

## Group of Friends (GoF)

### Terms of Reference

#### 1. Background

The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) was established in July 2016 as a state-led initiative<sup>1</sup> to follow-up on the work of the Nansen Initiative<sup>2</sup> and to support States and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the Nansen Initiative *Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change* (Protection Agenda)<sup>3</sup> which was endorsed by 109 States in October 2015.

Several states not member of the PDD Steering Group have shown interest in obtaining information about, working with or being otherwise associated with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). In order to promote further outreach among States interested in supporting the work of PDD, a Group of Friends will be established in the period 2019-2022.

#### 2. The Platform on Disaster Displacement: Purpose and Scope of Work

Forced displacement related to disasters, including the adverse effects of climate change (disaster displacement), is a reality and among the biggest humanitarian and development challenges facing States and the international community in the 21st century.

PDD promotes a comprehensive approach to cross-border disaster-displacement. Its **vision** is a world in which “no one will be left behind”, in accordance with the aim of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, disaster displaced persons are protected and persons at risk of disaster displacement are provided with measures helping them to stay or move safely out of harm’s way.

Building on the work of the Nansen Initiative and achievements reached under the PDD Strategy and Workplan 2016-2019, the Steering Group of PDD has decided to continue the work of PDD beyond June 2019, with the following overall **objective**:

*To support States and other stakeholders to strengthen the protection of persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, and to prevent or reduce disaster displacement risks in countries of origin.*

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://disasterdisplacement.org/about-us/the-steering-group>, for an overview of members of the PDD Steering Group.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/>

<sup>3</sup> The Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda is available at [https://disasterdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/EN\\_Protection\\_Agenda\\_Volume\\_I\\_-low\\_res.pdf](https://disasterdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/EN_Protection_Agenda_Volume_I_-low_res.pdf).

To support the implementation of activities aimed at achieving this objective the following structure is put in place as part of the Platform: 1) Steering Group, 2) Advisory Committee, 3) Secretariat and 4) Group of Friends. This document describes the Terms of Reference for the Group of Friends.

### **3. Objective of the Group of Friends**

The objectives of the Group of Friends are to strengthen awareness regarding the protection and assistance needs of disaster displaced persons, to disseminate information about PDD's work to a larger audience and to activate support for joint advocacy efforts, as appropriate.

### **4. Format, Membership and Working Methods**

The Group of Friends is open-ended. It will convene in Geneva and New York at regular intervals set as appropriate for each context.

It will be chaired by a member of the PDD Steering Group, potentially together with another Steering Group member or other interested State/relevant regional organization.

The (co-)chair(s) will circulate invitations to briefings and meetings to all interested Member States of the UN and to relevant regional organizations (through their representations in Geneva and New York) which:

- Have an interest in the issue of displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change
- Are supportive of the objective of the Platform on Disaster Displacement
- Would like to follow the Platform's work and engage with the PDD on relevant activities
- Would like to make comments, proposals, and contributions to the work of the Platform
- And/or are a member of the PDD Steering Group.

All Member States of the UN and all relevant regional organizations are invited to all meetings and can choose which to attend and where. Attending Group of Friends Meetings does not imply any obligation for financial or other support to the PDD.

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