

Analysis of UNFCCC COP22 (Marrakech, Morocco, 7-18 November 2016)

The 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7-18 November 2016, was a critical COP for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. UNHCR participation in COP22 followed many years of engagement with UNFCCC process, most notably at COP21 in Paris last December 2015, where UNHCR, in partnership with relevant organizations, initiatives and academia, was instrumental in ensuring that the Paris Agreement addresses displacement, including through the creation of a task force to “develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change”.¹

What are the COP22 outcomes that are relevant to the displacement issue?

COP22 demonstrated to the world that spirit of multilateral cooperation on climate change action continues, and that the implementation of the Paris Agreement is underway. At COP22, Parties launched the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, which aims to concretize the Global Climate Action Agenda and provide a roadmap for action from 2017 to 2020. COP22 also adopted the report of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on loss and damage in a decision² that:

- requests the Executive Committee of WIM (ExCom) to continue to implement activities from its initial two-year workplan, *which includes an activity 6 on human mobility*;
- approves the indicative framework for the five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom as the basis for developing corresponding activities, *including one area of work on human mobility*; and
- requests the ExCom to include in its five-year rolling workplan relevant work for advancing the operationalization of the mandates ensuing from Paris Agreement, *including the establishment of the task force to avert, minimize, address displacement*.

On the review of the WIM, the COP22 recommended that:

- the UNFCCC Secretariat prepares a technical paper, as an input to the review in 2019, that elaborates on the sources of and modalities for accessing financial support, for addressing loss and damage, *which will help address the funding gap with regard to loss and damage, including displacement*; and
- the WIM considers the establishment of additional expert groups, subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or focused working groups to assist it in conducting its work and supporting its efforts, *which is an opportunity for the advisory group on human mobility to continue its engagement with the UNFCCC*.³

¹ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf>

² http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/application/pdf/auv_cop22_i7_wim1.pdf

³ Coordinated by UNHCR during 2013-2016 and composed of IOM, UNU-EHS, UNDP, NRC/IDMC, Refugees International, the University of Liege, RAED.

How did UNHCR engage in the UNFCCC Process in 2016 and at COP22?

UNHCR coordinated joint submissions to the WIM Excom,⁴ participated to the four meetings of the WIM ExCom, to the Bonn intersession of the UNFCCC, as well as to the UNFCCC Technical meeting on human mobility in Casablanca, Morocco in July 2016.

To keep the displacement issue high on the agenda and ensure coordination and synergies amongst relevant stakeholders, UNHCR organized two side events at COP22 and participated in over twenty side events on human mobility, a remarkable increase from the handful of side events dedicated to these issues in past climate change negotiations.⁵ This included:

- Organization together with the Platform on Disaster Displacement and moderation of a side event on November 9th that highlighted opportunities for synergy between the ‘Platform on Disaster Displacement and the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement’ as well as regional perspectives from the Pacific, Central America and northern Africa.
- Organization, in the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) One UN, of a side event on November 10th that brought together panelists from UNHCR, OHCHR, IOM, UNU, UNICEF UK, UN Women, FAO, NRC, and PDD, and was moderated by the UNFCCC secretariat.

At COP22, UNHCR further provided technical support to Parties through dispersal of a Frequently Asked Questions about climate change displacement,⁶ a policy brief for public audience,⁷ and more technical document for negotiators.⁸

On the way forward, UNHCR will continue to participate and provide technical support to UNFCCC Parties, including in the context of WIM. In these ongoing activities, UNHCR would like to underscore the importance of coordination and collaboration across agencies and civil society, including the importance of working with the human rights community and with young people. More broadly UNHCR will continue working on the issue of climate change and disaster-related displacement, including through engagement in the Platform on Disaster Displacement.

⁴ <http://www.unhcr.org/56b9a4c19.html>

⁵ www.unhcr.org/uk/protection/environment/583456407/highlights-unhcr-organized-side-events-cop22.html

⁶ <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2016/11/581f52dc4/frequently-asked-questions-climate-change-disaster-displacement.html>

⁷ <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/protection/environment/581870687/policy-brief-displacement-at-cop-22.html>

⁸ <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/protection/environment/583455267/cop-22-technical-inputs-climate-disaster-displacement.html>

This table features all side events which UNHCR organized, presented or spoke from the floor.

Date	Event title	Event Organizer	Time	Location
Sunday Nov 6	What role can NHRIs play in monitoring sustainable development goals and commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change	National Human Rights Council of Morocco (CNDH)	9:00-18:30	Outside of COP Venue
Monday Nov 7	L'indispensable prise en compte des déplaces climatiques et environnementaux	Centre international de droit comparé de l'environnement (CIDCE) & Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)	13:00-15:00	Blue Zone Pavillon OIF
	Regards croisés – Echange d'expériences : Le Changement Climatique, les Migrations et le Développement : Comment optimiser l'impact des Organisations de la Diaspora Africaine ?	Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM)	15:00-16:30	Green Zone Ziz
Wednes day Nov 9	The role of African researchers to address climate change and human mobility	Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH)	9:00-10h30	Blue Zone Pavillon Maroc
	Technical Event La Task-Force « 3S - Soutenabilité, Stabilité et Sécurité » en Afrique	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	11:00-12:30	Blue Zone Moroccan Pavilion
	Climate Displacement: protection challenges, the platform on Disaster Displacement	UNHCR/PDD	15:00-16:30	Green Zone Sebou
	Changement Climatiques et Migrations: enjeux, defils et politique	ORMES	17:00:18:30	Green Zone Bougreg
	Changements climatiques et Droits de l'homme	Organisation Marocaine Des Droits Humains (OMDH)	17:00-18:30	Green Zone Loukkos
Thursda y Nov 10	One UN side Event - Human Mobility and Climate Change	UNHCR – One UN	13:15 — 14:45	Blue Zone Mediterranean
	Culture on the Move: Sea Level Rise, Cultural Heritage and Climate Mobility	International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)	15:00-16:30	Blue Zone Bering
	Climate Related Displacement and Migrants : Rights and Responsibilities After Paris	Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST Trust)	16:45-18:15	Blue Zone Bering

	Culture on the Move: Sea Level Rise, Cultural Heritage and Climate Mobility	International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)	17:00-16:00	UK Pavilion
Friday Nov 11	YOUNGO Briefing on displacement issues, UNHCR Policy Perspectives	YOUNGO	9:00-10:00	Astral Room
	Droit de l'homme et le changement climatique	SONU	10h3-11h15	Pavillion France
	Activity 5. Panel Session "Resilient cities, climate change and migration" (ICCAR - MOST)	UNESCO	17:00 – 18:30	UNESCO Pavillion
Monday Nov 14	African Ministerial Event on Sustainability, Stability and Security ***High level event	UNCCD	17:00-20:00	Blue Zone Meeting room N.5
Wednes day Nov 16	Migration, Environment and Climate Change - Evidence for Policy (MECLEP): Presentation of results	IOM	12:45-14:15	EU Pavilion
Thursda y Nov 17	Tackling climate change and root causes of migration	Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)	14:30-16:00	EU Pavillion
	Confronting Climate-Induced Migration in Climate and Disaster Policy	NRC/IDMC	18:30-20:00	EU Pavilion
Friday Nov 18	CliMates Youth on the Move : a new perspective on climate migration	CliMates	13:00-14:30	GreenZone Sebou