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Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement

UN Common Messages on Internal Displacement in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change for COP28

The world is at a breaking point. Conflicts are lasting longer. Climate change is exacerbating disasters that are growing in frequency and intensity, and therefore further emphasizing the need to tackle the interconnected and reinforcing risks of conflict, disasters, and climate change that lead to internal displacement. Record numbers of people have been forced from their homes and entire communities remain trapped in protracted displacement. Globally, by the end of 2022, over 71 million people lived as internally displaced persons (IDPs). Each year, disasters displace even greater numbers of people than conflicts, with most persons remaining within the borders of their homelands, with women, children and marginalized groups often dealing with the greatest impacts. 25 million internal disaster displacements were recorded on average every year since 2008, with 32.6 million new internal disaster displacements in 2022 – the highest figure ever.

The urgency to prevent further internal displacement and find durable solutions for those living in displacement is particularly acute given the adverse effects of climate change and disasters. As highlighted by the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Synthesis Report (AR6), climate and weather hazards, both sudden and slow-onset, are increasingly driving internal displacement in every region of the world. Displacement will become ever more commonplace as greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and limits to adaptation are reached. The IPCC projects a 200% increase in human displacement across Africa for 1.6°C of global warming and an increase of 600% for 2.6°C of global warming. The projected number of people at risk of future displacement by sea level rise ranges from tens of millions to hundreds of millions by the end of this century, depending on the level of warming and assumptions about exposure. Meanwhile, climate change also affects the lives and livelihoods of affected communities in diverse and critical ways, including access to health, education, infrastructure, justice and political participation, as well as long-term resilience to future shocks.

Already over 80% of people internally displaced by conflict originate from highly climate-vulnerable countries. Climate change acts as a risk multiplier to peace and security, exacerbating risks and driving displacement. Places affected by armed conflict, violence and instability are the least able to adapt to climate change. However, funding for climate change adaptation is not reaching the most conflict-affected and climate-vulnerable regions. Countries experiencing both conflict and climate change adverse effects receive roughly \$5 per capita of climate finance for adaptation, as compared to \$15 for countries that are not grappling with active conflict.

These long-term impacts on individuals, societies and economies call for development, peacebuilding and climate actors to integrate disaster- and climate change-related displacement into policies and planning for better protection and assistance, invest in the prevention of future displacement crises and the development of durable solutions.

Ahead of COP28, members of the Secretary General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement call on the UNFCCC Parties to consider stronger international solidarity to address internal displacement in the context of disaster and climate change by:

Preventing future displacement crises through climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

1. **Scaling up climate finance to fulfill the annual USD 100 billion pledge, with at least half the funds dedicated to adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience building.** With a current adaptation finance gap estimated to be USD 194-366 billion per year, collective work must be improved on prevention, preparedness, anticipatory action, and early warning for disasters and climate-related crises, including building on existing and fostering new partnerships. Combined with a dedication to sustaining peace, these combined efforts can reduce internal displacement and its impacts on human populations, particularly the most vulnerable.
2. **Improving the adaptive capacity of people and communities in situations of vulnerability to offer people the choice to stay in dignity and safety in their areas of origin.** This includes prevention, risk reduction measures, climate-resilient development and active peacebuilding, and ensuring links with social protection mechanisms. Risk understanding, monitoring and data management, forecast-based financing, minimum preparedness plans, early warnings and contingency planning should be facilitated to predict, avert and minimize potential crises that could lead to displacement earlier and more reliably. These efforts should be financed and implemented by a diverse range of actors, including the private sector, considering a whole-of-society approach.
3. **Addressing interconnected threats of climate change, disasters and conflict that contribute to internal displacement holistically.** Risks from conflict, disasters and climate change are often interconnected and mutually reinforcing. There is a need to increase investments in reducing vulnerability, strengthening the preparedness and resilience of vulnerable communities to climate shocks and stresses, and pursuing environmental peacebuilding to decrease tensions and grievances that may, in a complex interplay, ultimately fuel conflict. The greatest needs for such support are often in fragile and conflict-affected contexts where capacity and resources are already stretched to their limit and slow to flow. Political will on the part of policymakers is essential to addressing persistent gaps in access to climate finance in fragile and conflict-affected states, including developing a different approach to risk and decision-making while optimizing the use of partners and expertise across the system.

Ensuring better protection and assistance for IDPs and host communities to promote a human rights-based approach to climate justice

1. **Proactively using and mainstreaming the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and implementing relevant legal and policy frameworks, such as the Kampala Convention and Ministerial Declaration, to protect and fulfill the rights of IDPs and host communities affected by disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.** Climate change- and disaster-related displacement increases exposure to climatic hazards, reduces adaptive capacity and raises vulnerability to discrimination, inequality and structural dynamics that lead to diminished and unequal enjoyment of rights. Displaced people must be better protected from climate devastation by adapting social services they rely on, such as health, WASH, education, nutrition, and protection, and by prompting proactive mediation efforts and environmental peacebuilding between IDPs and host communities when competition to over already scarce natural resources occurred.
2. **Closing the gap between rising humanitarian needs and available protection and assistance in the context of disasters and climate change to set the stage for solutions.** Donors should continue innovating and striving for greater effectiveness in delivering financing, including by strengthening inclusive efforts to implement Grand Bargain commitments, such as increasing the use of predictable, pre-arranged, anticipatory, flexible, multi-year financing and further scaling up the use of cash. Humanitarian organizations and associated funds should work in greater alignment and coordination with climate funds. Sequencing, coordinated and consolidated efforts in de-risking humanitarian and disaster risk reduction interventions should enable the climate funds to achieve greater adaptation towards durable solutions for displaced persons.

3. **Enabling local action through local systems and partners as part of a whole-of-society approach for meaningful and informed participation.** Parties and UN agencies must work better with local and community actors and the most marginalized groups, including women and young people displaced, so that solutions to prevent and anticipate disasters, minimize and address climate-induced losses and damages, both economic and non-economic, are informed by local needs and led by local communities. Displaced people and communities must also be meaningfully included in resilience-building efforts, equipped with climate change education and green-skills training, and given opportunities to participate in and influence decision-making on climate policy since they remain the most legitimate voices for climate action.

Supporting solutions to internal displacement through the inclusion of displacement in Loss and Damage funding discussions:

1. **Internal displacement and its impacts should be accounted for when assessing Loss and Damage (L&D) incurred by climate-vulnerable communities and related funding decisions and arrangements.** L&D assessments should account for all consequences of displacement, including non-economic, indirect, cascading and long-term impacts. Available funding to avert, minimize and address displacement remains insufficient. L&D finance is urgently required to fill in the growing funding gap. Existing evidence on displacement and its impacts should be leveraged and data collection efforts enhanced to guide finance decisions and operationalize responses in the new L&D fund and other green vertical, humanitarian and development funding arrangements.
2. **Action and support on L&D should integrate internal displacement to reduce the impacts on people, communities and societies and ensure that disaster- and climate change-related displacement is better linked to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** Effective investments in rights-based and people-centered climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, resilience for people at risk and environmental peacebuilding will contribute to averting displacement by reducing the drivers of climate risk. In both sudden and slow-onset scenarios, minimizing disaster displacement requires preparing for the occurrence of protracted and repeated displacement, ensuring that disaster risk planning considers potential obstacles to durable solutions people might encounter as part of their recovery and anticipating the impacts on other affected communities in places of origin and destination. To fully address displacement in the context of disasters and climate change, it is essential that the work funded through L&D finance accounts for all the specific and additional economic and non-economic impacts of displacement, including its cascading, indirect consequences on those displaced and other affected persons.
3. **All IDPs and host communities affected by internal displacement have the right to effectively participate in assessments and responses to climate impacts.** This includes the planning, design and implementation of measures to avert, minimize and address L&D, as well as related funding decisions. IDPs and host communities must be included in relevant decision-making to ensure effective and inclusive climate action. Inclusive approaches should be reflected in opportunities for the participation of displaced persons and other affected communities, as well as people who could be at risk of displacement. Discussions to develop policies and programs on L&D at global, national, and local levels must recognize the right of displaced persons to access information and meaningfully participate in decision-making.

About the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement

The UN SG's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement was launched in June 2022 in follow-up to the [High-Level Panel's report on internal displacement](#). It lays out the SG's vision to step up the approach to prevention, response and solutions, including 31 UN commitments. 22 UN agencies/entities, ie. DCO, DPO, DPPA, FAO, ILO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UN Women, UNCDF, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, UNEP, UNDRR, UNFCCC, UNMAS, UNHCR and WFP. The present document is a deliverable of Group 8, convened by IOM and composed of DPO, DPPA, IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNOPS, UNICEF, UNEP, UNDRR, UNFCCC, UNHCR, WFP and the Office of the Special Advisor (OSA), with the participation of representatives from the IASC Climate Sub-Group and CSO Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility. As per the UN commitments, Group 8 aims to identify priorities, key initiatives and deliverables to prevent displacement crises in the context of climate change and disasters (Commitments #18 and #19).

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