

Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Technical Meeting

Action Area (6): Migration, Displacement and Human Mobility

Date: 27-29 July 2016

Venue: Casablanca, Morocco

RECOMMENDATIONS

DRAFT 1 – SEPTEMBER 2016

I. Context

The Executive Committee (Excom) of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized a Technical Meeting on Migration, Displacement and Human Mobility in the context of loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change; in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco (27-29 July 2016).

The Technical Meeting was part of the Excom initial two-year work plan, and took place in the context of Action Area 6 under this work plan, pertaining to *“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 Technical Meeting directly aims to achieve the outputs outlined in the initial two-year work plan of the Excom of the WIM i.e. *“Synthesized information made available on the relevant information, lessons learned and good practices from the activities of organizations and experts”*.

The Technical Meeting brought together members of the Excom, national policymakers and practitioners, interested respondents to a call for submissions¹ for expert inputs under Action Area (6), and relevant experts from different horizons; with the aim of synthesizing relevant information and

¹ Submissions under Action Area (6) are available from http://unfccc.int/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/items/9508.php

make it available widely. In addition, other expert entities have contributed to the information stocktaking exercise prior to and as a follow up to the meeting.

The expert contributions have been articulated around three Pillars of work, directly related to the overall mandate of the Excom. Each Pillar was championed by expert entities that developed the content of each relevant paper, facilitated related sessions during the Technical Meeting, gathered inputs from the wider expert community and consolidated those contributions:

1. **Pillar 1:** Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset impacts.
Champions: Hugo Observatory, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)/ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), United Nations University (UNU)
2. **Pillar 2:** Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders.
Champions: Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
3. **Pillar 3:** Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, so as to enable countries to undertake actions pursuant to decision 3/CP.18, paragraph 6.
Champion: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

In line with the mandate of the Excom under AA (6), the outputs of the Technical Meeting are:

1. Documentation of good practices, key challenges and lessons learned regarding migration and displacement in the context of climate change, collected in three Papers articulated around the Excom's Pillars of work; and
2. A set of recommendations, including those that could be undertaken by the Excom in its future work.

These two outputs also intend to feed into the work of the Excom in relation to the establishment of the Task Force on Displacement mandated by COP Decision 1/CP.21²: *Establishing a task force to*

² 2 Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 50: "Also requests 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
2

complement to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.”

II. What is the purpose of these recommendations?

In line with the mandate of the Excom under Action Area (6), this set of recommendations intends to promote enhanced understanding and collaboration, based on sound science, of migration and displacement, including of characteristics of vulnerable populations that may become mobile owing to factors related to climate change impacts.

III. To whom are these recommendations addressed?

These recommendations are addressed to a wide range of stakeholders active in the area of migration, displacement and human mobility in the context of the adverse effects of climate change:

- The Excom, in line with its mandate under its initial two year work plan related to Action Area 6, in connection to its mandate related to the Taskforce on Displacement and in line with its catalytic role to propose a vision for future action;
- Policymakers at global, regional, national and subnational levels, working in all policy areas of relevance to climate migration, displacement and human mobility;
- Intergovernmental organizations supporting States in their efforts to respond to climate migration, displacement and human mobility;
- Non-governmental Organizations;
- The Academia;
- Civil Society.

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”

CHAPEAU

The adverse impacts of climate change on migration, displacement and human mobility patterns are critical challenges of our times, as acknowledged by the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement (Preamble) and COP decision 1/CP.21; the 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework, paragraph 14f; the 2012 Doha decision on loss and damage 3.CP/18, paragraph 7 (a) (vi); the 2013 Warsaw decision 2/CP.19 that established the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, as well as by the IPCC 2014 Assessment Report.

Human mobility in relation to climate change is already a reality. Urgent action is needed to support concerned populations to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. Enhanced understanding and collaboration is key to respond to these new challenges and protect the most vulnerable.

Successful enhanced action needs to be targeted, collaborative and tailored to specific migrant and displacement situations, take into account the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men, promote the full enjoyment of the rights of concerned populations and be conducted with the full participation of concerned communities.

Successful action means to:

- Evaluate and respond to the needs of vulnerable populations (migrants, displaced persons, communities of origin and host communities, trapped populations etc.), so that human suffering is averted and minimized, human rights are upheld, resilience is strengthened and opportunities are enhanced;
- Empower people and communities to be agents of positive change and capture opportunities to minimize, avert and address the adverse effects of climate change and enhance wellbeing;
- Enable policymakers, communities of practices, expert entities and individuals, together with the EXCOM, to secure the means to implement positive action;
- Enable policymakers to enact contingency plans and anticipate, plan and act in ways that minimize, avert and address the adverse effects of climate change on mobile and non-mobile populations;
- Ensure that action is coordinated between key climate change, migration and other relevant stakeholders and builds upon existing institutional mandates, policy frameworks and good practices.

4

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PILLAR 1

Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset impacts, by facilitating and promoting:

- ❖ *Action to address gaps in the understanding of and expertise in approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;*
- ❖ *Collection, sharing, management and use of relevant data and information, including gender-disaggregated data;*
- ❖ *Provision of overviews of best practices, challenges, experiences and lessons learned in undertaking approaches to address loss and damage.*

Recommendations:

- Improve and make more actionable the available data basis:
 - Produce an inventory of data (sets) and national assessments (disaggregated by gender and age and with the full participation of assessed communities);
 - Fill existing knowledge gaps – especially related to particularly vulnerable climate hotspots;
 - Integrate migration and displacement questions in existing data collection efforts;
 - Harmonize data sets and apply the harmonized data to create models identifying long-term trends.
- Identify key variables and common methodologies:
 - Use broadly similar indexes of key variables (household demographic information to establish baselines and time series data, risks to livelihoods and food security, assessing changes in the risk of displacement related to climate stressors and anticipatory adaptation, etc.);
 - Inform decision makers about changes in human mobility risks vis-à-vis climate impacts and build scenarios on how mobility patterns could evolve in the future;
 - Focus on variables that matter most in climate-related human mobility to enable decision makers to focus attention and resources on those activities that yield the greatest value to vulnerable people.
- Ensure that research agendas are driven by national needs and priorities, as identified by governments, independent researchers, communities affected and other concerned entities.

5

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- Ensure that already available data and expertise are acknowledged, used and disseminated and that that stakeholders working on climate migration, displacement and human mobility are consulted and integrated in new research efforts.
- Take into account risk perception:
 - Encourage policymakers and decision makers to consider climate risk as it is perceived by those affected, as population’s mobility responses are often made based on perceptions rather than on objective, quantifiable changes. This reveals a need to understand differentiated perceptions of climate change and human mobility and how these perceptions can be reconciled with objective assessments.

PILLAR 2

Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders by:

- ❖ *Providing leadership and coordination and, as and where appropriate, oversight under the Convention, on the assessment and implementation of approaches to address loss and damage;*
- ❖ *Fostering dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among all relevant stakeholders, institutions, bodies, processes and initiatives outside the Convention.*

Recommendations:

- Promote a multi-sectorial approach, in order to bridge policy silos, and to address the complex and multi-causal question of migration, displacement and climate change linked to the adverse impacts of climate change:
 - Build on existing normative and institutional frameworks and on existing coordination structures, at the global, regional, national and sub-national level;
 - Work with all relevant entities and institutions already active in the area of migration, displacement and climate change linked to the adverse impacts of climate change;
 - Identify normative and institutional gaps to address migration and cross-border and internal displacement in the context of the adverse effects of climate change;
 - Strengthen legal frameworks through the promotion of existing instruments and the identification of gaps;
 - Develop a strategic vision and identify implementation means across policy areas to address these gaps.

- Enhance the catalytic role of the Excom, building upon the WIM specific mandate and defined functions:
 - The Excom should conduct an analytical mapping exercise (not only descriptive) on integrated and crosscutting coordination processes;
 - The Excom should encourage increased cooperation between all concerned policy areas, and promote policy dialogue and coherence in order to address gaps and avoid duplication;
 - The Excom should seize opportunities to influence relevant international policy and normative processes related to large population movements, especially in the migration, development, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian areas.

- Any dialogue and coordination mechanisms should ensure the full and informed participation of affected communities and local leadership.

PILLAR 3

Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, so as to enable countries to undertake actions pursuant to decision 3/CP.18, paragraph 6, including by:

- ❖ *Providing technical support and guidance on approaches to address loss and damage;*
- ❖ *Providing information and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;*
- ❖ *Facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancement of support.*

Recommendations:

- Activities to address challenges and enhance opportunities associated with migration, displacement and human mobility in the context of climate change should be inclusive and target all segments of the communities concerned by climate migration, displacement and human mobility, in order to promote the full enjoyment of the human rights of all concerned individuals and communities:
 - Apply a rights based approach to activity development, taking into account differentiated vulnerabilities, including of women and men, through the systematic adoption of a participatory approach to understand needs and priorities;

7

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- Make efficient use of existing resources and expertise by supporting ongoing efforts to map, evaluate and replicate existing good practices and lessons learned and build upon existing expertise, programmes and projects;
 - Develop interventions that address all phases of the human mobility cycle - before, during and after the movement, with a view to anticipate challenges and develop durable solutions involving all relevant stakeholders.
- Activity and programmatic development should be cross-cutting to relevant policy areas and promote the adoption of joint strategies to minimize the adverse effects of climate change on human mobility.
- Prioritize capacity building and promote the development of technical expertise:
 - Promote awareness amongst local, national and regional entities through the dissemination of knowledge and information to foster informed action;
 - Offer opportunities for capacity development to policymakers and decision makers at all levels (global, regional, national and subnational) and in particular for countries most vulnerable to climate change;
- The Excom should encourage the inclusion of migration, displacement and human mobility matters in its other areas of action within its work programme, in order to promote an integrated approach to the search for solutions.