



Advisory Committee (AC)

Terms of Reference

1. Background

The *Platform on Disaster Displacement (Platform)* has been established in July 2016 to follow up on the work started by the Nansen Initiative¹ and 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).

2. Mission Statement and Objective of the Platform on Disaster Displacement

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

To support implementation of activities aimed at achieving this objective the following structure will be put in place as part of the Platform: 1) Steering Group, 2) Advisory Committee, and 3)

¹ 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. 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.

Coordination Unit. This document describes the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee (AC).

3. Objectives and Composition of the Advisory Committee

The main objective of the Advisory Committee is to strengthen participation and ownership of a wide range of actors in the follow up work to the Nansen Initiative and in the implementation of the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda. Its function is twofold: 1) To provide expert input and strategic advice to the Chair and Steering Group of the Platform, and as applicable and, appropriate, 2) Support implementation of activities in the Workplan in consultation with the Coordination Unit and the Chair.

The Advisory Committee consists, inter alia, of individuals and representatives of international and regional organizations, research institutions, academia, private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society stakeholders that have an interest to promote and implement the Protection Agenda and are committed to, individually or collectively, to address protection challenges related to disaster displacement. It represents a diverse group of stakeholders with expertise in different fields of relevance to disaster displacement such as humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and development.

As an operational part of the Advisory Committee, a Working Group (WG) among organizations, agencies and others that have responsibilities for implementation of activities in the Workplan will be established in Geneva. Under the leadership of the Chair and the Steering Group of the Platform, the Task Force will coordinate implementation of activities in the Workplan on an ongoing basis, strengthen operational collaboration, and support mainstreaming of activities within relevant agencies. UNHCR and IOM have received support to have dedicated staff to support the implementation of the Workplan of the Platform, and both agencies will have a key role to play in the Task Force, but other organizations and agencies will also be invited to join.

4. Membership

The Advisory Committee will build on the membership and the work of the Consultative Committee established under the Nansen Initiative that informed and supported the previous process through its expertise and experience. The membership is open-ended. Any further enlargement can be suggested either by the Chair or the Steering Group of the Platform. The Steering Group will then need to approve new members unanimously.

The members of the Advisory Committee will not be remunerated for their participation or travel to meetings. Travel costs may be reimbursed based on availability of funding.

5. Working Methods

The Advisory Committee will be chaired by a someone appointed by the Chair of the Steering Group and the meetings will be organised by the Coordination Unit. The focal point for the Advisory Committee with regard to information exchange and other type of queries will be the Coordination Unit. The Chair of the Advisory Committee will ensure liaison with the Chair of the Steering Group. The outcomes of the work of the Advisory Committee will be presented by its Chair to the Chair of the Steering Group, in close cooperation with and supported by the Coordination Unit.

The Advisory Committee will meet at least once a year in Geneva, Switzerland to take stock of progress in implementing the Protection Agenda, share information on effective practices and lessons learned, present new research and new initiatives, assess gaps and challenges and discuss and promote opportunities for further cooperation, coordination and action. The annual meeting will be called by the Chair and organised by the Coordination Unit.

The Working Group that will be constituted in Geneva as an operational part of the Advisory Committee will meet regularly among its members and it will be active between its meetings. The Coordination Unit, under the leadership of the Chair, serves as a secretary of the Working Group and will organize its meetings and coordinate its work.

6. Activities in Detail

- Promote awareness on disaster displacement and associated protection challenges within relevant networks of policy and practice at the local, national, regional and international level.
- Support dissemination and implementation of the Protection Agenda.
- Advise the Chair and Steering Group on the overall strategy and work programme of the Platform.
- Participate in meetings and workshops (virtual or in person) called by the Advisory Committee to exchange information, share lessons learned, present research and discuss pilot projects etc.
- Contribute actively to the sharing and exchange of information among members of the Platform and share information about events and policy development in relevant action and policy areas.
- Join and support when applicable policy and advocacy events at the national, regional and international level.
- Identify and propose measures and activities that members may take individually or collectively in support of the implementation of the Workplan. This may include activities such as:
 - Research and field studies, analysis, information management and consolidation of information/knowledge
 - Development of technical standards, common tools and guidelines
 - Trainings/workshops/capacity building exercises
 - Technical advice on norms and policies
 - Review and provide inputs to research, policy and technical papers
- Constitute a Working Group of agencies with interest in joining forces to implement activities in the Workplan and to carry forward activities on an ongoing basis, strengthen operational collaboration, pilot joint projects, and support mainstreaming of activities within relevant agencies.

End/.