



Submission to the 2024 Review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM)

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Secretariat of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)

This contribution is submitted jointly by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Secretariat of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). It synthesises and builds on exchanges among a wide set of stakeholders and individuals working on different aspects of human mobility and engaged in climate change policy discussions on Loss & Damage. IOM, the PDD Secretariat and other actors in this group see the establishment and continued operationalisation of a comprehensive, effective support architecture on loss and damage as essential to addressing risks and impacts related with human mobility in the context of the adverse effects of climate change – and the integration of human mobility considerations in existing and upcoming policy, operational and funding arrangements as a crucial element of effective climate action.

This submission highlights key human mobility elements that can contribute to building a solid loss and damage support architecture and more effective and sustainable action and support for vulnerable countries and communities.

Background: Human Mobility in the WIM, and the Current Review

Over the last decade, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) has served as the main forum for discussions to improve knowledge, strengthen dialogue and coherence, and enhance action and support to avert, minimize and address Loss and Damage. Ever since its creation in 2013, it has become a particularly relevant space for discussing displacement, migration and planned relocations in the context of the adverse effects of climate change. These discussions have highlighted how population movements can take place when people face loss and damage that exceed their adaptive capacities, can themselves be forms of loss and damage and can drive loss and damage through their indirect, cascading and long-term impacts, all while representing risk reduction options for people, households and communities exposed to sudden and slow-onset hazards. The multi-faceted relevance of human mobility for Loss and Damage processes and action has been fully recognised in 2015, at COP21, when the

Executive Committee of the WIM (WIM ExCom) was mandated by the COP to establish a Task Force on Displacement (TFD) to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Work under the TFD has been instrumental to identifying policy and operational priorities for the integration of human mobility considerations into action and support on Loss and Damage. The TFD recommendations welcomed by COP24 Parties in 2018 provide a blueprint on how the WIM mandate to deepen knowledge, strengthen coordination and enhance action and support can be effectively operationalised and implemented at the national level through specific interventions focusing on displacement, migration and planned relocations.

The first review of the WIM, which took place in 2019 at COP25, contributed to the establishment of a more comprehensive, integrated and robust support architecture on Loss and Damage. In recent years, this progress has coalesced in the establishment of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD) and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), which complement the policy-oriented WIM ExCom with more operational arms focusing respectively on technical assistance and finance. The centrality of addressing the challenge of human mobility for loss and damage considerations has been consistently reaffirmed as this landscape and support architecture have evolved. Human mobility is explicitly identified as one of the areas of climate action focusing on loss and damage, the specific conditions of vulnerability of people on the move in the context of the adverse effects of climate change are acknowledged, and the need to actively represent them in decision-making and in the delivery of relevant action and support is recognized.

As we move into a second review of the WIM, human mobility perspectives remain relevant to assess progress made so far and identify progress still needed. Some of these perspectives are gathered in the following section.

Key Human Mobility Messages for the 2024 WIM Review

The 2024 WIM Review needs to be forward-looking. The Loss and Damage policy, technical assistance and financial support architecture is evolving rapidly, and the institutional set-up that the 2024 Review will inform needs to support Loss and Damage policy and action for years to come. In all likelihood, this will require anticipating the full operationalisation of concrete technical assistance and financial arrangements that will support vulnerable countries – and a policy infrastructure that will focus on enabling and facilitating this support, in addition to furthering knowledge, understanding and assessments.

- Overall, the WIM has proven to be an effective mechanism to drive policy progress on Loss and Damage. In a renewed landscape including more detailed and

specific policy dialogues, technical assistance and finance considerations that aim to effectively avert, minimise and address the full scale of the needs related with loss and damage, it should be further strengthened.

- The key opportunity stemming from the ongoing Review process is to promote and enhance complementarity between the work of the WIM ExCom, the SNLD and FRLD. These three entities under the UNFCCC need to work together in order to promote stronger and integrated action in support of vulnerable countries: improved dialogues and policymaking need to support more effective assistance and finance, and lessons learned needs, impacts, and effective action in the field need to inform further progress on policy decisions and commitments.
- The core functions of the WIM (i.e. enhancing knowledge, strengthening dialogue, and enhancing action and support) remain increasingly relevant in today's (and tomorrow's) Loss and Damage support architecture. Knowledge of loss and damage continues to be a core need for countries, and is increasingly recognised as a key element of technical assistance, as well as a tool for all forms of action and support. While coordination on loss and damage has generally improved at global and national levels, much remains to be done to promote comprehensive and inclusive fora that systematically bring together all relevant stakeholders. And supporting learning among countries, including for capacity building and access to finance, will be an increasingly important function as the SNLD and the FRLD become fully operational.
 - All these functions should continue to integrate human mobility considerations: assessment of displacement and its impacts is essential to understanding loss and damage, people on the move and human mobility stakeholders should be part of all relevant dialogues and coordination mechanisms, and human mobility interventions and considerations should be integrated in all loss and damage assistance and in all funding windows and arrangements on loss and damage.
- Consolidating and standardising knowledge on loss and damage is becoming particularly urgent, as a tool for policy decisions, finance and technical assistance. To this end, the WIM ExCom could be tasked with the regular development of loss and damage status reports to identify progress and outstanding gaps. Such reports could also underpin monitoring of the effectiveness of relevant work.
- The 2024 WIM review also provides an opportunity to fully leverage the potential of the four Expert Groups (EGs) and the TFD constituted under its ExCom. The EGs and the TFD can and should contribute more systematically to a comprehensive understanding of loss and damage, the identification of effective responses, and

the definition of standards that can underpin prioritization and decisions on technical assistance and finance.

- In order to achieve these objectives, however, the work of the EGs/TFD should be better coordinated, recognising the significant overlaps that exist among their areas of focus. Human mobility perspectives matter for all the ongoing work on Non-Economic Losses, Slow-Onset Events, Comprehensive Risk Management, and Action and Support - and vice versa. Tailored, direct coordination among members of the EGs/TFD should be promoted through improved updates, information sharing and feedback on the respective workstreams. The WIM ExCom could play an even more intentional role in bringing these workstreams together and strengthening complementarity and coherence among them.
- Moreover, the EGs/TFD could be strengthened to ensure that they have the resources and ability to capture, as well as inform, work on loss and damage taking place at national level. Compilation of evidence and experiences can help EGs/TFD propose standard methodologies for assessments and technical assistance that can enable action and support to vulnerable countries.
- The EGs/TFD should also be further empowered and strengthened to serve the work of other constituted bodies, given the comprehensive climate action needed to avert, minimize and address loss and damage. More specifically, the technical guides and knowledge products delivered by the EGs/TFD for WIM ExCom should serve for the work of bodies such as the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG).
- The functions of the EGs/TFD, especially if further expanded, are key to promoting complementarity of Loss and Damage efforts with the work being done outside the Convention under development, DRR, humanitarian, human mobility, human rights and other processes. To this end, the EGs/TFD should also become fora in which the WIM ExCom can access inputs and knowledge from external experts and actors.

The Task Force on Displacement: Key Perspectives Moving Ahead

Ever since its establishment in 2017, the TFD has represented the most relevant forum for the advancement of human mobility discussions under the UNFCCC, allowing to explore and highlight the relevance of displacement, migration and planned relocation for loss and damage discussions. The framing of the different forms of human mobility that has been adopted under the TFD is complex: human mobility is seen both as a response that allows people to avert and minimise loss and damage, and as a process through which people can suffer impacts that need to be addressed. This understanding

continues to be useful as we look ahead to an institutional landscape in which human mobility becomes part of Loss and Damage responses and finance.

- The 2024 WIM review provides an opportunity to highlight the continued relevance of the TFD for all Loss and Damage discussions. The mandate of the TFD to promote integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as its recommendations translating this objective into actionable priorities for stakeholders at national level should continue to inform design and provision of technical assistance, as well as access to finance for vulnerable countries.
 - Operational experience shows that the 2018 TFD recommendations can be a useful starting point to identify roles, responsibilities and opportunities to integrate human mobility approaches into loss and damage work at the regional, national and local levels. They provide a blueprint on how countries can set up comprehensive systems that address human mobility in the context of climate change, and its impacts.
- The TFD has proven remarkably effective as a mixed space in which technical actors can convey messages into the policy sphere (and where policy priorities can shape action on the ground).
 - Specific mechanisms should be set up to ensure that the expertise of the TFD and its members can be fully leveraged in support of the operationalization of the SNLD and of the FRLD and funding arrangements. Ongoing work on the WIM ExCom Technical Guides provides an example on how relevant knowledge can be compiled in support of more systematic and standardised planning, responses and access to finance.
- The WIM Review provides an opportunity to revisit the composition and membership of the TFD, which has remained unchanged since 2016 and is currently more limited than other EGs. Increasing the number of members, creating rotational seats, and diversifying the membership of the TFD could be a manner of integrating additional voices and perspectives.
 - In particular, the TFD could provide a forum to achieve some form of active participation of migrants, refugees and displaced persons into decision-making on loss and damage that has been called for in Decision1/COP28/Decision1/CMA5.