

# ***UNHCR's Contribution related to Task Force scope of work***

UNFCCC WIM Task Force Meeting  
18-19 May 2017

# Engagement of UNHCR on displacement in the context of disasters and climate change

- UNHCR engagement extends back to the mid-1990s, and advanced more concretely after 2000, both with regard to policy development and operational responses around the provision of protection and assistance to persons displaced in disaster and climate change contexts.

UNHCR's 2017-2021 Strategic Directions includes commitments in relation to climate change and disaster displacement. These include commitments to:

- “Protect” people in different regions of the world, including by “contributing to advancing legal, policy and practical solutions for the protection of people displaced by the effects of climate change and natural disasters, in recognition of the acute humanitarian needs associated with displacement of this kind, and its relationship to conflict and instability”.
- “Respond”, including by “contributing to any inter-agency response to emergencies resulting from natural disasters, with a particular focus on providing protection leadership, where the three criteria of field presence, a government request, and inter-agency agreement are met”.

**1. Taking into account latest science:**

***Research & Knowledge Production***

Address conceptual knowledge gaps

Address operational and policy knowledge gaps

Improve data collection tools and methodologies

Promote research and policy dialogue

**2. Considering subnational, national, regional, international levels.**

**4. Bridging with Parties**  
***Normative & Legal Development***

Support development of international and regional norms and soft law

Support development of national legislation

Develop and promote policy guidance

**3. Identifying legal, policy, institutional challenges, good practices, lessons learned**

**4. Bridging with Parties**  
***Operational Practices***

**AVERT & MINIMIZE**

Reduce the environmental impact of large populations of POC

Enhance resilience of POC and host communities

Support preparedness and contingency plans

Support planned relocation operations

**ADDRESS**

Emergency response staff deployments

Enhance IDP protection through operations

Enhance IDP protection through trainings

Enhance protection for cross-border displaced

**4. Sharing information under and outside the Convention**

***Policy Coherence***

UNFCCC: WIM, NWP, etc.

Disaster Risk Reduction - Sendai Framework

Humanitarian Response - Agenda for Humanity

Global Compacts on Refugees & Migrants

Human Rights - UPR, HRC, Special Rapp.

Urban Policy - Habitat III

Sustainable Development - SDGs

Global Forum on Migration & Development

# *Considering subnational, national, regional, international levels*

**Development of law and policy to protect the disaster displaced across a range of levels:**

International	1998 Guiding Principles for IDPs; 1951 Refugee Convention (in certain contexts) Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda (not law)
Regional	Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action; Kampala Convention for IDPs; Expanded refugee definition in OAU and Cartagena Convention
National	Commonwealth Legal Tool; Temporary Protection and Stay Arrangements (Humanitarian Visas); Promote policy coherence with national IDP policies, climate change adaptation plans, disaster risk reduction strategies