



## Strategic Framework 2016-2019

### 1. Background

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This document outlines a Strategic Framework (2016–2019) and a Workplan for the *Platform on Disaster Displacement*, the follow-up to the Nansen Initiative. The Strategic Framework will be revised, updated if applicable, and approved annually by the Steering Group of the Platform (see below).

The objective of the Nansen Initiative<sup>1</sup> was to build consensus on key elements and principles to better protect people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. The Nansen Initiative *Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change* (Protection Agenda) was endorsed by 109 delegations at an intergovernmental global consultation on 12-13 October 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland, which marked the end of the Nansen Initiative in its previous form.

The Protection Agenda presents a comprehensive approach to address disaster displacement. It addresses the protection and assistance needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change by identifying potential humanitarian protection measures and other effective practices that States and others can apply in cross-border displacement situations. At the same time, it identifies effective practices to prevent displacement through measures that reduce disaster and displacement risks, enhance the adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and strengthen resilience in countries of origin.

The overall focus of the Nansen Initiative was to build consensus at policy level, and not on operational implementation. Based on identified gaps, the Protection Agenda recommended three priority areas for future action: 1) Collecting data and enhancing knowledge; 2) Enhancing the use of humanitarian protection measures, and 3) Strengthening the management of disaster displacement risk in the country of origin.

### 2. The Platform on Disaster Displacement: Mission Statement, Objective and Working Methods

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Forced displacement related to disasters, including the adverse effects of climate change (disaster displacement<sup>2</sup>), is a reality and among the biggest humanitarian challenges facing States and the

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<sup>1</sup> The governments of Norway and Switzerland, building on the 2010 UNFCCC Cancún Adaptation Framework and the 2011 Nansen Conference on Climate Change and Displacement in the 21st Century, pledged at the UNHCR Ministerial Conference in December 2011 to address the need for a more coherent and consistent approach to the protection of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change. This was the origin of the Nansen Initiative, which was launched by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland in October 2012, with the support of a Steering Group comprised of Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Germany, Kenya, Mexico, and the Philippines, and accompanied by the Group of Friends co-chaired by Morocco and the European Union.

<sup>2</sup> Please see the Protection Agenda, paragraph 16, for a definition of the term ‘disaster displacement’. Moreover, the term ‘disaster’ refers to a “serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources” (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – UNISDR). For the purpose of the Protection Agenda and this strategy,

international community in the 21st century. In this context, the Mission of the *Platform on Disaster Displacement* is to work towards enhanced cooperation, coordination and action in order to improve the protection of disaster displaced persons. The Platform will promote concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels and among stakeholders dealing with a broad range of policy and action areas including humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and development.

The *Platform on Disaster Displacement* has been established to follow up on the work started by the Nansen Initiative and to implement the recommendations of the Protection Agenda. The overall objective of the Platform is:

*To strengthen the protection of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters, including those linked to the effects of climate change, and to prevent or reduce disaster displacement risks.*

Thus, based on the three priority areas for future action identified by the Protection Agenda and in view of the fact that the objective of the Platform is broader than the implementation of the recommendations of the Protection Agenda, the following four strategic priorities have been identified for this Strategic Framework 2016-2019 by the Steering Group of the Platform (see also section 3 and 5):

- I. Address knowledge and data gaps*
- II. Enhance the use of identified effective practices and strengthen cooperation among relevant actors to prevent, when possible, to reduce and to address cross-border disaster-displacement at the national, regional and international levels*
- III. Promote policy coherence and mainstreaming of human mobility challenges in, and across, relevant policy and action areas*
- IV. Promote policy and normative development in gap areas*

Operational agencies such as IOM and UNHCR, jointly with other relevant agencies and organizations working in the fields of humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and development, have a key role to play in complementing State efforts to implement the Protection Agenda. The Platform will seek to mainstream and support mainstreaming of activities (e.g. support to dedicated staff and project funding) within the scope of existing mandates and areas of expertise and work of relevant agencies.

While being a state-led process, a key working principle of the Platform will be multi-stakeholder involvement and strong partnerships between policymakers, practitioners and researchers in order to promote collective outcomes and to further stronger links between policy, normative, technical and operational work. In this sense, the Platform constitutes a forum for dialogue, information sharing and policy and normative development.

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disasters refer to disruptions triggered by or linked to hydro-metrological and climatological natural hazards, including hazards linked to anthropogenic global warming, as well as geophysical hazards.

### **3. The Platform on Disaster Displacement: Governing Structure and Membership**

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The implementation of this Strategic Framework and Workplan will be guided by the governing structure of the *Platform on Disaster Displacement*<sup>3</sup>. The Platform is directed by a Steering Group of States and other key stakeholders. The Steering Group and its Chair and Vice-Chair provide overall strategic leadership and guidance on coordination, policy and advocacy.

To support coordination of work between different elements and members of the Platform, and to support the Chair and the Steering Group to achieve the strategic priorities, a small Coordination Unit provides administrative, coordination, communication and other types of technical assistance. The Coordination Unit reports to the Chair of the Platform<sup>4</sup>.

An Advisory Committee will replace the Consultative Committee established under the Nansen Initiative. It will build on membership of the previous Consultative Committee and consists, inter alia, of individuals and representatives of international and regional organizations, research institutions, academia, private sector, non-governmental organizations and other civil society stakeholders. A key function is to provide expert input and strategic advice to the Steering Group and the Chair of the Platform, and as applicable and appropriate, support implementation of activities in the Workplan. As an operational part of the Advisory Committee, a Working Group among organizations and agencies that are responsible for implementation of activities in the Workplan will be established in Geneva. The Working Group will coordinate implementation of activities in the Workplan, seek to strengthen operational collaboration and support mainstreaming of activities within relevant agencies. UNHCR and IOM have received dedicated staff supporting the implementation of the Workplan and will play a key role in the Working Group, while other organizations and agencies will also be invited to join forces in implementing activities. The Coordination Unit will serve as secretary of the Working Group.

The activities required to implement the Workplan and support the work of the Platform will be funded by various sources. Funding is required to cover the infrastructure and operating costs of the Coordination Unit. Funding for secondments, extra staff, research and program/project activities will primarily be channeled through and mainstreamed into the activities of operational agencies. Under the leadership of the Chair, the Coordination Unit will support the fundraising efforts of the Platform.

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<sup>3</sup> This document is to be read alongside three sets of Terms of References (ToRs) of the Platform: 1) Steering Group, 2) Advisory Committee and, 3) Coordination Unit.

<sup>4</sup> Upon the launch of the *Platform on Disaster Displacement*, the Coordination Unit receives initial funding for the duration of two years from the Federal Government of Germany. It is composed of two full-time staff, one at P5 level (Head of Coordination Unit) and one at P3 level (Policy Officer). Under the arrangement chosen and funded by the Federal Government of Germany from 2016 – 2019, two Program Officers will also be funded and be based and embedded in IOM and UNHCR, respectively, to support implementation of the Platform's Strategic Framework and Workplan and the mainstreaming of activities within their respective agencies. To ensure coordination with the Coordination Unit on a day to day basis, they will have double reporting lines and also report to the Coordination Unit (through its Head).

#### **4. The Platform on Disaster Displacement: Engagement with Relevant Policy and Action Areas**

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The *Platform on Disaster Displacement* will maintain a primary focus on addressing the protection needs of persons displaced across international borders in the context of disasters, including those linked to the effects of climate change, like its predecessor the Nansen Initiative.

Human mobility and displacement in the context of disasters and climate change are already referenced in global policy processes of relevance to the Platform such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement (December 2015). As these frameworks and decisions enter their implementation phases, the inclusion and reference to displacement and other human mobility challenges represent important opportunities for enhanced policy coherence, synergies and for enhanced capacity to prevent and address disaster displacement.

The Platform will engage and deepen partnership with relevant lead agencies and organizations for these global processes in the context of its Advisory Committee and with the support of its Steering Group members. It will also engage in other ongoing processes and existing mechanisms of direct relevance to disaster displacement, inter alia, the World Humanitarian Summit (Follow-Up), the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the UNFCCC, the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures, the High Level Dialogue on Migration and the International Dialogue on Migration.

The Protection Agenda found that most cross-border disaster-displacement takes place within regions and that in many situations, the Regional or sub-regional Organizations could play importance for developing integrated responses. More specialized (sub-) regional mechanisms such as Regional Consultative Processes – RCP (on migration), human rights mechanisms, disaster risk management centres, climate change adaptation strategies, as well as common markets and free movement of persons arrangements, are of direct relevance. The Platform, in particular through the regional members within the Steering Group, will support national or regional efforts to implement the Protection Agenda, building on the work of the Nansen Initiative Regional Consultations<sup>5</sup>.

#### **5. Strategic Priorities 2016 – 2019**

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The following section describes how activities, outputs and expected outcomes are linked to the mission statement, the overall objective of the Platform and the four strategic priorities:

##### **I. Address knowledge and data gaps**

One key finding of the Nansen Initiative was that global, comprehensive and systematic data collection and analysis on cross-border disaster-displacement is lacking<sup>6</sup>. Moreover, evidence and

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<sup>5</sup> Some regional organisations with whom the Nansen Initiative did engage are the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in the Pacific, the Central American Integration System (SICA) in Central America, MERCOSUR in South America, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in the Greater Horn of Africa region, The Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Southern Africa, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Southeast Asia, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in South Asia and the European Union (EU) in Europe.

<sup>6</sup> For example, there are global estimates which indicate that the phenomenon of disaster displacement is significant (average of 26,4 million people newly displaced each year), that most displacement is internal and that the majority is displaced by weather related hazards, but global data only covers the incidence of displacement, and not where displaced people flee to or

data is limited regarding displacement dynamics, trends, patterns and cycles, including on the root causes of disaster displacement. Data and evidence is also lacking regarding displacement and human mobility in the context of slow-onset events associated with the adverse effects of climate change. Additional data and knowledge is also needed on disaster-related migration and planned relocation processes. The data and evidence challenge is conceptual, institutional and operational<sup>7</sup>.

However, the Nansen Initiative found that knowledge and data on cross-border disaster-displacement is growing due to efforts by governments, researchers, academic institutions, and non-governmental and international organizations<sup>8</sup>. Thus, the Platform through its Coordination Unit will work with relevant agencies and members of its Advisory Committee to map existing information management systems, review them and propose measures to address gap areas (e.g. development of new concepts, methodologies, models and tools or establishment of new mechanisms). This exercise will also include an analysis of which gap can be addressed within the existing work of organizations and others collecting and analyzing data, including global centers and portals such as Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), and the identification of areas where additional capacity or new mechanisms would be required.

In view of the existing challenges, reaching a capacity to provide global information management, analysis, tracking of trends and reporting regarding cross-border disaster-displacement, including on its root causes, should be considered a long term goal. The mapping exercise and analysis of gaps will only be a first step. The result of that analysis will serve to inform and prepare the Steering Group for further strategic discussion and guidance on the mechanisms, measures and institutional capacity required to address the gaps.

Other steps, from a short or mid-term perspective, include addressing the following gaps:

- For example, all members of the Platform will seek to explore opportunities to support the inclusion of displacement and human mobility categories in post-disaster needs and damage assessment tools and methodologies, and in other information systems such as national censuses.

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where they eventually settle. Furthermore, these estimates, while indicative of overall trends, do not include all small scale displacements, slow-onset hazards or events, or data collection on protracted displacement.

<sup>7</sup> Global figures are also partly lacking because of the multiple drivers of disaster displacement (e.g. it is not clear whether the impacts of the disaster forced an individual to move, or whether the disaster became one of several factors driving the decision to move). In other instances data or numbers on displacement in disaster situations are not collected, let alone systematically shared. For example, censuses and other forms of population data collection rarely include questions that determine what factors influence movement, or whether it was voluntary or forced. Moreover, the Nansen Initiative found that “displacement” terminology is not consistently utilized within disaster response efforts, disaster-loss databases or during post-disaster needs assessments. Examples have also been identified where relevant displacement risk data is collected in one sector, but not systematically shared or used in others, e.g. to inform decisions and policy development on disaster risk, climate change adaptation, preparedness and response.

<sup>8</sup> Since 2008, IDMC has been collecting global data on disaster displacement, and has also developed models to project future disaster displacement. IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix collects data on displacement in disaster situations where the organization has field operations. There are other relevant actors at Geneva level, such as the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) and the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS) that can contribute to better information management and data/knowledge. Other agencies such as OCHA and UNHCR also clearly have a role to play in addressing information gaps and enhance coordination.

- Similarly, from a preparedness and prevention perspective, members of the Platform will seek to link up with current efforts to strengthen risk mapping and forecasting modelling to identify vulnerable populations and others at risk of displacement, and to identify and better understand existing and emerging displacement risk drivers. Such information is important for contingency and preparedness planning and should be made available for relevant authorities and agencies at the national and regional level.
- Upon request by the Steering Group, research will be commissioned via existing channels, such as through members of the Advisory Committee, to address knowledge gaps (e.g. on the human mobility impact of slow-onset events associated with the adverse effects of climate change). The Coordination Unit will support the Platform to communicate findings on gaps, the result of new research and building of knowledge, and information on effective practice through relevant communication outlets (reports, policy briefs, websites etc.).

II. Enhance the use of identified effective practices and strengthen cooperation to prevent, when possible, to reduce and to address disaster displacement at the national, regional and international levels

The Nansen Initiative identified effective practices that address protection and assistance needs of people who have been displaced across borders (**Part One of the Protection Agenda: Protecting Cross-Border Disaster-Displaced Persons**) and effective practices to prevent displacement through measures that reduce disaster and displacement risks, enhance the adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and strengthen resilience (**Part Two of the Protection Agenda: Managing Disaster Displacement Risk in the Country of Origin**).

The *Platform on Disaster Displacement* seeks to enhance and strengthen the use of such effective practices, particularly at the national and regional level.

Humanitarian Protection Measures: A finding in the Protection Agenda was that international law does not explicitly address whether and under which circumstances disaster displaced persons shall be admitted to another country, what rights they have during their stay, and under what conditions they may be returned or find a lasting solution. In the absence of clear provisions in international law, some States, particularly in the Americas, selected regions in Africa and a few States in Europe, have developed a multitude of tools that allow them to admit or not return disaster displaced persons on their territory on an individual or group basis. These humanitarian protection measures are generally temporary, and may be based on regular immigration law, exceptional immigration categories, or provisions related to the protection of refugees or similar norms of international human rights law.

The Platform will seek to continue to consolidate, enhance the use, and further the application of such effective practices. It will also work with UNHCR and support the further development and use of their Guidelines on Temporary Protection or Stay Arrangements (TPSAs) as responses to humanitarian crises and complex or mixed population movements. The scope of application of UNHCR's Guidelines is broader than disaster situations, but they are fully complementary and can be part of what the Protection Agenda included as Humanitarian Protection Measures. Linkages and close coordination of work will also be pursued with IOM and their work on humanitarian visa, for example in South America the work on the Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) as well as with the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC).

States, particularly in regions exposed to high levels of disaster and displacement risks, would need to prepare for potential cross-border disaster-displacement to avoid being overwhelmed in the event of a sudden or large-scale influx of people in search of protection and assistance abroad. All members of the Platform will actively seek to support inclusion of displacement risk mapping, early warning, evacuation plans and preparedness for cross-border disaster-displacement etc. into national, bilateral and regional contingency plans, disaster risk management and humanitarian response plans. The Coordination Unit will support overall coordination of such efforts (overview of opportunities and tracking of ongoing efforts). Relevant information will be made available for all members.

The possibility for supporting training and the organization of national, bilateral and regional simulation exercises by relevant organizations such as IOM and UNHCR will be explored in close cooperation with relevant States and the respective United Nations Country Team/Humanitarian Team. UNDP and OCHA will play an important role to support the Platform in linking up with the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator System.

Management of Disaster Displacement Risk: The Protection Agenda identified a set of measures States can take to manage disaster displacement risk in order to help people stay, move out of areas at risk, and address the specific needs of those that have been internally displaced in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. Available policy options to reduce vulnerability and build the resilience of people at risk of disaster displacement include disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and overall development measures through national development plans and UNDAF etc.

One important reason for keeping the management of disaster displacement in the country of origin as a strategic priority is the wide set of policy options available for States to prevent or reduce the risk of displacement. Often however, relevant policies are silent on displacement and human mobility challenges. One aim of the Platform will be to liaise and cooperate with UNISDR and other relevant actors supporting States in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Coordination Unit will seek to engage members of the Advisory Committee and the Working Group to provide technical support so that issues such as displacement risk mapping, early warning, evacuation planning, response plans etc. are included in national disaster risk management policies and strategies. This is linked to another aim which is to provide technical and policy guidance for States to strengthen access to relevant climate change, DRR and development funding in support of measures that can reduce the risk of displacement (e.g. infrastructure development like dams, dykes, sea-walls in risk areas etc.).

When displacement or other forms of human mobility are unavoidable in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, policy options may include facilitating voluntary migration and planned relocation to move people away from hazardous areas to safer areas before a disaster or displacement occurs, taking into account the regional /sub-regional diversity or uniqueness. Both IOM (facilitating voluntary migration) and UNHCR (planned relocation) have often assumed organizational leadership for work in these areas both at policy and operational level. The Platform will work and coordinate closely with both agencies to enable further action in support of such processes.

*III. Promote policy coherence and mainstreaming of human mobility challenges in, and across, relevant policy and action areas*

Since disaster displacement is multi-causal, efforts to prevent and address displacement and reduce displacement risks require systematic work across sectors, mandates and areas of expertise. An integrated approach is also required in order to ensure that protection needs are addressed throughout the displacement cycle (prevention, preparedness, protection during displacement, and the transition to durable solutions). A key gap and challenge highlighted by the Nansen Initiative is the need to bring together and link multiple policy and action areas that to date have been uncoordinated in order to better address cross-border disaster-displacement and its root causes.

Climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and other development efforts are often inter-dependent, and promoting their strategic combination when being implemented at the global, regional and national levels will generate more effective outcomes and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity (e.g. development of integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies at national and regional level). All members of the Platform will have a role to play in promoting coherence across these policy areas, and the Steering Group will provide overall strategic guidance and be in charge of representing the Platform and provide global policy input in relevant global policy dialogues (e.g. at WHS, GFMD). More technical and policy support and input, for example to the UNFCCC by participating in relevant Task Forces (see below) or to the UNISDR Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology, may be provided by the Coordination Unit and members of the Advisory Committee and the Working Group, under guidance and mandate by the Chair and the Steering Group.

The Platform being state-led and based on multi-stakeholder involvement is strategically in a good position to promote policy coherence and to strengthen the goal of collective outcomes between these global policy processes. Coordination with specialized agencies such as UNHCR, IOM, UNDP, the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, and a strategic and technical relationship with UNISDR and the UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies are important for generating such synergies. Through its Steering Group, the Platform will also advance its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the attention of decision and policy makers at all levels, such as through organizing side events at global and regional events and the drafting and submission of policy briefs.

The year 2015 saw a number of new global policy agendas. The inclusion and recognition of displacement and human mobility challenges in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement provide important opportunities for further policy coherence, synergies and for enhanced capacity to prevent and address the challenges of disaster displacement.

The Platform will continue to promote policy coherence by linking these processes.

- For example, the Sendai Framework on DRR explicitly references actions related to displacement (e.g. evacuation), migration and planned relocation as part of overall disaster risk reduction efforts. Providing technical support when parties to the framework seek to implement the framework at national level and measure progress, will give stronger effect to the effective practices identified in the Protection Agenda<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> This may include support to UNISDR and the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction.



- Another strategic opportunity to promote policy coherence is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM), which has been mandated to establish a Task Force “to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change”.
- A third global process directly relevant to the work of the Platform and its protection objective is the United Nation Secretary General’s World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and its follow-up. The SG’s *Agenda for Humanity* includes a set of proposals on how to reduce and address displacement, while it also calls for commitment to develop protection measures to prepare for and address cross-border displacement due to disasters and climate change. The *Agenda for Humanity* and its follow-up represent an important opportunity to support the development of protection frameworks at the national and regional level.
- The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and other global migration policy dialogues are also important opportunities to promote wider and further use of Humanitarian Protection Measures (e.g. use of regular immigration laws, exceptional immigration categories) and for the Platform to support policy and governance development in the migration area of work.

#### IV. Promote policy and normative development in gap areas

The Nansen Initiative identified a legal gap in international law for people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change. Such persons are protected by international human rights law, and where applicable, international refugee law. However, international law does not address critical issues such as admission, access to basic services during temporary or permanent stay, and conditions for return. The Nansen Initiative found that some States possess legal provisions explicitly providing for humanitarian protection measures for cross-border disaster-displaced persons, but the vast majority of countries lack any normative framework that would offer guidance and a predictable response if such persons arrived at their borders or were on their territory<sup>10</sup>.

The Platform will build on efforts already started under the Nansen Initiative together with the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) in Central and North America, where a ‘*Guide to Effective Practices on Admission and Stay for Persons Moving across Borders in the Context of Disasters*’ has been drafted. Similar opportunities will be pursued in the context of other Regional Consultative Processes (RCP), which are important venues for governments and other stakeholders to discuss migration policy development. Another option is to pursue such activities together with smaller clusters of countries at regional level, where appropriate. This line of work requires detailed mapping/review of existing normative and policy practices in a given region, an analysis of displacement and human mobility dynamics, and the drafting and development of guidance/guides together with relevant States and regional organizations.

South America (MERCOSUR), Greater Horn of Africa (IGAD), Southern Africa (SADC) and the Pacific region (PIFS) are some of the regions where such work may be undertaken or further supported

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<sup>10</sup> The Nansen Initiative identified at least 50 countries that in recent decades have received or refrained from returning people in the aftermath of disasters, in particular those caused by tropical storms, flooding, drought, tsunamis, and earthquakes.

where it has already started under the Nansen Initiative<sup>11</sup>. Steering Group members and relevant regional organizations will be best positioned to promote and implement such activities with the support of operational agencies such as UNHCR and IOM and the Coordination Unit. Training and capacity building and support for legislative development may also be included under this line of work, and project funding for such actions will be pursued with relevant agencies.

The *Platform on Disaster Displacement*, like its predecessor the Nansen Initiative, will not seek to develop new global legal standards or normative frameworks. It will follow the recommendation from the Protection Agenda which suggests that standard-setting activities are more appropriately undertaken at the domestic and regional levels.

While many international agencies and organizations are operationally engaged in situations of disaster displacement, none is explicitly mandated to assist and protect cross-border disaster-displaced persons. The Nansen Initiative found that this represents an institutional gap, which weakens the predictability and the preparedness for the response.

Additional activities under this strategic priority may include:

- Support legal and policy development at the domestic and regional level and support the development of bilateral and regional frameworks regarding admission, stay and non-return of cross-border disaster-displaced persons. States that are members of the Steering Group will take the lead on this work in the relevant regions, while the Coordination Unit will map and provide an overview of relevant regional processes and provide technical support when appropriate.
- An important communication activity will be to present analysis and evidence regarding gap areas to policy and decision-makers, including to members of the Steering Group. This work will build on experiences and outcomes from enhancing the use of humanitarian protection measures under strategic priority 2, and will draw on technical support from members of the Advisory Committee and the Working Group, in particular UNHCR and IOM.
- Support mainstreaming of activities within the mandates and areas of expertise of relevant international agencies and organizations. Under the leadership of the Steering Group, opportunities for more formalized mainstreaming of roles and responsibilities will also be pursued (e.g. consider bringing the issue to the attention of the governance structure of relevant organizations).
- To follow up on the outcomes of the WHS, and under the leadership of its Steering Group, the Platform will also take note of UN SG's Agenda for Humanity and the proposed commitment to work with States in relevant regions to: *'Adopt an appropriate international framework, national legislation and regional cooperation frameworks by 2025 to ensure countries in disaster-prone regions are prepared to receive and protect those displaced across borders without refugee status'*.

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<sup>11</sup> See for example Nansen Initiative commissioned work: "Clusters and Hubs: Toward a Regional Architecture for Voluntary Adaptive Migration in the Pacific", by Bruce Burson and Richard Bedford (2013).

## 6. Annexes

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Annex I: Strategic Framework (Outcomes and Outputs)

Annex II: PDD Workplan (2016-2019)