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UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

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 COP29

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, the total number of people living in internal displacement has increased by 51% over the past five years, reaching a record high of 75.9 million by the end of 2023. Each year, disasters continue to displace significant numbers of people, with most persons remaining within the borders of their homelands, with women, children and marginalized groups often dealing with the greatest impacts. Over 25 million internal disaster displacements have been recorded on average every year since 2008, with 26.4 million internal disaster displacements in 2023 – the highest figure in the last decade.

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.

At the same time, already over 80% of people internally displaced by conflict originate from highly climate-vulnerable countries, where climate change acts as a risk multiplier to peace and security, exacerbating risks and driving displacement. 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.

Robust financial resources and mechanisms for accelerated action on adaptation and risk reduction are urgently required to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change, disaster and environmental degradation. However, until now, financial support for internal displacement in this context has mainly been provided by migration and humanitarian assistance sources – discretionary funding to UN agencies as opposed to obligatory non-concessionary finance to state parties – with limited contributions from climate and development sources. A fact that has continued to contribute to the escalation and recurrence of unsafe mobility options of which internal displacement is a poignant example.

In this context the **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** presents a critical opportunity to mobilize substantial financial resources from developed countries to support climate action in developing countries, including towards displacement management and solutions.

Furthermore, new approaches and financial commitments must be made beyond the present sources of climate and development finance, including mechanisms to expand climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience-building actions toward better prevention and management of the risk of displacement. In that vein, seeking to achieve “zero displacement” must be a critical prerogative of climate adaptation and broader development efforts.

Ahead of COP29, members of the Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement call on the UNFCCC Parties to strengthen international solidarity to address internal displacement in the context of disaster and climate change by:

- A) Preventing future displacement crises through climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
 1. 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. Risk understanding, monitoring and data management, forecast-based financing, minimum preparedness plans, early warnings and contingency planning should be facilitated to avert and minimize potential crises that could lead to displacement earlier and more reliably.
 2. 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, political will on the part of policy makers 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.
- B) 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 the Ministerial Declaration, to protect and fulfill the rights of IDPs and host communities affected by disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. 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. Enabling and strengthening local action through local systems and partners as part of a whole-of-society approach for meaningful and informed participation. Displaced people, communities and the most marginalized groups 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.
- C) 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 and existing evidence on displacement and its impacts should be leveraged, while data collection efforts enhanced to jointly 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). Often minimizing disaster displacement may demand preparing for the occurrence of protracted and repeated displacement or ensuring that disaster risk planning and sustainable development plans consider potential obstacles to durable solutions while anticipating the impacts on other affected communities in places of origin and destination.
 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. Notably L&D discussions to develop policies and programs at global, national, and local levels must recognize the right of displaced persons to access information and their meaningful participation 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).