

Fourth Meeting of the Task Force on Displacement (TFD4) Summary

7–9 September 2020

I. Background to TFD and objective of TFD4

1. Since April 2019, the Task Force on Displacement began its second phase of implementation with the new terms of reference,¹ and its' second Plan of Action (2019 – 2021).
2. The workplan of TFD has been welcomed during the second review of WIM and decision 2/CMA.2.
3. The objectives of the meeting were to (i) report on the status of the implementation of the second Plan of Action (PoA), including lessons learned to date and impacts, if any, of the COVID-19 pandemic on the planned activities; (ii) to exchange views on the recent developments in other related global processes and initiatives to identify potential synergies and linkages to the implementation of the PoA.

I. Excom and secretariat relevant updates

4. TFD was invited to the WIM Second Review event. Excom TFD champion, Pepetua Latasi along with TFD technical members, Atle Solberg (PDD), Mariam Traore Chazalnoel (IOM), Kaat Landuyt (ILO), Madeline Garlick (UNHCR) represented and reported on TFD work.
5. Excom TFD champion, Russell Miles reported to the Excom 11 on the progress of the implementation of its PoA based on written updates from TFD members.
6. The endorsement and launch of the Terms of Reference for the Slow Onset Events; Non-Economic Losses; and the Action & Support Excom expert groups would enable working collaboratively with the TFD. In addition, the development of technical guides would enable TFD to establish collaborative, synergies and joint action with Excom.
7. Some of the TFD members participated in the June momentum “Information Event on Loss and Damage”.²

II. Global processes and initiatives: Recent developments, TFD contribution, and information on entry points

8. Submission to the Report on “Protection of persons affected by sea level rise”: Patricia Teles, member of the UN International Law Commission, one of the keynote speakers encouraged the TFD technical members to provide inputs on climate change and displacement for the report.
9. The Panel of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement: Due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel’s mandate has been extended until September 2021. IDMC and PDD technical members informed that the Panel members were keen to hold virtual consultations and a proposal could be made to have direct consultations/ submissions from the TFD Excom members to the Panel.

¹ For the new terms of reference, see <<https://unfccc.int/documents/209581>>.

² For further information on the June Momentum event, see <<https://unfccc.int/event/june-momentum-information-event-on-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage>>.

10. UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG): LEG and TFD technical member, presented on the possible entry points for TFD technical members to contribute to the work on the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). A concrete recommendation was made to the technical members to consider the development of practical guide on displacement in NAPs.

11. Adaptation Committee (AC): AC and TFD technical member identified three areas in the Committee's ongoing work that could be considered relevant for the implementation of the TFD PoA activities.

12. Regional and global migration networks: Several TFD technical members have been engaging with regional and global migration networks including- the Free Movement of Persons Protocol; the UN Network on Migration; the Global Compact on Refugees; and, Working Groups of the UN regional networks on migration. The members stressed the need to leverage these potential partnerships for the TFD to be able to further strengthen its work on climate change impacts and displacement.

13. Opportunities for collaboration with the WIM Excom Expert Groups: Some technical members informed the delaying of scheduled activities due to the potential impact of COVID-19 has opened up opportunities to create links in a more structured manner than before with the Excom Expert Groups.

III. UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the context of slow onset events

14. Cecilia Damary presented on her recently concluded report on human rights of IDPs and slow onset events, which was presented by the Secretary General to the UN General Assembly on 21 July 2020.³ The salient points emerging from the engaging discussion between the special rapporteur and TFD technical members included-

(a) Affirming TFD as an important forum to in conducting advocacy for the dissemination of the report's recommendations;

(b) Acknowledgement of the submissions of several TFD technical members (PDD, UNHCR, IOM) to the report on inputs pertaining to climate change and displacement;

(c) Definition of slow onset events in the report taken from the UNFCCC Loss and Damage program;

(d) Consensus amongst the TFD technical members that the report could be instrumental in institutionalizing international policy on displacement;

(e) Utility of the report by TFD members for the implementation of their workplan activities on slow onset events.

IV. Updates on the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action

15. The TFD members provided updates on the activities in the PoA which they were leading/co-leading.⁴

³ For the full report see <<https://undocs.org/A/75/207>>.

⁴ All PoA written updates can be found at:< <https://unfccc.int/event/fourth-meeting-of-the-task->

16. **Impact of COVID-19 on PoA activities:**

(a) Excom TFD champion informed the members that due to COVID-19, no in person technical briefings would take place. TFD members would be informed of the briefing mode. Excom TFD champion informed that the secretariat had prepared the draft friendly version for all the output activities of the PoA's first phase of implementation;

(b) IDMC technical member highlighted the significant challenges of COVID-19 on the development of user-friendly knowledge products. It updated the members on completion of Activity 4; and presently was developing a user-friendly framework for the transfer of lessons from one context to the next;

(c) ILO and PDD technical members informed of the impact on activity 12 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that has prevented national consultations and training in person so far in 2020. In the context of and as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PDD was developing e-learning modules of the disaster displacement guidelines for the Central American and Caribbean regions. ILO would be now conducting online the Labour Migration Governance training for the Pacific island countries;

(d) Technical members informed that where the activities were desk based (for example, activity 3.1 UNHCR), they had been on track. The limitation had been when the methodology required in person dialogues and field visits, which due to COVID-19 was impacted. Accordingly, IFRC updated on activity 6 (regional collection of case studies); UNHCR/IOM on joint activity 3.2 (phase two key informant interviews); activity 6 by ILO (report with IGAD secretariat on case studies on displacement and climate change); ILO activity 7 on the PCCMHS programme; activity 13 by IDMC (disaster displacement risk model); and activity 22 pertaining to the enhancement of stakeholder engagement (PDD and IOM);

(e) Technical member IFRC mentioned the challenge of keeping displacement relevant and high on the agenda in spite of COVID-19.

17. **PoA activities that have stayed on track in spite of COVID-19:** Updates from members also confirmed that a lot of the activities had stayed on track, and that they had developed innovative means to complete them virtually-

(a) PDD: Activity 18 co-led by PDD and IDMC, have made submission to the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement on "Internal displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. On activity 5, the conceptual paper that was looking at when displacement will constitute loss and damage, and, was expected to be finalized by 2021. PDD and IOM technical members provided an update on activity 14 on the Words into Action (WIA) Guidelines on Disaster Displacement that are being rolled out at the regional and national level in 2020;

(b) IDMC: On activity 9, IDMC technical member informed that it was developing five new country case studies in the Asia-Pacific region, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, and was expected to be implemented in 2021. On activity 2, in collaboration with PDD, IDMC informed that the global disaster displacement data for 2019 has been produced and validated, and it will provide the basis for the development of the factsheets;

(c) UNHCR: For activity 7, UNHCR technical member informed that in collaboration with IOM and PDD, it had supported the drafting of a Plan of Action to “Address Human Mobility in Contexts of Disasters and Climate Change” under the Caribbean Migration Consultations. UNHCR is contributing to the GP20 initiative on internal displacement that would in addition highlight forecast based financing. In addition, UNHCR was contributing to an IOM led multi-stakeholder initiative on a DRR/CCA integrated capacity assessment tool on human mobility. On activity 15, UNHCR has sent out a survey for predictive analytics initiative in Sahel region;

(d) ILO: On activity 6, ILO had completed phase I of the research project- “Free movement of persons and transhumance in the IGAD Region: Improving opportunities for regular labour mobility”. On activity 6, ILO is taking part in a project in the Pacific entitled, “Enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region” (2019-2021) in partnership with IOM, OHCHR, UNESCAP, PIFS and PDD. On activity 7, ILO is reviewing seasonal worker’s schemes. On activity 12, ILO, in September 2019, participated in the Stakeholder Workshop on the “Role of free movement of persons agreements in addressing disaster displacement in Africa”. TFD technical members IOM and ILO, identified collaboration with LEG group on the implementation of activities 16 and 17 of the PoA;

(e) IOM: On activity 7, the mapping of the national migration policies had been initiated and was expected to be finalized by 2021. On activity 8, on sharing information on TFD work at the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, due to COVID-19, there had been delays, but the regional reviews were expected to be finalized by mid-2021. On activity 11, the planned relocation mapping had been initiated and was expected to be finalized by mid-2021. On activity 2, the guidance note would analyse the entry points and methodological guidance on how vulnerable states can integrate migration dimensions in their project development process for GCF.

18. New initiatives to respond to COVID-19: Technical members noted common areas of coherence and highlighted initiatives of some of the TFD members working on activities to both implement the PoA, and, beyond the PoA.

(a) ILO: To further implement activity 6, ILO is currently conducting a joint tripartite assessment and monitoring on the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market and business environment. On activity 6, ILO started a new research project on the impact of COVID- 19 on the nexus between climate change, labour markets and migration in South Asia;

(b) IFRC: On a global level, IFRC technical member reported that work is continuing on developing a global training toolkit on displacement and climate. At the regional level, work is continuing on developing guidance for Asia Pacific National Societies on supporting planned relocation in the context of disasters and climate change. For both activities 6 (collection of Asia Pacific cases studies) and 15 (forecast-based financing issue brief), the broader challenges of COVID-19 on humanitarian response are addressed. Excom TFD champion and ILO technical member expressed an interest in receiving IFRC case studies;

(c) IOM: IOM is currently developing an Institutional Strategy on Migration, Climate Change and the Environment, which will have a clear focus on the role of the TFD.

19. **Pipeline financing proposals by TFD members:** A number of pipeline proposals for implementing the PoA activities were shared by the technical members:

(a) Joint proposal by ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNOPS (PDD) on “Addressing drivers and facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration in the contexts of disasters and climate change in the IGAD region”;

(b) Joint proposal by ILO and IOM on labour mobility to initiate activity 20 of the PoA;

(c) Dry Corridor project to create alternative green jobs to prevent migration, particularly among youth, and address land degradation- between ILO and the UNCCD to initiate activity 20 of the PoA;

(d) To implement activity 15.2 of PoA, UNHCR and IOM have jointly developed a concept note for a project to be funded by France as PDD Chair: “Implementing global policies to address the challenges of environmental migration, climate change and disaster displacement in West Africa and the Sahel”;

(e) In the Pacific region, ILO will assist in development of people-centred activities (policies/ action plans) in Tuvalu and Kiribati;

(f) IOM in collaboration with the UNFCCC Regional Center in Grenada and PDD, is developing a concept note on promoting a human security approach to disaster displacement and environmental migration policies integrating the COVID-19 pandemic response in the Eastern Caribbean.

V. **Looking ahead**

20. TFD outreach/communication discussion on immediate actions and in the lead-up to and at COP 26. Members expressed an interest in having:

(a) A TFD human rights-themed side event at COP26, with the report on IDPs as the possible relevant entry point.

(b) TFD webinars with guest speakers.

21. Update the PoA: Members reflected upon the need to update the PoA to keep it relevant to respond to the evolving situation, and in this particular instance the impact of COVID-19. TFD members will be informed of the mode of updating PoA.

22. Engagement with existing technical and ad hoc members: continuing engagement with the members from UNDP and Youth NGO; High interest amongst the TFD members to reach out to new ad hoc members, particularly the OHCHR.

23. The secretariat based on Excom decision will inform the TFD members on the date. Many of the TFD members agreed to support Excom TFD champions in reporting back to Excom 12.