



## Working Session

### Concept Note

*(draft 18 March 2019)*

<b>Event title</b>	<b>Disaster Displacement and Disaster Risk Reduction</b>
<b>Date and Time</b>	Thursday 16 May, 16:30 - 18:00
<b>Venue/ Room no.</b>	
<b>UNISDR Focal Points</b>	Loretta Hieber Girardet, Chief, UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific ( <a href="mailto:hieber-girardet@un.org">hieber-girardet@un.org</a> ) Sujit Kumar Mohanty, Chief, UNISDR Regional office for Arab States ( <a href="mailto:mohanty@un.org">mohanty@un.org</a> )
<b>Organizing Team Members</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reidar Staupe-Delgado, Assistant Professor, UiT The Arctic University of Norway</li> <li>2. Ayesha Siddiqi Lecturer, Human Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London</li> <li>3. Elodie Hut, Research Assistant, University of Liège, The Hugo Observatory: Environment, Migration, Politics Department of Geography</li> <li>4. Pierre Ozer, University of Liège, The Hugo Observatory: Environment, Migration, Politics Department of Geography</li> <li>5. Sarah Koeltzow, Policy Officer, Platform on Disaster Displacement</li> <li>6. Isabelle Michal, Policy Officer, UNHCR</li> <li>7. Johan Grundberg, Transition and Recovery Expert, IOM</li> <li>8. Louis Hoffmann, Head of Transition and Recovery Division, IOM</li> <li>9. Ginette Kidd, Policy Officer (Durable Solutions), IOM</li> <li>10. El Ibraheem A. El-dowy, PhD, Director of Research and Information Center, Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization (ARCO)</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Gabriela Nobre, UN Major Group for Children and Youth</li> <li>12. Nina M Birkeland, Senior Adviser, Disaster Displacement and Climate Change, Norwegian Refugee Council</li> <li>13. Shashanka Saadi, Head, Emergency Preparedness &amp; Response Programme, BRAC International</li> <li>14. Dorothea Rischewski, Germany, GIZ, Section Climate Change and Climate Policy Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Division</li> <li>15. Maddalena Dali, European Commission (DG Clima)</li> <li>16. Hana Kolic, European Commission (DG Clima)</li> <li>17. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons</li> <li>18. Katrine Gertz Schlundt, Associate Expert supporting the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs (OHCHR)</li> <li>19. Katie Peters, Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Background and Rationale</b></p>	<p>Disaster displacement—the forced or involuntary movement of people associated with disasters—has devastating impacts on individuals and communities, creating humanitarian, development and human rights challenges. It disrupts family, community and cultural life and dignity, destroys livelihoods, assets and creates unemployment. It interrupts education, causes health problems and reduces access to basic services, makes it difficult to claim property rights, prompts or aggravates safety and security concerns, heightens the risk of trafficking and leads to extreme poverty. It is often a traumatizing experience.</p> <p>More people are displaced by disasters today than by conflict. Since 2008, an average of 26.4 million have been displaced by sudden onset disasters each year. Both sudden-onset disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, and slow-onset disasters such as drought, are fuelling disaster-related displacement.</p> <p>Climate change is projected to increase disaster displacement as extreme weather events become more frequent and intense, particularly in developing countries. Although most displacement takes place within countries, and the displaced often find shelter with family, friends or rented accommodation, it also takes place across borders, increasing the need for transboundary agreements of how to admit and/or protect displaced persons. In addition, different groups of people, including women, children, older people, persons with disabilities, migrants and people already displaced are often more vulnerable to displacement linked to natural hazards than the rest of the population.</p> <p>Because displacement affects broad population groups, including host communities, Governments need to take multi-faceted actions to mitigate and prevent, plan for and manage displacement risk. At the same time, it is important to note that if well planned, migration and human mobility can be positive coping strategies and adaptation tools to reduce vulnerable to climate change and enhance human security.</p>

The Sendai Framework recognizes disaster displacement as an important concern. It calls on DRR strategies to reduce the risk of disaster displacement and related human suffering in line with Target B, to substantially reduce the number of people affected by disasters globally.

There are multiple factors that lead to displacement in disasters such as lack of sufficient early warning systems, and poor construction of homes. Understanding who is most vulnerable and at risk of displacement and addressing these risks and vulnerabilities before a disaster strikes can help prevent displacement. This requires integration of displacement prevention actions in national and local DRR and development strategies as well as in humanitarian contingency planning.

However, when displacement cannot be avoided, the Sendai Framework also identifies actions to prepare responses that reduce potential humanitarian needs and strengthen the resilience of those affected until they are able to find an acceptable solution to their displacement. Addressing disaster displacement is also central to fulfilling principle 19(c), which recognizes that disaster risk management (DRM) aims to protect people and their assets in ways that also protect and promote all human rights.

Beyond their commitments to the Sendai Framework, Governments have agreed to address disaster displacement through the UNFCCC's Task Force on Displacement, the Nansen Initiative's Protection Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and most recently the follow up to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants—the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The GCM calls on Governments to: i) develop adaptation and resilience strategies to disasters and adverse effects of climate change that take into account migration, ii) integrate displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies, iii) address the vulnerabilities of people affected by disasters and provide them with necessary humanitarian assistance, and iv) develop coherent approaches to address the challenges of migration and displacement. The GCR makes specific reference to the need to reduce disaster risks and recognizes that “environmental degradation and natural disasters increasingly interact with the drivers of refugee movements”.

As outlined in the Words into Action guide, *Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Impacts and Strengthen Resilience*, addressing displacement risk requires the participation of displaced populations throughout the disaster risk management cycle (before, during and after disaster displacement). The first step to reducing displacement risk is to understand it by monitoring causes and incidences of displacement through data collection (e.g., risk of displacement, who was displaced, where did they go, did they return or find other durable solutions?) and designing disaster reduction strategies based on that information. Laws and policies must be enacted and implemented through practical actions to prevent disaster displacement, protect displaced people when it cannot be avoided, and build the resilience of the displaced and their host communities to find durable

	solutions. In the process, involvement of the displaced population and the host communities need to be ensured.
<b>Session objectives</b>	<p><i>What does this session aim to accomplish? (2 to 3 bullets)</i></p> <p>The session aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase understanding of disaster displacement, dispel myths related to displacement, and encourage countries to address displacement appropriately in their disaster risk reduction strategies, including by monitoring displacement</li> <li>• Promote good practices, from various regions, through specific policies and activities that reduce disaster displacement risk and improve the resilience and protection of displaced people and others at risk of displacement</li> <li>• Encourage the use of the Words into Action guide on disaster displacement in developing or strengthening DRR strategies</li> <li>• Promote coherence in the implementation of the various international frameworks, agendas and processes</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda and Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This session will feature country experiences (what has worked and what hasn't worked) in addressing disaster displacement, especially countries that have incorporated displacement issues into national strategies, and experts working on this issue. The session will highlight the impact of displacement on vulnerable groups, and provide a gender and youth perspective.</li> <li>• There will be five panelists, one moderator and one keynote speaker representing broad diversity in terms of regional challenges and profiles of disaster displacement, gender, and government/civil society/other.</li> <li>• The moderator will first provide the context for the session, then invite the keynote speaker to provide facts and background of disaster displacement. Then the moderator will invite the panelists to present a specific experience/practical action from their country/region.</li> <li>• A brief question-and-answer exchange will follow, ending the session with one concluding thought per panelist.</li> </ul>
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<p><i>1. What key recommendations can be made to policy makers to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR focusing on displacement, also in coherence with other frameworks, e.g. UNFCCC?</i></p> <p>The Session will recommend that countries appropriately address disaster displacement by reducing and preventing the risk of displacement, addressing impacts when displacement is unavoidable and strengthening the resilience of displaced people and host communities. Countries are encouraged to monitor displacement, including through setting baselines and targets (such as a voluntary national indicator on displacement), and to address displacement in their national and local DRR strategies based on a people-centred approach. DRR strategies should also be aligned with and integrated in relevant development, humanitarian and climate change strategies. Within the international policy space, Governments</p>

	<p>are encouraged to advocate for the inclusion of disaster displacement in other policy agendas such as migration, climate change, development, etc.</p> <p><b>2. If applicable, how does this session contribute to the achievement of Sendai Target E?</b></p> <p>The Session will recommend that Governments address displacement risk when developing or revising their disaster risk reduction strategies (to meet Sendai Target E) using the practical examples shared in the session and the guidance of the Words into Action guide on disaster displacement.</p> <p><b>3. What inputs can be provided to the HLPF and Climate Change Summit to inform their deliberations from a Disaster Risk Reduction perspective?</b></p> <p>The disaster risk reduction community recognizes that climate change exacerbates disaster displacement risk. Governments will strive to take coherent action to meet their Sendai Framework and Global Compact commitments, in line with the recommendations of the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement, shared at UNFCCC COP-24 in December 2018.</p>
<b>Special commitments / Announcements</b>	<p><b><i>Expected commitments in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework and announcements from panellists or participants</i></b></p> <p>It is expected that Governments will express their commitment to address disaster displacement in national strategies and to monitor displacement in their countries such as through voluntary targets and indicators. It is expected that non-governmental conference participants (including donors and private sector) will offer assistance, knowledge and technology to ensure the protection of people displaced by disasters, to reduce displacement risk and build resilience.</p>
<b>Proposed Moderator of the Session</b>	TBC
<b>Keynote Speaker</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professor Walter Kaelin</b>, Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement</li> </ul>
<b>List of Panellists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H. E. Mr. Judge Kamal Abou Jawdi</b>, Governor of Bekaa, Lebanon</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Fathia A. Alwan</b>, Ag Director Social Development, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Secretariat</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui</b>, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Dhaka; Founding Chair, Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit (RMMRU), Bangladesh</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary</b>, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Jessica López Mejía</b>, Directora de Protección para la Protección e Integración de Migrantes, Unidad de Política Migratoria, Secretaría de Gobernación, Mexico</li> </ul>

<p><b>Reference Documents</b></p>	<p><i>A list of the key reference documents that were consulted as background on the topic.</i></p> <p>This Concept Note refers to the following:</p> <p>The Nansen Initiative, 2015. Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disaster and Climate Change. Volume 1. Available at <a href="https://disasterdisplacement.org/the-platform/our-response">https://disasterdisplacement.org/the-platform/our-response</a></p> <p>United Nations, 2018. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Available at: <a href="https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf">https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf</a></p> <p>United Nations, 2018. Global Compact on Refugees. Available at: <a href="https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/refugees-compact">https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/refugees-compact</a></p> <p>United Nations, 2015. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015-2030. Available at: <a href="https://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf">https://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf</a></p> <p>UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement, 2017. <i>Task Force on Displacement At a Glance</i>. Brochure. Available at <a href="https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/TFD_brochure.pdf">https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/TFD_brochure.pdf</a></p> <p>UNISDR, 2018. <i>Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Impacts and Strengthen Resilience, A Companion for Implementing the Sendai Framework Target E.</i> Public consultation version; Words into Action Guidelines. Available at: <a href="https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/58821">https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/58821</a></p> <p><b><i>For further reading please see</i></b>  <a href="https://disasterdisplacement.org/resources">https://disasterdisplacement.org/resources</a></p>
<p><b>Technical equipment requirements</b></p>	<p><i>To be determined</i></p>