

4th November 2013

Contribution and potential elements related to human mobility in the context of a Warsaw COP 19 decision on loss and damage

UNHCR, NRC/IDMC, UNU, UNDP, IOM, ILO, OHCHR, Sciences Po (CERI) and Refugees International

SBI - Item 11- Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to enhance adaptive capacity - Migration, displacement and planned relocation

Recalling decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 14(f) which recognized the potential impact of climate change on the movement of people and invited Parties: “to enhance action on adaptation under the Cancun Adaptation Framework [...] by undertaking inter alia, the following: [...] Measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate, at national, regional and international levels”;

Also recalling decision 3/CP.18 paragraph 7 (a) (vi) which “further work to advance the understanding of and expertise on loss and damage, which includes [...] Enhancing the understanding of [...] How impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility;

Acknowledging the progress made on identifying human mobility as a non-economic loss in technical paper FCCC/TP/2013/2 on non-economic losses in the context of the work programme on loss and damage;

Recognizing that, in the face of the threat of more frequent and extreme natural disasters and the likelihood of sea level rise highlighted by the fifth assessment report of the IPCC, the international community must plan for and address climate-related migration, displacement and planned relocation;

Stressing the importance of taking a long-term, strategic and country-driven approach to carry out research, coordination, and cooperation for different types of human mobility (displacement, migration, planned relocation), at different levels (local, national, regional, international);

Also stressing the importance of flexibility and inclusiveness for all Parties, taking into account the specific vulnerability of Small Island Developing States and least developed countries, and the need for institutions to evolve as the needs of countries change;

1. *Acknowledges* that:

- a) Some forms of human mobility can be associated with the economic and non-economic losses of *inter alia*: freedom of movement, assets, housing, land, property, security and livelihoods, and a further loss of cultural, customary and/or spiritual identity, as well as health and social networks;
- b) Reducing barriers to planning and implementation of adaptation action will reduce the risk of economic and non-economic losses alike. Some forms of human mobility are, in specific

contexts, measures that can help reduce exposure to the negative consequences of some types of climatic stressors;

2. *Recognizes* that further research is required to:
 - a) Assess the extent to which various forms of human mobility are related to climate impacts that negatively affect human and natural systems;
 - b) Engage with appropriate stakeholders and relevant institutions on guidelines to help assess the degree to which different forms of human mobility stand in the continuum from completely voluntary movements to completely forced movements and the implications for addressing associated human rights and protection needs; and
 - c) Facilitate and enhance the planning, coordination, and implementation of durable solutions and sufficient legal safeguards to protect the rights and interests of those affected.
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to launch a two-year dialogue within the new SBI work programme on loss and damage to focus on climate related human mobility. The objectives of the dialogue will be to strengthen coherence, coordination, and synergies among Parties and other relevant stakeholders and make recommendations to the COP on these issues. Specifically, the dialogue will further map and build upon existing efforts with the aim to:
 - a) Address needs associated with the impacts of climate change and significant climate variability on human mobility;
 - b) Undertake research activities listed in paragraph 2;
 - c) Build capacity to respond to changing needs related to climate-induced human mobility;
 - d) Engage with ongoing policy processes (e.g. the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Hyogo Framework for Action) in order to ensure synergies;
4. *Further requests* the Secretariat to engage agencies and entities outside of the UNFCCC, including financial institutions, regional organizations and networks, the private sector research organizations, local authorities, and other relevant stakeholders in the dialogue to foster partnerships and to promote coherent and evidence-based policymaking and planning in addressing climate-related human mobility;
5. *Invites* Parties to already begin to take actions regarding climate related human mobility, in coordination with the dialogue under the SBI work programme on loss and damage;
6. *Requests* that the first session of the dialogue will be held under the loss and damage work program, at the thirty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and focus on the first research activity;
7. *Further requests* that the actions of the Secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.