

Fifth meeting of the Task Force on Displacement (TFD5)

Summary of proceedings

BACKGROUND

Established at COP 21 and delivered on the first set of recommendations at COP 24, the Task Force on Displacement (TFD) is in its second phase of implementation since 2019 with the renewed terms of reference. The current Plan of Action (2019–2021) builds upon the activities under strategic workstream (d) of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM ExCom), as well as the recommendations arising from the outcomes of its first phase of implementation.

PROCEEDINGS AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

The fifth meeting of the TFD (TFD 5) took place virtually on 13 April 2021, 09:00–11:00 CET, with the following objectives:

- (a) Discuss the strategic aim of TFD for 2021, particularly ways to tie in emerging results from implementing the current Plan of Action (PoA) into the reporting of the ExCom to the Parties and broader stakeholders (session 2);
- (b) Consider collaborative outputs to be released as TFD outputs this year based on the current PoA, including the e-learning module on climate change, human rights and human mobility (session 3);
- (c) Consider how TFD addresses the new mandate from the last COP, specifically the development of the technical guides (session 4).

A TFD co-chair, Russell Miles (ExCom), opened the meeting and welcomed the new member, Kayly Ober from Refugees International, who succeeded Bina Desai from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC). Kayly represents the Civil society Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility. Meanwhile, the IDMC confirmed its commitment to continue engaging, as an ad-hoc member, to deliver on the activities it leads or co-leads under the current PoA. The TFD also welcomed Amanda Kron, who represented the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in line with the TFD 4 decision to invite the OHCHR as an ad-hoc member to bring in a human-rights perspective to the implementation of the current work of the TFD.

The full membership information¹ and the agenda of the meeting² are available online. See Annex I for the agenda and Annex II for the list of participants of TFD 5.

The co-chair updated the members on the key outcomes of the 12th meeting of the WIM ExCom (12–16 October 2020)³ which included the adoption of the terms of reference for three other expert groups, thereby setting up the technical advisory body for all five strategic workstreams of the WIM ExCom. The newly launched expert groups will work on slow onset events, non-economic losses, and action and support, providing opportunities to the TFD for exploring potential synergies in delivering on its work, such as the development of technical guides.

In advance of TFD5, members submitted written updates on the activities of the PoA, which they lead/co-lead. A compilation of the PoA implementation updates is available [online](#). These updates provided in advance of the meeting informed the discussions on ways to tie in emerging results from implementing the current PoA into the reporting of the ExCom to the Parties and broader stakeholders.

¹<https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/TFD/membership>.

²<https://newsroom.unfccc.int/event/Excom/TFD5>.

³The 2020 report of the WIM ExCom is contained in https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2020_03_adv.pdf

THE STRATEGIC AIM FOR 2021

The group discussed the types of inputs (lessons learned and key findings) and/or recommendations that could arise from implementing the current PoA this year and potential modalities to transmit them to the WIM ExCom and other stakeholders. The latter included outreach and engagement events, meetings and forums beyond side events at the SBs and COPs.

Based on the outcomes of their activities in June 2017–April 2019, the TFD advised the ExCom on ways to enhance knowledge on, and coherence and action and support for, integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change. As a result, the ExCom included in its 2019 report a set of recommendations, which the COP subsequently adopted at COP 24.⁴

In developing the next set of inputs to form TFD's advice to the ExCom on matters related to displacement, the group suggested taking stock of the progress of the recommendations adopted at COP 24 and evaluating the current level of ambition, measures of success and gaps in existing guidelines.

Given the limited interactive discussion time due to the challenge of working across time zones, the group considered developing written inputs/recommendations to the ExCom intersessionally via a shared document using framing questions to structure the process.

Engagement and outreach

On outreach and engagement, the group discussed complementarities of relevant platforms and initiatives operating at the **regional** and global levels. The work of the [UN Network on Migration](#) was highlighted for potential synergies for overall efforts across UN entities and avoid duplication of efforts. Several members of TFD are also active in the Network through whom the work of TFD could inform the UN Migration Network on climate change and displacement nexus. The group noted a possibility of co-organizing events at COP26 and in future sessions.

At the regional level, the group noted the Issue-Based Coalition⁵, which coordinates the UN response to cross-cutting challenges in the region, a potentially useful channel for cross-regional sharing of knowledge arising from the work of TFD.

In parallel with the UN-level coordination, members remarked on the importance of broadening the regional scope by engaging the non-governmental organizations active in the regions. Enhanced engagement with local actors, academia and international statistical agencies were also proposed for gathering data and evidence aimed at improved projections that could be used as a baseline for policy recommendations.

While virtual modalities have enabled TFD to implement its PoA without significant delay (e.g., changing in-person training workshop to an online course), the group noted the inherent challenges, connectivity, which often most notable among the most vulnerable or marginalized who may be particularly relevant stakeholder groups to TFD. Considering those who may not have the capacity to engage virtually, members acknowledged the importance of considering regional and sub-regional level as an implementation approach, where possible, instead of simply turning planned in-person, global level activities to virtual communications or modalities.

⁴Contained in Decision 10/CP.24, annex.

⁵ IBC referred to include the Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change: <https://en.unesco.org/node/324328>; and on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience: <https://unece.org/issue-based-coalition-large-movements-people-displacement-and-resilience>

In increasing focus on LDCs and developing countries with high vulnerabilities, the group underlined the need for facilitating anticipatory climate action, including putting in place a framework to address future causes of climate change-induced displacement.

The group converged on TFD to maintain strategic foresight and provide thought leadership to unite stakeholders around common narratives. In this context, a member mentioned that the human mobility strategic workstream of the WIM takes a broader framing of human mobility, including migration and planned relocation through which positive aspects could also be drawn out.

Development of Technical Guides

The ExCom and its expert groups are requested to develop the technical guides that include sections on long-term risk assessments of climate change impacts, and approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing them, available resources to support the implementation and monitoring systems for assessing the effectiveness of the approaches.⁶

On how TFD approaches this new mandate, members concurred to draw from existing technical documents and guidelines and consider ways in which TFD can inform the work of the other expert groups. The following are examples of broad areas on which members' affiliated organizations have developed/published guidelines to date: climate-related migration and displacement; humanitarian, development and climate financing; forecast-based financing and disaster risk reduction.

The group agreed to continue sharing ideas and considering potential topics for the technical guides post-TFD 5.

NEXT STEPS

The group requested the secretariat to create a collaboration space on the Microsoft Teams platform to serve as a repository of relevant documents and information and to facilitate the members' intersessional deliberations on:

- (a) Topics and preliminary outlines for the technical guides;
- (b) Coordination and planning for outreach/engagement events;
- (c) Inputs/recommendations to the ExCom, if any, for inclusion of the 2021 report of the ExCom.

The group agreed on the following:

- (a) Lead and co-lead Members to submit further updates, if any, on the implementation of activities of the PoA;
- (b) Members to provide inputs and engage in the e-deliberations on matters referred to in paragraph 20 (a)–(c) above;
- (c) Interested members to participate in the upcoming first cross-cutting session of the expert groups of the ExCom, which is being planned in the margins of ExCom 13 on to consider areas of possible collaboration.

The group tentatively agreed to hold its next meeting (TFD 6) in advance of the ExCom 14 (Fall 2021).

⁶See Decision 2/CMA. 2 paragraph 26 for the full details.

Annex

List of participants

Members

Name	Affiliation
Andrew Harper	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Atle Solberg	Platform on Disaster Displacement
Dina Ionesco	International Organization for Migration
Ezekiel Simperingham	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Kayly Ober	Civil society, Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility
Michelle Leighton	International Labour Organization
Cornelia Jäger	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism
Pepetua E Latasi	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism
Russell Miles	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism
Sumaya Zakieldeen	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism

Absent members

Name	Affiliation
Ms. Ketí Chachibaia	United Nations Development Programme
Mr. Kyle Heitmann	UNFCCC Youth NGO constituency group
Ms. Liu Shuo	UNFCCC Adaptation Committee
Mr. Idrissa Semde	UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Ad-hoc members and others

Name	Affiliation
Amanda Kron	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mahanam Mithun	International Labour Organization
Heloise Ruaudel	International Labour Organization
Michelle Yonetani	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Madeline Garlick	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Sophie Offner	Platform on Disaster Displacement

UNFCCC secretariat