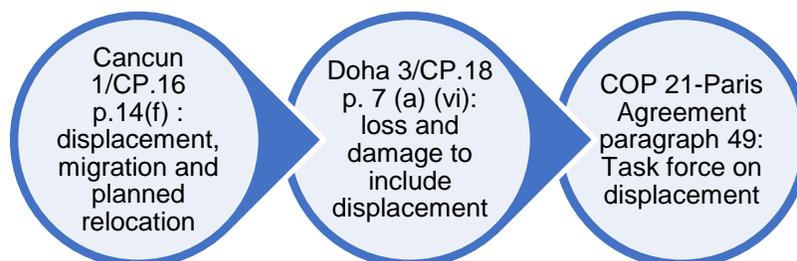


COP 23 - UNFCCC

6 November 2017- 17 November 2017



In 2017, devastating hurricanes in the Caribbean, droughts in the Horn of Africa, and floods in South Asia have forced millions to flee their homes. Climate change is a threat multiplier, and may exacerbate conflict over depleted resources. There is widespread agreement among scientists that the effects of climate change, in combination with other factors, will increase the displacement of people. **The issue of human mobility (including displacement, migration and planned relocation)¹ should therefore be placed high on the international agenda.** Parties to the UNFCCC acknowledge the need for action on this issue:



¹ For all relevant discussions: UNHCR encourages the use of terminology from Cancun Adaptation Framework Paragraph 14f: displacement, migration and planned relocation, under the umbrella term human mobility.

COP 23 represents a unique opportunity. It is the first time in the history of the UNFCCC that an island state has the COP presidency, as the Prime Minister of Fiji will preside over the conference. Loss and Damage, including averting, minimizing and addressing displacement linked to climate change impacts is an important issue for the Fiji Presidency. The three priorities for this COP are as follows:

1. **Achieving the design of the Facilitative Dialogue** - Next year in 2018 the political and scientific facilitative dialogue will assess where Parties are in terms of progress towards the long term goal.
 - The Facilitative Dialogue in 2018 should also recognize the impacts of climate change on populations, including displacement. The work of WIM Task Force on Displacement should inform the dialogue throughout its development in 2018, not just in the outcome at COP24.
2. **Developing rules of the Paris Agreement** - Almost all countries in the world have adopted the Paris agreement and must now adopt its rules, also called the Paris agreement work program. This process would have to be finalized by 2018.
 - The Task Force on Displacement will submit recommendations to COP24 in December 2018. It is important to ensure that experts outside the Task Force on Displacement are given the opportunity to contribute to the implementation of the Task Force Workplan and to the development of recommendations.
 - The Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) should continue its work on human mobility and ensure that its five year rolling workplan provides for the opportunity to continue the work of the Task Force on displacement beyond the end of its current mandate to ensure a follow up to the recommendations.
 - The Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, including work on human settlements, should consider integrating planning for measures to build resilience and avert displacement, but also to protect persons displaced in the context of extreme and slow-onset events, particularly in urban areas.
 - The Green Climate Fund (GCF) should :
 - Ensure funding for measures to avert, minimize and address climate change-related displacement and mainstream human mobility in its programmes and operations.
 - Ensure safeguards for funded mitigation and adaptation projects to prevent and reduce the displacement of populations and its negative impacts in the context of climate change.
3. **Action on climate change** - Action on the ground implemented by stakeholders outside the UNFCCC is crucial. This is also referred to as the 'global action agenda' or 'ground coalition.' This COP should facilitate opportunities for negotiators to talk to those taking action on the ground.

- UNHCR encourages the development of training and capacity building as well as toolkits to support Parties to incorporate measures to avert, minimize and address displacement in context of climate change within their national planning tools.
- The next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to be submitted in 2020 should be aligned with Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies also to be developed by 2020 (as per Sendai Framework), and include measures to avert, minimize and address disaster displacement.
 - The Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda is a toolbox of effective practices that are already used in different regions, which can be drawn upon for this purpose.
 - UNHCR is working with UNFCCC, UNEP and Commonwealth Secretariat to develop a legal toolkit for supporting Parties in implementing their NDCs. This toolkit will include templates and examples of good practices in different regions for Parties to develop laws and norms, including to prevent and address displacement of populations in the context of climate change.
- National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other nationally planning tools should consider consultative and people-centered planned relocations as a climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategy to move people out of harm's way before they are forcibly displaced. Governments and communities should consult Guidance (2015) and Toolbox (2017) developed by UNHCR and partners when developing national policies and plans on planning relocations to protect people in anticipation or in reaction to climate impacts.

The role of UNHCR in UNFCCC Processes: 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.
- From 2013-2016, UNHCR coordinated the informal 'Advisory Group on Human Mobility and Climate Change' that provided joint submissions on displacement, migration and planned relocation, organized side events, joint exhibits, bilateral meetings, press briefings on the road to Paris COP 21. UNHCR remains a member of Advisory Group now coordinated by the Norwegian Refugee Council.
- UNHCR is a member 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 is engaged with ONE UN group, co-organizing ONE UN side events to ensure the most recent knowledge and progress on human mobility issues is made available to UNFCCC parties.
- UNHCR remains committed to continue providing technical support to Parties in implementing the Paris Agreement.