



COP22: Time for Action

NRC and the UN Climate Change Convention – a briefing note

At the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) in December 2015, States adopted a historic global climate deal. The Paris Climate Agreement provides a significant opportunity for action and better policies that can help prevent and address disaster and climate displacement.

Background

Displacement related to climate change is among the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Every year, millions of people are forced to leave their homes because of floods, tropical storms, droughts, glacier melting; natural hazards that are linked to climate change. Scientists warn that climate change is projected to increasingly affect displacement in the future, both internally and across borders.

In 2015 and 2016 displacement and human mobility challenges were recognised and included in several global policy processes such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the World Humanitarian Summit, the New York High Level Meeting to address large movements of Refugees and Migrants and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (to be held in Dec 2016), and the Paris Climate Agreement. As a result, disaster and climate displacement is better

integrated into key policy processes than ever before.

This briefing paper outlines the outcomes from COP 21 in Paris and the role that NRC will play at COP 22. COP 22 takes place in Marrakesh, Morocco from 7-18 November 2016. COP22 is the crucial step for operationalizing the Paris Agreement, including on displacement. Many controversial issues such as damages caused by climate change and financing for the poorest countries are on the agenda.

The Paris Agreement - COP21

At the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015 in Paris, 195 States adopted the first universal, global and legally binding Agreement on Climate Change.

The Paris agreement came into effect on 4 November 2016, less than a year after COP21. The speed at which states have ratified the Paris

Agreement and it has come into effect is unprecedented compared to other recent international agreement processes. It serves as a powerful confirmation of the importance that nations are placing on combating climate change.

With regard to international climate protection, the global community seems determined to make up for the lost time of the past decades. The COP 21 in Paris marked the first time that all countries agreed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

NRC remains committed to continue providing technical support to Parties in implementing the Paris Agreement.

References to displacement

The Paris Agreement and COP21 decisions include several references to displacement, human mobility as well as climate services. In Paris, a decision was also made to create a Task Force under the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM) to develop *“integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.”*

The Paris Agreement and the decision about the establishment of a Task Force on Displacement provide a significant opportunity for further policy coherence, to secure that coordinated action is taken to prevent and address the challenges of disaster and climate displacement.

COP 22 – the COP of Action

The COP22 taking place from 7-18 November 2016 in Marrakesh, Morocco, has been billed as the *COP of Action*. It is the crucial step for operationalizing the Paris Agreement, including on displacement. Many controversial issues such as damages caused by climate change and financing for the poorest countries are on the agenda. Parties will take stock on the progress since COP21 and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The first meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement will take place in Marrakesh in conjunction with COP22.

The WIM, that was established at the COP19 in 2013 in Warsaw, will be reviewed and a new 5-year work plan is to be adopted to succeed the initial 2-year work plan. The initial work plan of the WIM includes a specific action area focusing on displacement, migration and human mobility. Thus, the revision of the work plan will be an important opportunity to keep disaster and climate displacement high on the agenda and to ensure inclusion in the new 5-year work plan of the WIM to be approved at COP22.

NRC and partners advocated successfully together in 2016 to ensure the terms of reference for the new the Task Force on Displacement, adopted at the WIM Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting in September 2016, are achievable and will contribute to reduce future risk of displacement. The initial mandate of the Task Force is to develop recommendations by COP24 (2018) for a broad range of actors including the ExCom, the Parties, civil society, practitioners and technical and scientific communities. These recommendations will draw on the latest research, data and good practices, including learning from legal, policy and institutional challenges, and link to other organisations and bodies both within and outside the Convention.

Next steps after COP22

The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts. In 2018, Parties will take stock of the collective efforts in relation to progress towards the goal set in the Paris Agreement and to inform the preparation of NDCs.

There will be a global stocktake every 5 years to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and to inform further individual actions by Parties.

NRC asks for COP22:

- Commitments from COP21 must translate into action by parties i.e. increased capacity, financial and technical support to avert, minimise and address displacement.
- With the Paris Agreement brought into force, UNFCCC parties have a golden opportunity to capitalise on this political momentum and invest in the resilience of countries, particularly communities most at risk of displacement.
- With global temperatures breaking records, climate displacement is already a major global concern, with at least 21 million people being displaced each year by the threat and impact of climate-related hazards. Parties must take action now to reduce global warming, and mitigate and adapt to dramatic anticipated increases in future displacement numbers/cases.
- A decision from parties asking the WIM ExCom's Task Force on Displacement to focus on prevention of displacement, and that its work starts quickly after COP22.

the experience and knowledge of NRC country, regional and representative offices, secondees and IDMC to the attention of the Parties.

- Through NRC's Partnership and Policy Department, delivering support, technical expertise and advice to the WIM for the new 5-year work plan (to start in 2017) to ensure that disaster and climate displacement stays high on the agenda. NRC supported the WIM extensively during 2016 in the realisation of its initial two-year work plan (2015-16) and was asked to draft a background paper on disaster and climate displacement, which was discussed at a technical meeting in July 2016 in Casablanca, Morocco. The meeting brought together members of the Executive Committee of the WIM, national and regional experts, representatives from international and United Nations organizations as well as the academic community. The information, lessons learned and good practices arising from this meeting are feeding into the WIM's future work.

- Supporting the work of the Task Force on Displacement with research, data and good practices.

- Advocating for the inclusion of disaster and climate displacement into national adaptation plans (NAPs).

- Creating synergies and policy coherence with other activities and processes such as the Platform of Disaster Displacement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the broader climate change community at the regional, national and local level.

- In support of implementation of the Paris agreement's paragraph 7 c) on climate services, NRC in collaboration with the Global Framework for Climate Services, deploys relevant and needed expertise to regional and national climate service providers, in order to strengthen their capacity to deliver timely, relevant and understandable weather and climate information to end users. In addition, relevant expertise is also deployed to UN partners and national government in disaster prone countries in order to increase resilience and enhance the use of climate information for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

NRC's role and engagement

NRC has provided technical expertise (including knowledge and evidence) and advice to the UNFCCC process and parties since 2009 (COP15) and has been instrumental in fostering a better understanding of, and visibility on, questions related to displacement within the climate negotiations. NRC coordinates its advocacy with the 'Advisory Group on Human Mobility and Climate Change'

NRC is focusing on the following issues:

- Follow up and implementation of the Paris Agreement at regional and national levels: bringing

NRC Events at COP22

10 November

13:15-14:45 @ Room Mediterranean

“Reduced inequalities, Human mobility and climate change”

OneUN event. UNHCR (lead) with IOM, OHCHR, UNU, UNICEF UK, UN Women, FAO, NRC, and PDD. Presentation by NRC Ethiopia and PnP.

16:45-18:15 @ Room Bering

“Climate Induced Displacement: Protecting and Promoting Rights of Climate Migrants”.

Organised by COAST Bangladesh (lead), NRC, ActionAid, Friends of the Earth, CANSA, and APMDD. Presentation by NRC PnP.

15 November

12.45- 13.30 @ EU pavilion

“Climate services for Africa”

Organised by EU and NRC, with WMO, WFP and UNESCO. NRC moderator.

17 November

18:30-20:00 @ EU pavilion

“Confronting Climate-Induced Migration in Climate and Disaster Policy”

Organised by the UK Met office. Presentation by NRC IDMC.

18 November

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 @ Green Zone

“Stakeholders engagement for synergies between Sendai, SDGs and Paris Agreement”.

Organised by RAED (lead), NRC and LAS. Presentation by NRC Ethiopia.

Links to other relevant information:

www.nrc.no/what-we-do/speaking-up-for-rights/climate-change/

www.internal-displacement.org/publications/2016/seizing-the-momentum-displacement-on-the-global-climate-change-agenda/

Contact: pnpinfo@nrc.no