM and in collaboration with the UNHCR, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, NRC, UNU, and Université de Liège, which championed the three pillars of the meeting: knowledge, coordination, and action.²

¹ South Africa, Senegal, Tuvalu, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Jamaica, Timor-Leste, Saint Lucia, Ghana, Nepal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, European Union, Austria, Australia, Poland, Norway, Russian Federation, Japan, and Germany

²http://unfccc.int/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/loss_and_damage/items/9682.php

- The **fourth meeting of the WIM Executive Committee** was held in Bonn Germany on 19–23 September. With the support of UNHCR, Parties adopted the TORs of the Task Force on displacement,³ and elected the members of the task force. These members will recommend organizations from which representatives will be drawn, and have requested the secretariat to make arrangements for the first meeting of the task force, as soon as feasible. On AA6 it was decided that the secretariat, in collaboration with other interested relevant organizations, would disseminate the synthesized information in a user-friendly format, and would include an opportunity for feedback by the Excom before finalizing the product. This would include a note clarifying that the information refers to the outcomes of the technical meeting held 27-29 July 2016. It was also discussed that Human Mobility would remain an action area in the 5 year workplan of the WIM.
- The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) and the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 12) will be held in Bab Ighli, Marrakech, Morocco from 7-18 November 2016. The first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1) will take place in Marrakech in conjunction with COP 22 and CMP 12. This will be the first meeting of parties to the Paris Agreement. The resumed session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) will be held in conjunction with the forty-fifth sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

³ http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/application/pdf/tor_task_force_final.pdf

ISSUES AT COP22 AND UNHCR RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda item	Issue	UNHCR Recommendation
<p>SBSTA 3: Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change</p>	<p>SBSTA will take stock of Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP) to which UNHCR is a partner organization. FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.10</p>	<p>UNHCR will remain a partner organization to the <u>Nairobi Work Programme</u>, including for supporting work on human settlements that is core to the climate displacement issue.</p>
<p>SBSTA 4/ SBI 10: Report of the Adaptation Committee. http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sb/eng/02.pdf</p>	<p>Presentation of the report of the work of the Adaptation Committee (AC) between November 2015 and September 2016.</p>	<p>UNHCR encourages the <u>Global Environment Facility (GEF)</u> and the <u>Green Climate Fund (GCF)</u> to take into consideration measures to avert and minimize climate displacement in all their programmes and operations, and calls for more adaptation funding to minimize the risk of forced climate displacement.</p>
<p>SBSTA 5/ SBI 11/ COP7: Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts. http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sb/eng/03.pdf</p>	<p>Recommendation to COP: To encourage Parties to incorporate or continue incorporating the consideration of extreme events and slow onset events, non-economic losses, displacement, migration and human mobility, and comprehensive risk management into relevant planning and action, as appropriate, and to encourage bilateral and multilateral entities to support such efforts; To reiterate its encouragement to Parties to make available sufficient resources for the successful and timely implementation of the work of the Executive Committee, including, as appropriate, in relation to the clearing house for risk transfer and the task force on displacement.</p>	<p>Sufficient resources are needed for the successful and timely implementation of the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) Task Force on displacement.</p> <p>UNHCR encourages the use of terminology from <u>Cancun Adaptation Framework Paragraph 14f</u>: displacement, migration and planned relocation, under the umbrella term human mobility.</p> <p>UNHCR encourages the mainstreaming of human mobility in their planning tools, such as <u>Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)</u>.</p>

	<p>*§49: 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 AC and the LEG, 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 WIM Excom Initiate work at the first meeting post Paris and report on progress thereon in its annual report Work began at Excom 2 (February 2016) and ongoing. Terms of reference were adopted at Excom 4 (September 2016). WIM Excom to initiate a nomination process for the Task force members in accordance with the Terms of reference.</p>	<p>UNHCR encourages the Task Force to focus on recommendations directly relevant to the UNFCCC in order to avoid duplication with other ongoing efforts.</p>
<p>SBSTA 8. Matters relating to science and review: (b) Advice on how the assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change can inform the global stocktake referred to in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement.</p>		<p>UNHCR encourages the <u>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</u> (IPCC) to work with UNHCR and other relevant organizations to assess how different temperature scenarios would lead to displacement of populations, as part of IPCC's advice to inform the Global Stocktake.</p>
<p>SBI 8. Matters relating to the least developed countries. http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/18.pdf</p>	<p>COP21 extended the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) under its current terms of reference to cover the period 2016–2020 and mandated the LEG to undertake a number of additional activities. The LEG is mandated to develop a two-year rolling work programme for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)</p>	<p>UNHCR encourages the <u>Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)</u> to work closely with the Task Force on displacement to contribute to and implement relevant recommendations to support LDCs in averting, minimizing and addressing displacement.</p>

<p>SBI 9. National adaptation plans. http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/inf11.pdf</p>	<p>information on the progress of Parties in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, including on support provided and received</p>	<p><u>National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)</u> are a useful planning tool for Parties to prevent and minimize displacement. UNHCR is committed to provide technical support to Parties when formulating and implementing their NAPs for enhancing resilience of populations and moving them out of harm’s way before they are forcibly displaced.</p>
<p>SBI 14. Capacity-building in developing countries: (c) Paris Committee on Capacity-building.</p>		<p>UNHCR encourages the development of <u>trainings and capacity building</u> in developing countries to avert, minimize and address displacement in context of climate change.</p>
<p>CMA1</p>		<p>While it is important to bear in mind the significant distinction between migrants on the one hand and refugees on the other,⁴ the interpretation of the <u>Preamble Reference</u> to migrants should extend to the most vulnerable people on the move, including people forcibly displaced by the effects of climate change. This should also extend to all internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers situated in climate change hotspots who are doubly affected by conflicts and climate impacts.</p>

UNHCR ROLE IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS

From 2008, UNHCR has provided technical support to UNFCCC Parties on human mobility:

- Starting in 2008, UNHCR was a member of the IASC Task Force on Climate Change special sub-group on 'migration, displacement, and climate change'. This group provided collective submissions to annual Conferences of Parties to UNFCCC (COPs), which contributed to paragraph 14 of Cancun Adaptation Framework in 2010.
- Starting in 2013, UNHCR coordinated the 'Advisory Group on Human Mobility and Climate Change' which provided joint submissions on displacement, migration and planned relocation, organized side events, joint exhibits, bilateral meetings, press briefings on the road to

⁴ See Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, “Refugees and migrants: frequently asked questions”, 15 March 2015. Available from www.unhcr.org/print/56e95c676.html.

Paris COP 21, and which contributed to the creation of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) Task Force on Climate Displacement.

- UNHCR has also been actively involved in the work of the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) working group on climate change (WGCC).

UNHCR remains committed to continue providing technical support to Parties in implementing the Paris Agreement

SUBMISSIONS FROM THE ADVISORY GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN MOBILITY TO THE UNFCCC		
Submission	Date	Link
UNFCCC Secretariat, Non-economic losses in the context of the work programme on loss and damage (FCCC/TP/2013/2)	9 October 2013	http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/tp/02.pdf
Joint submission to the UNFCCC on Loss and Damage	4 November 2013	http://www.unhcr.org/542e64d89.html
Joint submission to the UNFCCC on National adaptation plans	30 July 2014	http://www.unhcr.org/542e95c29.html
Joint submission to the UNFCCC on the Nairobi Work program	August 2014	http://www.unhcr.org/542e63739.html
Joint submission to the UNFCCC on Excom of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage	September 2014	http://www.unhcr.org/542e94e69.html
Advisory group's detailed Information Note on human mobility in the context of climate change, COP 20, Lima, Peru	19 December 2014	http://www.unhcr.org/54942dde9.html
Advisory group's recommendations on human mobility in the context of climate change, COP 20 Lima, Peru	19 December 2014	http://www.unhcr.org/54942d8e9.html
Recommendations from the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility COP 21 Paris, France	March 2015	http://www.unhcr.org/5550ab359.html
Climate change and human mobility solution agenda - Resilience - Paris COP 21	12 June 2015	http://www.unhcr.org/557ad0429.html
Recommendations for COP 21 to UNFCCC Parties from the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility	October 2015	http://www.unhcr.org/562f79b29.html
Recommendations from the Advisory Group on to the Warsaw International Mechanism Excom	February 2016	http://www.unhcr.org/56b9a4c19.html http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workstreams/loss_and_damage/items/9073.php

**SIDE EVENTS AND PRESS BRIEFINGS (CO-)ORGANIZED BY THE ADVISORY GROUP
ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN MOBILITY**

UNFCCC Session	Event	Date	Link
COP 19 Warsaw	High-level pre-COP Francophone meeting: Human mobility as an adaptation and loss and damage issue in the context of the negotiations	December 2013	NA
Bonn inter-session	Side event on “Research and evidence on climate change-related population mobility”	4 June 2014	http://unfccc.int/meetings/bonn_jun_2014/items/8392.php
COP 20 Lima	Side event on Climate Change Adaptation, Resilience and Human Mobility: Voices from the Climate Frontlines with Mary Robinson, and UN Women	11 December 2014	http://www.mrfcj.org/resources/putting-human-face-climate-action-cop20/
	Press briefing: Human mobility and climate change - What policymakers need to know on the road to Paris	09 December 2014	http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/cop20/events/2014-12-09-09-30-united-nations-university-human-mobility-and-climate-change-what-policy-makers-need-to-know-on-the-road-to-paris
	Press briefing: Linking climate change and human mobility	10 December 2014	http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/cop20/events/2014-12-10-10-00-united-nations-high-commissioner-for-refugees-climate-change-and-human-mobility
Bonn inter-session	Side Event , Climate Displacement and the Paris Agreement with the Nansen Initiative	3 June 2015	http://www.unhcr.org/5584031c9.html
	Press briefing to address the momentum of including human mobility recommendations in the Paris Agreement and Decision	22 October 2015	http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/bonn_oct_2015/events/2015-10-22-13-00-unhcr
COP 21 Paris	Press briefing: The Changing Weather Forecast & Humanitarian Impacts of Climate Change UNHCR with IFRC and WMO	December 2015	NA
	Press briefing: Prepare and Adapt: Climate Change and Human Mobility - in COP21 and Beyond	2 December 2015	http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/cop21/events/2015-12-02-17-00-united-nations-high-commissioner-for-refugees-unhcr-prepare-and-adapt-climate-change-and-human-mobility-in-cop21-and-beyond
	Press briefing: Human mobility in a changing climate with UNCCD	10 December 2015	http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/cop21/events/2015-12-10-15-30-international-organization-for-migration
	Side event : Human Rights and the Private sector, with Global Compact, Brice Lallonde Mary Robinson	10 December 2015	http://www.globalcompact-france.org/images/actualites/20151210 - Compte_Rendu - Climate_Justice_EN.pdf
	Side event : High level UN event on Human Mobility and climate change	10 December 2015	http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/one-un-high-level-roundtable-human-mobility-and-climate-change
	Side event : Climate Displacement: Voices from the Frontline	December 2015	https://www.dropbox.com/s/wwzm953rboo9y8d/Audiorecord-ingCOP21sessionchairedbyMarineFranckUNHCR.xspf?dl=0