

Terms of Reference:

Task Force on Displacement

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its nineteenth session, established:
 - (a) The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts in order to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change (hereinafter referred to as the Warsaw International Mechanism);
 - (b) An Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism, to guide the implementation of functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism (hereinafter referred to as Excom).
2. The COP, at its twentieth session,¹ decided that the Excom may establish expert groups, subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups (hereinafter referred to as expert groups) to help execute the work of the Excom in guiding the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism, as appropriate, in an advisory role, and that report to the Excom.
3. The COP, at its twenty-first session, requested the Excom to establish, according to its procedures and mandate, a task force to complement, 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 (hereinafter referred to as Task Force).
4. The COP, at its twenty-third session, welcomed the report² of the Excom which, inter alia, contains the five-year rolling workplan of the Excom.
5. The COP, at its twenty-fourth session, welcomed the report of the Excom³ containing recommendations based on the work of the Task Force on Displacement in fulfilling its mandate (decision 1/CP.21). The report contains recommendations to Parties, bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, United Nations agencies and relevant stakeholders. These recommendations are included in Annex II of this terms of reference (TOR). The same decision also encourages the Excom to continue this work on human mobility under strategic workstream (d) of its five-year rolling workplan, including by considering the activities set out in paragraphs 38 and 39 of its report.⁴ These activities are included in Annex I of this TOR.

¹ Decision 2/CP.20, paragraph 8.

² FCCC/SB/2017/1 and Add. 1.

³ Decision 10/CP.24, paragraph 1.

⁴ Decision 10/CP.24, paragraph 5b.

II. Mandate

6. The COP, at its twenty-first session, decided to establish the Task Force on Displacement and at its twenty-fourth session, welcomed the decision of the Excom to extend the mandate of the Task Force on Displacement. The Task Force on Displacement is to help execute the work of the Excom, in an advisory role, in guiding the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism, as appropriate, as part of the five-year rolling workplan of the Excom strategic workstream (d) “enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation”, and report to the Excom.

III. Scope of work

7. The scope of work of the Task Force on Displacement contains, inter alia, the following activities:
 - To assist the Excom to implement the five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom, particularly but not limited to workstream (d) “enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation”;
 - To facilitate the implementation of the recommendations on integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement associated with the adverse effects of climate change as contained in the Excom report⁵ and outlined in Annex I to this TOR;
 - To inform the implementation of the recommendations, as outlined in Annex II to this TOR;
 - To assist the Excom in implementing new requests or mandates.
8. The Task Force on Displacement, at its first meeting in 2019, develop a plan of action, taking into account the mandate, tasks, expected results, and/or possible approaches, as appropriate, as defined in the respective activities of the five-year rolling workplan. Such plan of action will include specific objectives, indicative timeframes and associated actions and deliverables. The plan of action will be sent to the Excom for endorsement.

IV. Size and composition of Task Force on Displacement

9. The Task Force on Displacement should consist of:
 - a. Balanced representation of Annex I⁶ and non-Annex I⁷ members of the Excom;
 - b. Technical experts reflecting areas of expertise and regional diversity, including for taking into consideration, as appropriate, the need for transdisciplinary expertise;
 - c. Representative(s) from relevant constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.
10. For each activity for which work of the Task Force on Displacement is envisioned as per the current five-year rolling workplan of the Excom, the Excom members of the Task Force on Displacement, with assistance by the Secretariat, can, as appropriate, recommend technical experts referred to in paragraph 9 (b) above from the “Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM)

⁵ FCCC/SB/2018/1, paragraphs 38 and 39.

⁶ ‘Annex I’ refers to Annex I Parties to the Convention.

⁷ ‘Non-Annex I’ refers to non-Annex I Parties to the Convention.

Roster of Experts”,⁸ and request the co-chairs to liaise with the relevant bodies referred to in paragraph 9 (c) above.

11. The total number of individuals described in paragraph 9(a) above will not exceed four at a time. The total number of individuals described in paragraph 9(b) and (c) above will not exceed ten.
12. The Excom, at the request of the Task Force on Displacement, can invite additional technical experts, including from the “WIM roster of experts”, as appropriate and needed, to serve as ad-hoc members of the expert group.

V. Mode of Work

13. The mode of the work of the Task Force includes:
 - a. Electronic means/modalities, e.g. email, video conference, telephone (primary modality);
 - b. In-person meetings, as deemed necessary. Such meetings should be held back-to-back with/in parallel to Excom meetings, Subsidiary Bodies (SB) sessions, or relevant external events, as far as possible, with a view to maximizing overall efficiency and effectiveness. Support for participation of appointed Excom members eligible for support applies to only those in-person meetings, which the Excom has approved in advance.
 - c. Stakeholder engagement, including, inter alia, through electronic means/modalities; workshops, including at national and regional level; outreach through other organizations as appropriate.
14. The Task Force on Displacement will be co-facilitated by two members from the Excom.
15. The Task Force on Displacement may choose lead/co-leads amongst members of the Task Force on Displacement for undertaking each activity, as appropriate.
16. Members of the Task Force on Displacement who are not members of the Excom may not act as representatives of the Excom.

VI. Required qualifications and expertise of technical experts

17. The selection of technical experts will take into account the need for regional balance, and be based on the following required qualifications and expertise:⁹
 - a. Demonstrable and internationally and/or regionally recognized expertise;
 - b. Practical international, regional, and/or national experience working on issues related to addressing the adverse effects of climate change, including in relation to human mobility, at a range of different levels, is preferred.

⁸ The WIM Roster of Experts will include, inter alia: representatives from UNFCCC NGO constituency groups; representatives from intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), that have been admitted by the COP to the UNFCCC process; representatives from nationally- or regionally-based research institutions and universities; representatives from multilateral financial institutions; bilateral channels and/or the private sector; any other institution agreed for inclusion by the Excom.

⁹ The Excom encourages expert groups to select experts with the diversity of experience and knowledge relevant to loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, taking into account the goal of gender balance, pursuant to decision 23/CP.18.

VII. Reporting

18. The Task Force on Displacement reports to the Excom, on a regular basis, through respective co-facilitators, at the meetings of the Excom and through written reports, as appropriate.

19. The written reports of the Task Force on Displacement to the Excom should, to the extent possible, include detailed information on the work undertaken.

20. Progress related to the work of the Task Force on Displacement will be captured in the report of the Excom.

VIII. Timeframe (the group, and the membership)

21. The term of work of the Task Force on Displacement will be bound by the mandate and scope highlighted in sections II and III above, and the five-year rolling workplan of the Excom. The term of engagement of individual experts will be guided by the activities for which the experts are nominated.

ANNEX I

Decision 10/CP.24, paragraph 5b, which refers to paragraphs 38 and 39 of the annual report of the Excom of the Warsaw International Mechanism (FCCC/SB/2018/1)

38. At Excom 9, the Executive Committee plans to consider steps for taking forward, inter alia, the following activities:

(a) Ensure synergies are established between strategic workstream (d) on human mobility and the other workstreams of the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee in order to advance work on displacement;

(b) Continue engaging with civil society, experts, affected communities and other relevant stakeholders on displacement and broader area of human mobility, in the context of climate change in the activities of the Executive Committee;

(c) Compile, in collaboration with relevant organizations, existing knowledge, data, tools and guidance; develop these in areas where there are gaps, where appropriate, in particular in relation to integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement and broader areas of human mobility related to the adverse impacts of climate change; and disseminate them, including through the UNFCCC website;

(d) Facilitate action and support, including finance, technology and capacity- building, for developing country Parties in their efforts, as appropriate, to integrate approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change into relevant national planning processes, including the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans;

(e) Facilitate, in collaboration with relevant bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and relevant organizations, as appropriate, building the capacity of developing country Parties related to mapping of risks of displacement, and identification and implementation of integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change;

(f) Facilitate enhanced understanding and the provision of technical support for developing country Parties to bridge knowledge and capacity gaps regarding in particular internal displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change.

39. In addition, the Executive Committee will facilitate the mobilization of financial resources for developing country Parties to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change, in collaboration with the SCF and relevant organizations, consistent with their mandates and workplans.

Annex II

Annex of Decision 10/CP.24

Recommendations from the report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts on integrated approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change

1. The following recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts are based on the work of the task force on displacement, established by the Executive Committee in response to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 49:

(a) Acknowledge the inputs and contributions from participants of the stakeholder consultation workshop of the task force on displacement organized by the International Organization for Migration and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, and submissions from others;

(b) Take note of the report on the stakeholder consultation workshop of the task force on displacement;

(c) Strengthen coordination, coherence and collaboration across relevant bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and institutional arrangements, programmes and platforms, with a view to enhancing understanding of human mobility (including migration, displacement and planned relocation), both internal and cross-border, in the context of climate change, as they undertake their work, and in collaboration with the Executive Committee;

(d) Invite bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates and workplans, to facilitate the efforts of countries to, inter alia, develop climate change related risk assessments and improved standards for data collection on and analyses of internal and cross-border human mobility in a manner that includes the participation of communities affected by and at risk of displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change;

(e) Invite the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, in accordance with their mandates and workplans, and in collaboration with the Executive Committee, to assist developing country Parties in integrating approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change into relevant national planning processes, including the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, as appropriate;

(f) Invite Parties to facilitate the efforts of developing country Parties in the implementation of paragraph 2(g) below, as appropriate;

(g) Invite Parties:

(i) To consider formulating laws, policies and strategies, as appropriate, that reflect the importance of integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change and in the broader context of human mobility, taking into consideration their respective human rights obligations and, as appropriate, other relevant international standards and legal considerations;

(ii) To enhance research, data collection, risk analysis and sharing of information to better map, understand and manage human mobility related to the adverse impacts of climate

change in a manner that includes the participation of communities affected and at risk of displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change;

(iii) To strengthen preparedness, including early warning systems, contingency planning, evacuation planning and resilience-building strategies and plans, and develop innovative approaches, such as forecast-based financing,¹⁰ to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change;

(iv) To integrate climate change related human mobility challenges and opportunities into national planning processes, as appropriate, by drawing on available tools, guidance and good practices, and consider communicating these efforts undertaken, as appropriate;

(v) To recall the guiding principles on internal displacement and seek to strengthen efforts to find durable solutions for internally displaced people when working to implement integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, as appropriate;

(vi) To facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people,¹¹ as appropriate and in accordance with national laws and policies, in the context of climate change, by considering the needs of migrants and displaced persons, communities of origin, transit and destination, and by enhancing opportunities for regular migration pathways, including through labour mobility, consistent with international labour standards, as appropriate;

(h) Invite United Nations agencies, relevant organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates:

(i) To continue supporting efforts, including finance, technology and capacity-building, of Parties and other actors, including with and for communities and local actors, in order to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, at all levels, including the community, national, regional and international levels;

(ii) To support and enhance regional, subregional and transboundary cooperation, in relation to averting, minimizing and addressing displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, including for risk and vulnerability assessments, mapping, data analysis, preparedness and early warning systems;

(iii) To continue developing and sharing good practices, tools and guidance in relation to averting, minimizing and addressing displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, inter alia, in:

a. Understanding risk;

b. Accessing support, including finance, technology and capacity-building;

c. Providing assistance to, and protection of, within existing national laws and international protocols and conventions, as applicable, affected individuals and communities;

d. Applying international legal instruments and normative frameworks, as appropriate;

(i) Invite relevant United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders to provide the Executive Committee with information arising from their activities undertaken in relation to the

¹⁰ Forecast-based financing systems link climate and meteorological data with early warning systems and early action. They can play a supportive role in averting, minimizing and addressing impacts, including displacement, in the context of climate change.

¹¹ See United Nations General Assembly document A/RES/70/1.

work referred to in paragraph 1(h) above with a view to informing the work and future action of the Executive Committee and its expert groups, Parties and other stakeholders;

(j) Invite relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to engage with bodies under the Convention, especially the Executive Committee, when facilitating the efforts of States to address challenges and opportunities associated with climate change related human mobility, including the Global Compact for Migration and the work of the international migration review forum, the United Nations Network on Migration and other relevant international frameworks and programmes of action, as appropriate, to avoid duplication on climate change aspects;

(k) Invite the Secretary-General to consider steps, including a system-wide strategic review, for greater coherence in the United Nations system to address human mobility in the context of climate change, and to facilitate the inclusion of integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change in the work of the envisaged high-level panel on internally displaced persons, as appropriate.

2. The technical members of the task force on displacement are from the International Labour Organization, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Organization for Migration, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and civil society groups as represented by the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility, which includes the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Hugo Observatory, the Arab Network for Environment and Development, and Refugees International.