

**Warsaw International Mechanism
Executive Committee (WIM ExCom) Work Plan
Action Area 6 on Migration, Displacement and Human Mobility**

Submission of the **Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility** 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 University of Liège (**ULg**), and the Arab Network for Environment and Development (**RAED**)

Action Area 6 of the WIM ExCom's initial two-year workplan focuses on enhancing 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.

To assist the Executive Committee in this task, relevant organizations and experts have been invited to provide to the WIM ExCom, by Monday 16 May 2016, knowledge, data and scientific information on both internal and cross-border migration, displacement and other forms of human mobility owing to factors related to climate change impacts, including in combination with other factors. The WIM ExCom is particularly interested in gathering information on potential challenges and possible solutions. Input may include:

- a) Information on factors that affect movements or decisions to stay of vulnerable populations (characteristics, underlying vulnerabilities, circumstances, where interventions may be needed to help particular groups) associated with the impacts of climate change in distinction to or in conjunction with impacts related to climate variability and non-climate related impacts;*
- b) Policy, normative and institutional challenges and opportunities associated with minimizing, averting and addressing both internal and cross-border displacement, including in the context of alternative climate change trajectories (e.g. 1.5°C, 2°C, etc.) including challenges of communities not in a position to migrate (so called "trapped populations").*

- I. *Information on factors that affect movements or decisions to stay of vulnerable populations (characteristics, underlying vulnerabilities, circumstances, where interventions may be needed to help particular groups) associated with the impacts of climate change in distinction to or in conjunction with impacts related to climate variability and non-climate related impacts;***

a. How do adverse effects of climate change impact displacement, migration and other forms of human mobility?

The IPCC First Assessment report concluded that one of the largest impacts of climate change could be on human mobility. Since then, understanding of the mobility aspects of climate change have substantially increased. The latest IPCC report (IPCC AR5) concludes that the adverse effects linked to climate change are anticipated to affect human mobility in at least three ways:

- (1) an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events forces people from their homes on a temporary and sometimes permanent basis.
- (2) Increased warming and drought affects agricultural production and access to clean water.
- (3) Sea level changes have been projected to lead to permanent displacements as coastal areas become uninhabitable.
- (4) more indirectly, through amplifying poverty and economic shocks that contribute to the potential for violent conflict in the form of civil war and inter-group violence.¹

b. How many people are displaced or at risk of displacement in the context of climate change?

- There is significant quantitative and qualitative data on past displacement associated with disasters brought on by sudden-onset natural hazards such as floods, storms and wildfires. Considering the impact of sudden-onset weather-related hazards or shocks, between 2008 and 2015, there was an average of at least 21.5 million new displacements of people each year.² There is no global estimate of the total number of people living in displacement, however, including hundreds of thousands who remain displaced for prolonged periods of times that go on for years to decades rather than days to months before they are able to settle in their former homes or elsewhere.³ The Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC (AR5) concluded that levels of displacement related to both large and small-scale, recurrent hazards linked to climate change will increase in the coming decades. Climate change is likely to exacerbate an upward trend in disaster displacement as the number of vulnerable people living in hazardous areas increases, through population growth and rapid, unplanned urbanization (and an explosion in the number of people living in slum-like conditions), poor development practices and other factors.

¹ IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, Working Group II, "Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability," Chapter 12, pp. 766-71; Chapter 21, pp. 1175 <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/>

² IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement 2016, May 2016. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report2016/>

³ *ibid.* Also see IDMC Global Estimates 2015: People displaced by disasters, July 2015. Chapter 5, pp. 47-74. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/2015/global-estimates-2015-people-displaced-by-disasters/>

- There is another significant gap in the current data: displacement related to the impact of slow onset hazards and gradual processes of environmental degradation that may in turn be linked to climate change. These processes can be a significant driver of migration and displacement as they erode livelihoods, food security, health and other factors necessary for people to survive and prosper in their home areas.⁴ More qualitative and quantitative national assessments are needed to understand human mobility in the context of these climate-related stressors, including recurrent drought, land degradation, desertification, sea level rise and temperature rise.⁵
- Although displacement in the context of disasters and climate change is predominantly internal, more data is needed on people displaced across international borders in these contexts.
- An additional challenge, especially when analyzing the link between climate change and human mobility and quantifying movements, is determining the extent to which climate change – in combination with socio-economic or other non-climate factors – was a cause of the movement. The interactions of mobility with climate change impacts are multifaceted and motivations are complex. Environmental conditions and altered ecosystem services are just some among the many reasons why people move, which usually interacts with a range of other economic, political, social, and demographic factors. Climate change impacts may thus play a role in these decisions, but direct attribution is often difficult to establish in relation to specific events and contexts, and is the subject of extensive research. In view of this complex causality, estimating future global displacement is fraught with uncertainty.⁶
- Adding to this uncertainty is the fact that the extent of human mobility in the context of adverse effects of climate change will be highly dependent upon not only the rate of warming and changes to the climate system, the perceptions of vulnerable populations

⁴ IDMC Global Estimates 2015: People displaced by disasters, July 2015 <http://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/2015/global-estimates-2015-people-displaced-by-disasters/>

⁵ IOM's Assessing the Evidence series. country and regional assessments on environmental and climate migration (2014-2016). Papua New Guinea, 2014 (www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/assessing-evidence-migration-environment-and-climate-change-papua-new-guinea). Haiti, 2015 (www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/fr/defis-enjeux-et-politiques-migrations-environnement-et-changements-climatiques-en-haiti). Dominican Republic, 2016 (https://publications.iom.int/es/system/files/assessing_the_evidence_dominican_republic_sp.pdf). Cambodia, 2016. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/assessing-vulnerabilities-and-responses-environmental-changes-cambodia>.

⁶ Gemenne, François. 2011. "Why the Numbers Don't Add up: A Review of Estimates and Predictions of People Displaced by Environmental Changes." *Migration and Global Environmental Change – Review of Drivers of Migration* 21, Supplement 1 (December): S41–49. doi:10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2011.09.005

on environmental changes and the extent to which humans implement adaptation measures that effectively avoid or minimize displacement.^{7,8}

- In some cases, initiatives to mitigate climate change, such as REDD+ or biofuel production, may also indirectly lead to displacement and other forms of human mobility.⁹

c. Where is the risk of climate displacement more prominent?

While no region of the globe is immune from climate change, it will disproportionately affect certain geographic regions and communities that are more exposed and vulnerable to its effects.^{10, 11} While severe weather events affect rich and poor countries alike, poor and vulnerable communities are worst affected. 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.¹² Risks are greatest for least developed countries with significant populations who are both exposed to climate-related hazards and vulnerable to climate impacts due to pre-existing vulnerability such as poverty, poorly constructed housing and infrastructure, as well as their limited financial, technical and institutional capacity to recover or adapt. Thus, the extent of displacement will also depend on the ability of governments and communities to adapt and implement measures to build resilience and reduce underlying vulnerabilities and displacement risk.

Certain geographic regions of the world are also more likely to experience climate change-related displacement and migration. For example:

- (i) Asia sees more disasters than any other region – in 2015, 85 percent of all new displacement by sudden onset disasters was in south and east Asia.¹³

⁷ Zickgraf, Caroline, Sara Vigil, Florence de Longueville, Pierre Ozer, and François Gemenne. 2016. "The Impact of Vulnerability and Resilience to Environmental Changes on Mobility Patterns in West Africa." World Bank.

⁸ IOM, 2016. Data on Environmental Migration: How much do we know : <http://iomgmdac.org/data-environmental-migration/>

⁹ Vigil, S. 2015. 'Displacement as a consequence of climate change mitigation policies', Disasters and Displacement in a Changing Climate, Forced Migration Review. University of Oxford. No 49 : 43-45.

¹⁰ Ionesco Dina, Daria Mokhnacheva, François Gemenne. 2016. *Atlas des migrations environnementales*. 1 vol. (151 p.) vols. Paris: Sciences Po les Presses/ Organisation Internationales des Migrations (IOM) : <http://www.iomfrance.org/atlas-des-migrations-environnementales-0>

¹¹ IOM and Sciences Po Series: State of Environmental Migration (2011,2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/state-environmental-migration>

¹² IDMC 2015.

¹³ IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement 2016, May 2016. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report2016/>

(ii) Low-lying coastal areas with large populations living within a few meters of sea level, such as Bangladesh, are likely to experience significant climate change-related displacement due to increased exposure to storm surge, soil salination, flooding, erosion, and sea level rise.^{14,15}

(iii) Climate change impacts on water availability will disproportionately affect geographic areas that are prone to drought or dependent on glacial melt for fresh water.¹⁶

(iv) Climate change will also disproportionately affect human mobility in developing countries with populations that are highly dependent on natural resources/rain-fed agriculture to survive such as the Sahel region of West Africa and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁷

(v) The populations of fragile and conflict-affected states is also at particular risk of displacement in the context of disasters and climate change.¹⁸

(vi) Arctic communities, especially indigenous peoples, are also highly vulnerable to displacement due to the rapid increase in temperature and melting of sea ice in the Arctic region. In fact, in the United States, Native Alaskan communities are already undertaking measures to relocate inland.¹⁹

d. Is there a knowledge gap?

- While understanding of the causes, dynamics and magnitude of climate change-related displacement has been growing in recent years, these phenomena are still not fully understood and conceptualized. Therefore better data, concepts and evidence are needed to develop adequate policies. The development of tools and systems that allow for the systematic gathering and analysis of reliable data on displacement, and

¹⁴ World Bank, *Turn Down the Heat: Climate Extremes, Regional Impacts, and the Case for Resilience* (2013) http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/07/17/090224b0828c0f20/1_0/Rendered/PDF/TurnDownTheResilienceFullReport.pdf

¹⁵ Chun, J. 2014. *Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Policy Brief Series*. IOM. <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/vulnerability-environmental-stress-household-livelihoods-assets-and-mobility-mekong-delta-viet-nam>

¹⁶ Report of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights on the relationship between climate change and human rights (A/HRC/10/61), 15 January 2009, p. 11 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/HRAndClimateChange/Pages/Study.aspx>

¹⁷ *Id.* at 10.

¹⁸ "A New Climate for Peace: Taking Action on Climate and Fragility Risks," *A New Climate For Peace*, 2015, accessed 25 May 2015, <http://www.newclimateforpeace.org/>

¹⁹ IPCC AR5, WG II, Chapter 28, at 1583.

human mobility more generally, in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change is particularly needed.

- This is not an exhaustive list but it would be useful for example to determine to what extent men and women already rely on migration as a strategy to cope with the effects of natural hazards and the effects of climate change, and what lessons can be learned for improving the benefits of migration and addressing related protection risks.²⁰ It would also be useful to understand under what circumstances vulnerable households chose to use different forms of mobility to manage climate risks, and what the outcomes were for their welfare as well as understanding vulnerable household characteristics. Another gap is the cost of implementing measures to prevent and address displacement.
- Likewise the availability of tailored climate information and services for vulnerable population groups at risk of displacement, as well as ability to access and use such information/services, could contribute to their adaptation measures and have implications on their decisions on movement. Often population groups at risk for the adverse effects of extreme weather events or climate change do not have access to tailored climate information to make decisions in time that could ultimately prevent their displacement. While the need for strengthening climate services as part of DRR is recognised through the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)²¹ and other global initiatives (such as the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)), the link to displacement is not specifically highlighted and could be developed further, including in areas such as impact based early warnings²² and disaster risk financing and insurance²³.

II. Policy, normative and institutional challenges and opportunities associated with minimizing, averting and addressing both internal and cross-border displacement, including in the context of alternative climate change trajectories (e.g. 1.5°C, 2°C, etc.) including challenges of communities not in a position to migrate (so called “trapped populations”).

1. Policy, normative and institutional challenges

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,

²⁰ Nansen Initiative’s Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change (Protection Agenda)

²¹ http://www.gfcs-climate.org/disaster_risk_reduction;

²² <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/launch-of-crews-climate-risk-early-warning-systems/>

²³ <https://www.gfdr.org/disaster-risk-financing-and-insurance>

land use planning, and development. *Because different institutions deal with different aspects of human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change, inter-agency coordination is needed in order to avoid overlap and address gaps.*^{24, 25}

a. Are people displaced in the context of climate change « climate refugees »?

- The term climate refugee does not exist in international law since the word ‘refugee’, as set forth in the 1951 Refugee Convention normally describes people fleeing war or persecution, and who have crossed an international border. In the case of cross-border climate-related displacement, there is no international protection instrument and hence, a legal gap to assist and protect people who cross borders in the context of disasters and climate change.²⁶
- Evidence indicates that most displacement in the context of climate change and disasters takes place within countries. People who are internally displaced in these contexts are in need of timely assistance and protection and lack durable solutions, otherwise, they are more likely to be forced to cross an international border to seek redress.^{27, 28}

b. What are the relevant global policy frameworks and processes of relevance for human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change?

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 acknowledges that one of the most devastating effects of disasters in recent years is the large number of people who are displaced.^{29, 30} The Framework underlines, inter alia, the need to prepare for “ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related dis-

²⁴ UNHCR, The Environment and Climate Change: An Overview, 2015, <http://www.unhcr.org/540854f49.html>

²⁵ IOM Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (2014) : <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/iom-outlook-migration-environment-and-climate-change-1>

²⁶ UNHCR Legal and Protection Policy, Protecting People Crossing Borders in the Context of Climate Change Normative Gaps and Possible Approaches, 2012, <http://www.unhcr.org/542e9abd9.html>

²⁷ Nansen Initiative’s Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change (Protection Agenda)

²⁸ IOM, Glossary : Migration, Environment and Climate Change (2014) <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/glossary-migration-environment-and-climate-change-evidence-policy-meclep-0>

²⁹ Population Mobility and Disaster Risk Reduction: Perspectives on human mobility and the HFA2 consultation process (IOM2015) : <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/population-mobility-and-disaster-risk-reduction-perspectives-human-mobility-and-hfa2-consultation>

³⁰ Key Advocacy Messages: Mobility and Disaster Risk Reduction / Messages clés de plaidoyer: Mobilité et réduction des risques de catastrophe / Mensajes y recomendaciones clave: Movilidad y reducción del riesgo de desastres <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/key-advocacy-messages-mobility-and-disaster-risk-reduction-messages-cl%C3%A9s-de-plaidoyer-mobilit%C3%A9-et>

placement, including access to safe shelter, essential food and non-food relief supplies” and encourages States to adopt, at national and local levels, “policies and programmes addressing disaster induced human mobility to strengthen the resilience of affected people and that of host communities as per national laws and circumstances.” It also calls for “transboundary cooperation [...] to build resilience and reduce disaster risk, including [...] displacement risk.”³¹

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also adopted in 2015, notes that the “forced displacement of people threaten[s] to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades,” and contains a commitment “to cooperate internationally to ensure [...] the humane treatment”, inter alia, of “displaced persons,” and to build the resilience of those in vulnerable situations to climate-related extreme events and other disasters.³²
- The first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) will be held in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May 2016 and will bring together governments, humanitarian organizations, people affected by humanitarian crises and other relevant stakeholders to develop a set of concrete actions aimed at enabling countries and communities to better prepare for crisis and emergencies, including preparing for increased frequency and intensity of natural hazards. It will be important to ensure the inclusion of human mobility challenges into such proposals and promote actions that can protect and prevent people from being displaced and ensure movement in dignity and safety when displacement is unavoidable.
- The UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) will take place in Quito, Ecuador, on 17-20 October 2016. The goal of the conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty, and identify and address new and emerging challenges. The first implementing conference of the Post-2015 sustainable development and climate change agendas, Habitat III offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of urban areas vulnerability to climate change (especially informal settlements) and as destinations for those uprooted by climate change effects.
- The Nansen Initiative is a State-led, consultative process launched in 2012 by the Swiss and Norwegian governments to build consensus on a Protection Agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change. Over the course of three years, the Nansen Initiative conducted regional consultations in the Pacific, Central America, the Horn of Africa, Southeast Asia and South Asia. During the process, various thematic areas including humanitarian action, human rights, migration, disaster risk reduction, climate change adap-

³¹ UNHCR, Displacement and Disaster Risk Reduction <http://www.unhcr.org/5665945e9.html>

³² UN Resolution A/Res/70/1, “Transforming Our World: the 2013 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” 15 September 2015, ¶¶ 14, 29 http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

tation, and development cooperation were addressed in an effort to improve cooperation and promote comprehensive and coherent solutions.³³ In October 2015, over 100 governments endorsed the “Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change,” which identifies a toolbox of effective practices and policy options to prevent, prepare for, and respond to climate-related displacement and migration. In 2016 and beyond, the Protection Agenda will require implementation (See Section 3b below).

c. What is added value of addressing this issue within the UNFCCC?

- Efforts to include human mobility in the UNFCCC framework are complementary to efforts to better factor climatic, natural hazard and environmental factors into human mobility initiatives and programmes. At the international level, the UNFCCC and its relevant bodies including the Adaptation Committee and the WIM ExCom provide a valuable venue for addressing the impacts of climate change on human mobility. National Adaptation Plans as well as INDCs and other UNFCCC instruments are relevant vehicles at the national level for preventing, minimizing and addressing displacement.³⁴

2. Opportunities associated with minimizing and averting both internal and cross-border displacement in the Context of Climate Change

It is important to note that numerous opportunities exist – including through the UNFCCC and implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals – to avoid and minimize displacement from disasters and other climate change-related effects. *National governments are encouraged to take measures to mitigate and prevent displacement from extreme weather and other climate change-related adverse effects through climate change adaptation (e.g., as relate to land use planning and agricultural practices), disaster risk reduction and management, and the like.*

a. Increasing the resilience of affected populations to prevent and minimize displacement

Increasing the resilience of affected populations through planning for, and implementing, climate change adaptation strategies and disaster risk reduction management is essential to enable them to remain where they live and avert displacement.³⁵ Strengthening the resilience of communities that are already displaced, as well as

³³ See www.nanseninitiative.org

³⁴ UNHCR Legal and Protection Policy, Climate Change Induced Displacement: Adaptation Policy in the Context of the UNFCCC Climate Negotiations, 2011 <http://www.unhcr.org/542e9b3e9.html>; UNU-EHS Publication series, Policy Brief, Integrating Human Mobility Issues within National Adaptation Plans, 2014, <http://www.unhcr.org/542e97229.html>

³⁵ UNHCR, Displacement and Disaster Risk Reduction <http://www.unhcr.org/5665945e9.html>

the communities that host them, should also be a priority to avoid secondary and protracted displacement situations.³⁶

b. Migration as a measure to prevent and minimize displacement

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 and the adaptive capacity to future risks.³⁷ Migration can also support economic development in receiving areas, 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.*

b. Planned relocation as a measure to prevent and minimize displacement and move at-risk populations out of harm's way

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 limiting livelihoods options. In all cases, States must prioritize appropriate mitigation, adaptation and other preventative measures to allow populations at risk of displacement to remain in their homes.³⁸ However, in some cases, States will need to take measures to protect people who are at risk of displacement due to climate change-related hazards and permanently relocate them to safer areas. 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. However, where not properly planned and implemented, relocation can result in protracted or secondary displacement and related human rights violations.³⁹ Where planned relocation related to climate change cannot be avoided, its scale

³⁶UNHCR, The Environment and Climate Change: An Overview, 2015, <http://www.unhcr.org/540854f49.html>

³⁷ IOM Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (2014) : <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/iom-outlook-migration-environment-and-climate-change-1>

³⁸ UNHCR Background document, Planned Relocation, Disasters and Climate Change: Consolidating Good Practices and Preparing for the Future, 2014 <http://www.unhcr.org/53c4d6f99.html>; UNHCR Final report and preliminary guidance on Planned Relocation, Disasters and Climate Change: Consolidating Good Practices and Preparing for the Future, 2014 <http://www.unhcr.org/54082cc69.html>; UNHCR, Brookings and Georgetown Guidance on Protecting People From Disasters and Environmental change through planned relocation, 2015, <http://www.unhcr.org/562f798d9.html>; IOM 2016 Policy Brief Series Issue 6: Relocation as an adaptation strategy to environmental stress <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy-brief-series-issue-6-relocation-adaptation-strategy-environmental-stress>

³⁹ See, e.g., Thomas, A. (2015). Philippines Post-Typhoon Resettlement Plan Carries Risks. Refugees International. <http://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-post-typhoon-resettlement-plan-carries-risks>

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.⁴⁰

c. Inter-stakeholder coordination

- The Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility shares the most recent, available knowledge with UNFCCC Parties in an effort to frame the issue, provide technical support, and contribute to the work of the WIM ExCom task force on climate displacement.

- The The High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) working group on climate change (WGCC). The One UN strategy of the WGCC has proved efficiency in bringing together various stakeholders to collaborate on climate change and human mobility under the leadership of UNHCR and IOM. During the UNFCCC 2014 and 2015 COPs in Lima and Paris (COPs 20 and 21), UNHCR and IOM ran a joint exhibit booth to disseminate relevant publications and organized high level side events together with other UN and non UN partners to raise awareness and provide guidance on ways to avert, minimize and address climate-related displacement.

- The Nansen Initiative is a bottom-up, state-led consultative process with multi-stakeholder involvement. Its consultative committee is made up of representatives from international organizations dealing with displacement and migration issues, climate change and development, researchers, think tanks and non-governmental organizations are informing and supporting the process through the experience of its members.

3. Opportunities associated with Addressing Displacement in the Context of Climate Change

Those displaced by disasters and climate change should be entitled to protection and assistance and should be supported to return and rebuild/recover their homes and livelihoods as soon as possible.

a. Strengthening Assistance, Protection and Durable solutions for IDPS in the context of disasters and climate change

⁴⁰ UNHCR Background document, Planned Relocation, Disasters and Climate Change: Consolidating Good Practices and Preparing for the Future, 2014 <http://www.unhcr.org/53c4d6f99.html>; UNHCR Final report and preliminary guidance on Planned Relocation, Disasters and Climate Change: Consolidating Good Practices and Preparing for the Future, 2014 <http://www.unhcr.org/54082cc69.html>; UNHCR, Brookings and Georgetown Guidance on Protecting People From Disasters and Environmental change through planned relocation, 2015, <http://www.unhcr.org/562f798d9.html>; IOM 2016 Policy Brief Series Issue 6: Relocation as an adaptation strategy to environmental stress <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy-brief-series-issue-6-relocation-adaptation-strategy-environmental-stress>

- It is widely agreed that the vast majority of people displaced by disasters and the impacts of climate change will be internally displaced within their own countries. National governments bear the primary responsibility to protect people displaced within their territories.

- The 1998 UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which are drawn from humanitarian, human rights, and analogous refugee law, spell out the protection and assistance obligations of national governments with respect to people forced to flee “natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.”⁴¹

- In addition, two regional instruments have been adopted by African nations that reinforce the protection obligations outlined in the *Guiding Principles*: the 2009 *Kampala Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa* (Kampala Convention) and the 2006 *Great Lakes Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons*. The IASC *Operational Guidelines on Human Rights and Natural Disasters* also provide guidance for responding to displacement in natural disaster situations.

- While numerous States have adopted laws and policies related to IDPs,⁴² enforcement is often weak. **States are encouraged to develop and implement improved laws and policies related to the assistance and protection of IDPs.**

- Where a disaster and related displacement overwhelm a national government’s ability to respond, it may call on the international community for assistance. The primary mechanism for the coordination of humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons is the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)’s cluster approach.

- Under the “cluster approach”, IOM and UNHCR co-lead the camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) cluster; UNHCR co-leads with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) the shelter cluster, and UNHCR leads the Global



⁴¹ 1998 UN Guidelines on Internal Displacement

⁴² See IDMC’s IDP Laws and Policy Mapping

Protection Cluster.⁴³

- It is widely assumed that most people displaced by sudden-onset weather-related disasters such as floods and storms return home relatively quickly. However, evidence shows that failure to receive timely shelter and livelihood assistance in the aftermath of disasters can lead to protracted or secondary displacement, especially of poor and marginalized groups.⁴⁴ Other recent case studies show that in the aftermath of disasters, numerous obstacles to return exist such as lack of access to land and discrimination against vulnerable and marginalized groups.⁴⁵ ***Both national governments and international agencies need to focus on measures to better protect and assist IDPs in the aftermath of disasters, to better support the most vulnerable groups to recover, and to ensure they achieve a durable solution to displacement. In addition, further research is needed both to better monitor and better understand the causes of protracted or secondary displacement in the aftermath of disasters.***

b. Protection and assistance for people crossing borders in the context of disasters and climate change

- Rather than calling for a new binding international convention on cross-border disaster-displacement, ***States are encouraged to adopt an approach that focuses on the integration of effective practices by States and (sub-) regional organizations into their own normative frameworks and practices in accordance with their specific situations and challenges.***
- Members of the Advisory group contributed to the Nansen Initiative (2012-2015), a state-led, bottom-up consultative process intended to build consensus on key principles and elements to address the protection and assistance needs of persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters, including the adverse effects of climate change. A key outcome of this process is the *Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change* (Protection Agenda)⁴⁶, which presents a comprehensive approach on how to both

⁴³ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/fr/coordination/clusters/what-cluster-approach>; http://www-globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/tools_and_guidance/IASC_Guidelines_Natural_Disasters_EN.pdf; IOM, 2015. The MEND Guide - Comprehensive Guide for Planning Mass Evacuations in Natural Disasters (Pilot Document) : <http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/mend-guide-comprehensive-guide-planning-mass-evacuations-natural-disasters-pilot-document>

⁴⁴ A. Thomas, "Rising Waters, Displaced Lives," *Forced Migration Review* 45, at p. 34, available at <http://www.fmreview.org/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/crisis.pdf>

⁴⁵ IDMC Global Estimates 2015 People Displaced by Disasters, Chapter 5, p. 47.

⁴⁶ The Protection Agenda was endorsed by 109 Governmental delegations at an intergovernmental consultation in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2015.

prevent and address disaster displacement (both internal and cross-border). It highlights the need for policy integration and enhanced coordination across humanitarian, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development action areas. ***The Protection Agenda consolidates a broad set of effective practices and policy options that can be used by States and others to reduce and manage disaster displacement, and to better protect and assist disaster displaced persons.*** The new Platform on Disaster Displacement will replace the Nansen Initiative and will be launched at the WHS in May 2016.

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