Prioritizing urgent action for the most vulnerable: Coordinated humanitarian diplomacy / advocacy in the climate space

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June 2022
Humanitarian sector engagement in climate policy discussions

• Some limited humanitarian engagement in Climate Policy discussions including at UNFCCC CoPs from 2001, increased in 2008

• 2008-2009 IASC Task Force on climate change
  • Report: Addressing the humanitarian challenges of climate change, 2009
  • Case Studies on Climate Change Adaptation - Addressing the Humanitarian Challenges of Climate Change, 2009
  • Letter to UNFCCC in 2009

• 1st Climate Science Humanitarian Dialogue - 2018

• 2019 Climate Action Summit – endeavour to develop common messages
Recent humanitarian sector collective engagement in climate policy discussions

- 2020 Feb HNPW – significant interest in climate change
- 2020-2022 IASC RG3 Subgroup on Climate Change
  - Climate Adaptation summit – IASC video
  - Common Narrative on Climate Crisis April 2021
  - IASC Principles Statement for 2021 UNFCCC COP
- Climate Charter launched May 2021, June
- Climate discussed in IASC Principals Sept 2021
- Climate made responsibility of IASC Deputies (first meeting June 2022)
PRIORITY ISSUES we have been raising

• We are already seeing the humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis.
• We know more must be done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent worst case scenarios.
• We also know more must be done to scale up urgent action to support resilience and adaptation, including investment in DRR.
• Our role in this space is to maintain the focus on the most vulnerable, and those being left behind.

In particular we call on governments to:

• Ensure a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized people.
• Listen to communities and grassroots leaders, particularly women, youth and indigenous people, and engage them in decision-making and co-creating and owning solutions.
• Invest in more effective preventative risk management capacities at the local level.
• Increase financing for climate-adaptation action that targets the most vulnerable countries and communities.
What are we being asked? Experiences from UNFCCC meetings in Bonn (June 2022)

- What is the role of humanitarians when it comes to activities to avert minimize and address loss and damage? What do you do?
- What is the scope of your work and the limitations?
- How are you funded? How much is your funding? How does it work? Where does it go?
- How would we define success when it comes to adaptation? What targets?
Past successes to build on

- Recognition of the “human dimension” of climate change, that is the impact of a changing climate that can be felt by people all around the globe, with extreme events threatening the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable people.

- Increased support for adaptation, recognizing inevitable climate impacts, impacts happening now

- Explicit mentions in different outcomes docs of: DRR, displacement, extreme events, early warning, risk and vulnerability assessments, food security etc.

- IPPC report Feb 2022 on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability formally recognizes the “humanitarian impacts of climate change”
Outline

• What is Loss and Damage?
• How the UNFCCC process works, including the SNLD, WIM, Copenhagen, Bonn, – all new to most humanitarians
• How are negotiations being shaped? What are the challenges of these processes? Challenges for NGOs in general to engage?
• Modalities and strategies for NGOs in general to engage, what are they doing, and where do humanitarian actors come into the L&D discussions?
• Next steps? Any other points?
### Existential impacts and risk: Unavoided and Unavoidable impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System/Region</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Soft Limit</th>
<th>Hard Limit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coral reefs</td>
<td>Loss of 70-90% of tropical coral reefs by mid-century under 1.5°C scenario (total loss under 2°C scenario) (see Chapter 3, Sections 3.4.4 and 3.5.2.1, Box 3.4)</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>6% of insects, 8% of plants and 4% of vertebrates lose over 50% of the climatically determined geographic range at 1.5°C (18% of insects, 16% of plants, 8% of vertebrates at 2°C) (see Chapter 3, Section 3.4.3.3)</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>24-357 million people exposed to multi-sector climate risks and vulnerable to poverty at 1.5°C (86-1,220 million at 2°C) (see Section 5.2.2)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human health</td>
<td>Twice as many municipalities exposed to heat stress at 1.5°C compared to present, potentially exposing 350 million additional people to deadly heat wave conditions by 2050 (see Chapter 3, Section 3.4.6)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal livelihoods</td>
<td>Large-scale changes in oceanic systems (temperature, acidification) inflict damage and losses to livelihoods, income, cultural identity and health for coastal-dependent communities at 1.5°C (potential higher losses at 2°C) (see Chapter 3, Sections 3.4.4, 3.4.5, 3.4.6.3, Box 3.4, Box 3.5, Cross-Chapter Box 6; Chapter 4, Section 4.3.5; Section 5.2.3)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Island Developing States</td>
<td>Sea level rise and increased wave run up combined with increased aridity and decreased freshwater availability at 1.5°C warming potentially leaving several small islands unhabitable (see Chapter 3, Sections 3.4.3, 3.4.5, Box 3.5, Chapter 4, Cross-Chapter Box 9)</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The continuum of Loss and Damage

Ex Ante Action → Emergency Response → Humanitarian Assistance → Recovery → DRR → Ex Post Action

“After the flood is always before the next flood”

From **Address** Loss and Damage TO **Avert, Minimise and Address** Loss and Damage
Climate Negotiations

Inside

Evidence
Engagement
Agenda
Text
Technical support

National positions

Negotiating group positions

Outside

Climate Emergency
Action

Loss + Damage

Climate Justice or Chaos?
COP 13: Consideration of means to address loss & damage introduced

2015

- COP 21: Loss and damage anchored in the Paris Agreement
- Task Force on Displacement established

COP 16: SBI Work programme established

2014

- COP 20: Initial 2-year workplan approved

COP 20: Warsaw International Mechanism 1st review conducted

2016

COP 22: Warsaw International Mechanism 2nd review conducted

COP 25: Warsaw International Mechanism 2nd review conducted

Santiago Network established

COP 27: Institutional arrangement of the Santiago Network to be finalized

2022

COP 30: Warsaw International Mechanism 3rd review planned

2024

- COP 26: Functions of the Santiago Network agreed
- Glasgow Dialogue on funding for loss & damage established

2021

COP 23: Fiji Clearinghouse for Risk Transfer launched

2017

COP 19: Warsaw International Mechanism & its Executive Committee established

2013

COP 15: PARIS2015 conference, COP21-CMP11

2015

COP 21: UN Climate Change Conference UN 2021

2021
Critical Issues

- Loss and Damage has taken time to be recognised
- Slow progress of the WIM
- Expert groups
- Review of the WIM
- Crunch moment: COP25 and COP26
- G77 and China (85%) position
- Santiago Network for Loss and Damage
- Loss and Damage Finance Facility (Glasgow Dialogue)
The challenges

**Santiago Network for Loss and Damage**
- Structure
- Technical Assistance
- Organisations, Bodies, Networks and Experts (OBNE)
- Focus on hosting agency
- Focus on Advisory function
- 25 Million already promised

**Glasgow Dialogue**
- Not an agenda item
- Connect discussions to decisions
- Beyond insurance – Global Protection Shield
- Compensation

- Governance of the WIM COP or CMA?
- Paragraph 51 of the Paris Agreement decision text
Thank YOU
Human mobility and COP27

Nina M Birkeland
NRC Geneva
Senior Adviser, Climate Change and Displacement

30 June 2022
- 2008 COP14 / Poznan: “Floods of refugees”
- 2009 COP15 / Copenhagen:
- 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework: 14f / human mobility
- 2015 COP21 / Paris Agreement: human mobility under Loss and Damage/Task Force on displacement established
- 2016 COP22/ Marrakesh: “displacement human face of climate change”
- 2017 COP23 / Fiji in Bonn: “the most vulnerable to impact of climate change”
- 2018 COP24 / Katowice: “from recognition to action”
- 2021 COP26 UK / Glasgow: “underlying decisions” – side events/ messages

**Human mobility** = migration, displacement and planned relocation
Human mobility in the Loss and Damage discussions?

Displacement, migration and planned relocation related to climate change must be addressed across many policy frameworks and actions:

- Climate change
- Disaster risk reduction
- Development
- Humanitarian
- Migration
- Human rights ++
What can humanitarian NGOs bring?

- Technical expertise
- What does lack of action mean for people?

Alliances:
- Advisory group on Climate change and human mobility
- Platform on Disaster Displacement
- CAN (climate action network)
- Human rights organisations; development org, Climate Vulnerable Forum

→ common messaging
Who do we need to advocate with?

- Negotiators – member states – “blocs”
- Climate change CSOs
- Donors
- Technical experts

NRC before COP21:

“Our goal is a strong legally binding agreement on climate change that also includes displacement and human mobility,”

... We did not get that but we got a Task Force on displacement!
How to advocate?

- Technical expertise – text suggestions
- Formal and informal meetings
- Side events etc
- Press conference
- Demonstrations
- Media /Social media
- Joint messaging from humanitarian organisations (vs branding)
- Engaging artist to influence policy making
FOOTING THE BILL

Fair finance for loss and damage in an era of escalating climate impacts
what is loss and Damage?

- The impacts of climate change that cannot, or have not been, adapted to.

- Loss of life, livelihood, home etc.
- Damage to infrastructure, crop yields etc.
- Slow and sudden onset events.
- Economic and non-economic.
“addressing” as the third pillar of climate action

Averting mitigation = stopping greenhouse gas emissions in the first place.

Minimising adaptation = reducing the impacts of climate change, before they hit.

Addressing the impacts of climate change, after they happen.

Dedicated finance provided (though not enough)

No dedicated finance

Missing piece
Who should be footing the bill for loss and damage?

Responsibility for % of emissions

- HIC current emissions: 37%
- Global North excess emissions (>350 ppm): 92%
- 100 fossil fuel producers since 1988: 71%
- Africa current emissions: 4%
Oxfam Research: Humanitarian appeals linked to extreme weather since 2000

Over 800% increase in UN appeal needs for extreme weather-related emergencies over last 20 years
Oxfam Research: Humanitarian appeals linked to extreme weather since 2000

For every $2 needed for UN weather-related appeals, donor countries are providing $1. Up to $33 bn not provided since 2017.
UN humanitarian appeals may have only covered around 7.5% of extreme-weather-related disasters in low- and middle-income countries.
The need to address the whole spectrum of Loss and damage

- In addition to immediate and lifesaving humanitarian assistance this includes:
  - **Rebuilding** schools, hospitals, roads and other vital infrastructure;
  - Providing **social protection** and other safety nets to help manage the risks of extreme weather events;
  - Providing finance to support the safe and dignified **movement of people** forced to migrate because of climate change;
  - Building **alternative livelihoods** (e.g., when farming is no longer a viable option due to salinization of soil);
  - Measures to address **non-economic losses**, including reparations and investment in cultural heritage.

**Need dedicated finance to address loss and damage (that is new and additional) and for this to be coordinated by a loss and damage finance facility. Not a new ask!**
Oxfam COP27 key asks

- New emissions targets for 2030 in line with 1.5°C
- Finally deliver the promised 100 billion and ensure half goes to adaptation
- Agree to establish a finance facility for loss and damage

AVERT! Minimise! Address!
Even if you haven’t been involved in climate COPs before, their outcomes have affected you.

- Every fraction of a degree means more extreme weather, new and compound crises and a more difficult environment for humanitarians.
- Less money for adaptation means more loss and damage that humanitarians have to respond to.
- Current projections put us on track for **2.4 degrees (if targets are met)**: Without finance to address loss and damage that is mobilised on basis of responsibility, the humanitarian system will be further overstretched and be left to foot the bill itself.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Table 1: Increased frequency of once-in-a-decade weather events</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temperature above pre-industrial levels and increase in frequency of once-in-a-decade events</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1.1°C (today’s temperature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heatwaves</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Droughts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Extreme precipitation</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IPCC [2021]
Thank you

Lwalsh1@oxfam.org.uk
Resource Mobilisation:
- Responsibility for harm caused
- Capability to pay
- Adequate in scale
- Predictable
- New and additional

Governance:
- Gender balance
- Equitable representation of low-income countries
- Transparent and accountable

Disbursement:
- Based on need
- Automatic and rapid response
- Through multiple channels
- Immediate and sustained support
- Country and locally-led
- Gender equality
- Accountable to vulnerable populations

Implementation:
- Gender equality
- Accountable to vulnerable populations