

Steering Group (SG)

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 the 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) Coordination Unit. This document describes the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group.

3. Objective of the Steering group

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.

The objective of the Steering Group is to direct and steer the work of the Platform and related efforts at the global level on the basis of an approved Strategic Framework and Workplan. The function of the Steering Group includes the following: 1) Provide political support and commitment to raise awareness on disaster displacement and to disseminate and implement the Protection Agenda, 2) Participate actively in the promotion and development of policy priorities and policy interventions, 3) Lend leadership and guidance in the development of the strategy of the Platform.

4. Leadership and Structure

The Steering Group is directed by a Chair, supported by a Vice-Chair, each exercising their function during one and a half year. The Chair leads the Steering Group and is in charge of the overall organization of its proceedings. The Vice-Chair is scheduled to succeed the Chair after expiry of the incumbent Chair's term, and makes a proposal to the Steering Group on which country could take its place as next Vice-Chair.

The Steering Group contains between 15 and 20 States and the European Union, represented through their Permanent Missions/Delegations in Geneva, and its composition will reflect a wide and balanced geographic representation. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are standing invitees to the Steering Group.

Any enlargement of the group can be suggested by a member and needs to be accepted by consensus. The Chair of the Steering Group may decide to reach out, through meetings in Geneva or other means, including at the regional level, to a larger range of countries.

The Chair may also decide to appoint a representative of the Chair for high-level public events and representation in global policy dialogues etc.

5. Membership Criteria

Membership does not entail a requirement of financial contributions. To the extent of their abilities, members are, however, invited to provide core or project funding and are expected to show political commitment to the Platform and the implementation of the Protection Agenda, through means such as contributions to the work of the Platform, attendance of meetings, readiness to volunteer for working groups in line with their interests and capacities, and readiness to use diplomatic channels and fora available to them. This may include playing a role as regional champion, furthering the visibility of the activities of the Platform.

6. Working Methods

The Chair organizes regular meetings of the Steering Group in Geneva at technical and ambassadorial levels, and shares minutes with members. There is the possibility to meet in working groups on specific aspects. Meetings will be called by the Chair and supported administratively by the Coordination Unit.

The Steering Group is regularly informed by the Chair on the development of the work program.

7. Activities in Detail (by the Steering Group and its members)

- Provide overall strategic leadership and guidance on coordination of work, policy development and advocacy efforts.

- Contribute to drafting of the strategy, and approve Strategic Framework and Workplan of the Platform.
- Monitor and review progress of the work program against objectives and targets, and ensure adjustments if necessary.
- Support and promote dissemination of the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda.
- Raise awareness on and visibility of disaster displacement and associated protection challenges.
- Engage relevant actors to strengthen links between different policy and action areas at the national, regional and International level.
- Participate, within the limits of its capacity, in operational activities of the Platform such as training, capacity building, research, information management, analysis of gaps and advocacy.
- Provide information and guidance on new policy development, share effective practices and exchange information on relevant and new policy initiatives in the respective region of members.
- Approve new members of the Steering Group and the Advisory Committee of the Platform.
- Approve new Chair and Vice-Chair.

End/.