

I am writing to express OHCHR's interest in contributing to the work of the WIM taskforce on displacement. Noting that the TOR call for the task force to "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," I want to express that OHCHR can and is willing to contribute to the work of the task force.

OHCHR is deeply engaged on the issue of migration, serves on the Advisory Committee of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, is a member of the Global Migration Group, participates in the negotiations of the Global Compact, and is currently preparing a study on "Addressing human rights protection gaps in the context of cross-border movement of persons resulting from the slow-onset adverse effects of climate change". We believe this expertise and the human rights perspective could critically inform the work of the WIM task force on displacement and would like to express our interest in contributing to relevant discussions and processes. We are happy to provide inputs on relevant outcome documents and otherwise contribute to the work of the WIM task force on displacement as appropriate.

With regard to the workplan of the WIM we would like to make the following suggestions for areas of potential focus. These suggestions are derived from a meeting that OHCHR along with the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice and the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action hosted. The meeting included a half-day panel and discussion on human rights, migration, and displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change which was moderated by Mary Robinson and included expert presentations from OHCHR, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, IOM, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, the IPCC, UNHCR and UNISDR.

- 1) Address the root causes of forced displacement by strengthening social protection systems, empowering persons in vulnerable situations and investing in productive, inclusive and resilient development in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture
- 2) Clarify the relationship between climate change and movements of people and the corresponding obligations of States
- 3) Address collective displacement and associated human rights harms.

- 4) Establish mechanisms for impacted people to participate in relevant decision-making including in discussions at the UNFCCC.
- 5) Emphasize the importance of pre-emption through appropriate disaster risk reduction and adaptation including by taking effective climate change mitigation actions and increasing the resilience of livelihoods and food systems.
- 6) Further explore the principle of *non-refoulement* as a complementary framework for the protection of persons displaced by climate change.

OHCHR would welcome the task-force to consider these suggestions in its deliberations. Further, OHCHR would like to invite a member of the task force to participate in an expert meeting that it will organize in late September on the subject of "Addressing human rights protection gaps in the context of cross-border movement of persons resulting from the slow-onset adverse effects of climate change". I will send further details about this meeting and a follow-up message in the next month or so once a date has been finalized and the planning has progressed.

Thank you for your consideration of this message and I look forward to hearing from you about how OHCHR may contribute to the work of the task force and potential areas of collaboration.