



Date:	17 November 2021
Place:	New York (virtual, via Zoom)
Time:	10:00-11:00 EST
Co-chairs:	Eduardo Fernandez-Zincke (European Union) and Majdoline Mouflih (Morocco)
Minutes:	Secretariat, Platform on Disaster Displacement
Attachments:	Statement by Kanta Kumari (Worldbank)

Summary

The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) is a State-led initiative working towards greater protection of persons displaced in the context of disasters and climate change. Fiji is the current Chair of the PDD, with France as Vice-Chair. The PDD established the Group of Friends (GoF) to increase awareness of the topic of disaster displacement, to disseminate information about the PDD and its work and to provide a platform for engagement with States interested in disaster displacement.

This was the third meeting of the GoF in New York, and the sixth meeting of the GoF to date, following two in New York, two in Geneva, and a special meeting with the Group of Friends of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. UN Member States and regional organizations were represented through their New York-based Permanent Missions at this virtual meeting, co-chaired by the European Union (EU) and Morocco. This meeting highlighted the links between disaster displacement and disaster risk reduction (DRR), providing an opportunity to hear how these links were addressed at the Regional Platforms for DRR taking place in November 2021; in the Americas and the Caribbean, in the Arab States, and in Africa, as well as in the upcoming European Forum for DRR. The meeting also provided a space to learn about the best available science relating to climate change and disaster displacement and other forms of human mobility, in addition to a short reporting back on issues particularly relevant for disaster displacement from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) held in Glasgow, also in November 2021. Furthermore, the Envoy of the Chair presented some reflections on the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, published in September 2021, including suggested next steps and potential opportunities for engagement by UN Member States and regional organizations.

1. Welcome and Introductory remarks

The EU and Morocco opened the meeting, providing the context for the GoF as part of the 2019-2022 Strategy of the PDD and outlining the primary focus of meeting – updating the GoF on important global policy processes and outcomes relating to the intersection of disaster displacement with DRR, climate change and human mobility. The co-chairs noted that disaster displacement is one of the biggest

challenges facing communities at the global, regional, national and local levels, with climate change set to increase the risks, complexity and extent of these challenges.

2. DRR Regional Platforms 2021 & Disaster Displacement

Abdallah Nassif, Governor of Disaster Risk Management at the Ministry of Interior of Morocco, presented an overview of the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Arab RP), held in Rabat, Morocco, from 8-11 November 2021, entitled "From Risk to Resilience: Accelerating Local Action for DRR". Among the Platform's sessions, a special session titled "Climate Risks and Displacement in the Arab Region: Challenges and Opportunities" addressed the intersection of climate change and disaster displacement, and was jointly organized by the Arab Network for Environment and Development, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the PDD, the Government of Morocco, and the League of Arab States. The outcomes of the Arab RP include the Rabat Declaration and the Prioritized Plan of Action 2021-2024, which contain many important recommendations for States, including engaging fully in the Sendai Framework Midterm Review.

José Oliveira, National Director for Risk Prevention and Management, Portugal, provided an overview of the upcoming European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) held in Matosinhos, Portugal, from 24-26 November 2021, entitled "Working Together to Reduce Disaster Risks". The EFDRR brings together fifty-five countries in Europe and Central Asia, hosting a number of main sessions, parallel sessions, and side events. In particular, he drew attention to the side event "Putting Words into Action - Addressing disaster displacement in DRR strategy and practice". This session was jointly organized by NRC and the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, with support from the PDD, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Resilience Development Initiative, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the EU, France, Germany, Norway and Switzerland. The expected outcomes of the EFDRR include a Ministerial Pledge and the 2021-2030 EFDRR Roadmap, but beyond these specific outcomes, the EFDRR is an important opportunity for States and other stakeholders to exchange good practices regarding DRR and disaster displacement, and to forge ongoing partnerships.

Kurt Davis, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations in New York, summarized the Seventh Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (ACRP), held in Jamaica from 1-4 November 2021, entitled "Building Resilient Economies in the Americas and the Caribbean". Disaster displacement was discussed, *inter alia*, during the session "Integrating disaster displacement into DRR strategies, policies, plans and legal frameworks", co-organized by the PDD and IOM, with support from IFRC and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The importance of integrating disaster displacement considerations into DRR strategies, policies and plans was reflected in the outcome documents of the ACRP, which include strong references to disaster displacement. The Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Plan both draw the links between disasters and displacement, and call for more coordinated action on human mobility in the context of disasters and climate changes.

Atle Solberg, Head of the Secretariat of the PDD, gave an update on the Eighth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Africa RP), held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 16-19 November, entitled "Towards

disaster risk-informed development for a resilient Africa in a COVID-19 transformed world”. The Africa RP was host to two events addressing the intersection of disaster displacement and DRR. The first was a pre-conference event titled "Moving from Words to Action on Disaster Displacement in Southern Africa", jointly organized by NRC, the Government of South Africa, the Government of Mozambique, the PDD and OXFAM South Africa, with support from the Government of Germany. The second event was a parallel working session titled "Addressing disaster displacement", co-organized by UNDRR, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, IDMC, NRC, the PDD and the International Institute for Environment and Development. A Ministerial Declaration will be published following the outcome of the Africa Regional Platform.

3. Climate Science & Disaster Displacement after COP26

Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), presented the work of the IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Cycle, and in particular the report of Working Group 1, published in August 2021. This report is based on a review of over 14,000 individual publications that incorporate the best available science relating to our understanding of the physical climate system and climate change. The report highlights a number of conclusions from the review, including that recent changes in the earth’s climate are unprecedented in history; human influence on the changing climate is strong; we are arriving at new thresholds for the severity of climate impacts; these impacts are being felt worldwide; and we need immediate action to avoid reaching tipping points in the climate.

The Sixth Assessment Cycle of the IPCC also incorporates a clearer typology of “climate impact drivers” (such as heat, rainfall, drought, fire, and ocean changes), as well as a more specific focus on detailed regional data to inform decisions related to risk management and adaptation. The IPCC is focused on making the conclusions and messages relevant for policymakers, to inform work at the national and regional levels, and in particular in light of COP26 as well as upcoming COPs. The IPCC sees a need for an increased focus on risk management in the face of increasing extreme weather events, and in order to achieve success in this regard, capacity building and proactive action are critical.

Kanta Kumari Rigaud, Lead Environmental Specialist at the World Bank, presented the second edition of the World Bank’s Groundswell report on climate-driven internal migration. Titled “Groundswell Part II : Acting on Internal Climate Migration”, the report contains projections and analyses for three additional geographical regions in addition to those covered in the Groundswell I report (resulting in six regions analyzed), and seeks to update the understanding of how climate-driven internal migration will evolve between 2020 and 2050, as well as the action required to address the associated challenges. It also stands as a foundation for more in-depth studies in specific regions including West Africa and the Lake Victoria basin, which have been subsequently released.

Ms. Kumari Rigaud outlined the purpose of the Groundswell Reports, which is to inform policy dialogue and action. The headline message of the report—that on current trajectories, 216 million people could move internally by 2050—indicates the need for concerted action, in particular on climate and development. However, policy dialogue and action must be supported by a better understanding of the challenges and needs relating to climate-driven internal migration. Thus, with the Groundswell II Report the World Bank aims to enhance understanding of the potency of climate change to induce migration and to stress the urgency to act now. The report also offers broad recommendations on relevant

responses, including increased action at the global level to limit temperature rises in line with the Paris Agreement; the importance and urgency of inclusive development that is resilient and green; and the need for context-specific solutions. While climate-driven internal migration is a reality, advanced planning and early action can mitigate and address the associated challenges. However, the window for action is rapidly narrowing.

Ms. Kumari also referred to another recently published World Bank report on West Africa, which highlights internal migration as the largest share of disaster-induced mobility flows.

Atle Solberg, Head of the Secretariat of the PDD, provided short reflections from the PDD's engagement at COP26. Following the decision of the PDD Steering Group to engage in the work of the Task Force on Displacement (TFD) under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM), at COP26 the PDD focused on negotiations and events relating to loss and damage. This focus was supported by a set of key messages developed by a PDD Steering Group Working Group on Climate Change, which were aligned with the key messages presented by both the IPCC and the World Bank earlier in this GoF meeting.

There was increased visibility of loss and damage, including displacement, at COP26, including the growing recognition that loss and damage is a critical element of the UNFCCC negotiations. This recognition is reflected in associated decisions on loss and damage, including the welcome by the COP decision text for the recommendations of the WIM (which the PDD contributed to through the TFD); the decision of the COP to further operationalize the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage (SNLD) for a stronger and more coordinated approach to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage and disaster displacement; and the establishment of the Glasgow Dialogue on loss and damage finance. These decisions have resulted in a number of processes set to take place from 2022 to 2024, for which the PDD stands ready to engage.

In addition to the important key decisions taken at COP26, there is still further work to be done to avert, minimize and address disaster displacement within the context of the UNFCCC. Therefore, the next COP, COP27, will be equally important for the PDD.

4. Disaster Displacement in the High Level Panel Report on Internal Displacement

Walter Kaelin, Envoy of the Chair of the PDD, presented reflections on the Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, published in September 2021, entitled "Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future". He stressed the importance of the report for furthering work on disaster displacement, drawing attention to its recognition that the numbers of people displaced in the context of disasters are rising, and that climate change is one of the most important compounding factors relating to disaster displacement.

The report is focused on solutions, and in particular emphasizes a need for greater engagement of development actors. Within the report, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction policies and planning are mentioned systematically as essential elements of effective responses. The report advocates for governments to take the lead to effect both a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, and highlights the need to view internally displaced persons as not only vulnerable victims and beneficiaries of humanitarian action, but also as key actors in the development and implementation of



solutions. It also recommends stronger engagement with the private sector as a potential key contributor to reestablish livelihoods and certain services, and not only as a source of finance, as well as strengthened action across a range of policy areas to prevent disaster displacement including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, risk assessment, finance, and resilience and development.

Prof. Kaelin also explained how the recommendations of the report would be taken forward, starting with the development of the UN Secretary General's Action Agenda, currently being led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The Action Agenda will be discussed at a meeting of the Secretary General's Executive Committee, to take place before the end of 2021. He concluded by stating that he saw the recommendations of the report as very positive, given that they incorporate key elements of the submission that he made as Envoy of the Chair of the PDD, based on input from the PDD Steering Group. The PDD stands ready to analyze the forthcoming Action Agenda in detail to determine appropriate points of engagement and support the process in the future.

9. AOB

The Envoy of the Chair noted that the current Strategic Framework of the PDD ends on 30 June 2022. In order to align the next strategy review process with relevant global processes in which the PDD engages, some of which were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chair of the PDD invited the Steering Group to consider and discuss a proposal to prolong the PDD Strategic Framework 2019-2022 until 31 December 2023. This proposal will be decided at an Ambassadorial level meeting of the PDD in December 2021, and a strategy review process will be decided upon subsequently.

The Envoy of the Chair also drew attention to the launch of the joint project between the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and the PDD, at COP26. The project is entitled "Action and support to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change" and will make important contributions to the SNLD and the work of the TFD under the UNFCCC.

In closing, the co-chairs encouraged States to continue to engage on disaster displacement and with the PDD, and refer to the PDD webpage and newsletter for updated information on upcoming events as well as policy messaging.

End./

The following States and regional organizations participated in this meeting: Austria, Canada, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Jamaica, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Slovenia, and Switzerland. IOM, OCHA and UNDRR were present as well.