



**Meeting report n. 5**

**Fifth meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change**

11 February 2021 (10:00-11:30, Geneva time) – MS Teams

The purpose of the fifth IBC meeting was to (a) undertake a stocktaking exercise of what has been achieved, (b) provide an overview of planned activities, (c) agree on the next steps taking into account outcomes of the IBC review and IBC management response as well as the challenges and opportunities for 2021.

Representatives of the following organizations, members of the IBC, were present: ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO, WMO and UN-Women. Representatives of R-DCO also attended.

The meeting was moderated by the co-chair Ana Luiza M. Thompson Flores, Director of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

The meeting was opened by the co-chair Bruno Pozzi, Director of UNEP Europe Office, by giving an update on actions undertaken by the IBC on Environment and Climate Change during 2020 and outlining the work in progress.

Bruno Pozzi emphasized that the primary purpose of the IBC is to support UN Country Teams in their assistance to programme countries and help to deliver the UN reform. The IBC needs not only to be seen as ONE but also act as ONE, so it can have impact as ONE.

Gwi Yeop Son, Regional Director of UNDCO Europe & Central Asia, gave an update on the **UN Regional Reform and the Regional Collaborative Platform** and shared priorities for 2021 in order to build back better and to transform current pandemic challenges into opportunities.

- Regarding support to UNCTs, and IBCs connecting more productively and effectively to country-level processes, DCO is committed to delivering 2 key outputs:
  - Mapping of environment and climate change activities at country level focusing on Environment Result Groups at the end of February to identify gaps, needs and priorities and to make sure that the IBCs' products are relevant, useful and effective.
  - Organizing a meeting between IBCs (co-chairs and focal points) and RCs and UNCTs before the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to have a common understanding of what strategic priorities are.
- She underscored the need to scale up the IBC work on climate action. In this context she referred to COP 26 and highlighted the RCs' engagement in NDCs. DCO is working on a paper with inputs of all RCs on climate change and precisely on clarifying the role and added value of RCs on climate action.



Nicholas Bonvoisin from UNECE reported on the **implications of the IBC review** and steps carried out by the IBC on this regard, notably:

- The management response tasks delivered are: Menu of services (awaiting feedback from RCP Secretariat); Products & Services regularly uploaded to UNECE website;
- The IBC provided Input for the 2020 Regional Annual Results Report
- The IBC is ready to provide inputs to the overall calendar of outreach activities whenever asked and publish it on the UNECE website.
- The IBC is reviewing its Terms of Reference – and will: ensure consistency of mandate; insert clear criteria for outputs labelled as IBC results; insert IBC sunset clause, outlining the conditions for the discontinuation of the IBC; make sure that work is driven by complete membership; and make sure that the structural role of the IBC is clear.

Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa from UNECE gave an overview of the activities under **Pillar 1 – Multi-lateral governance (biodiversity, climate change), build back better & green measures for the post-pandemic recovery**. She highlighted the compendium on green post-pandemic recovery where all IBC members actively contributed and which was presented to UNCTs and RCs on the 19 January 2021. She noted that the compendium will be promoted in: 1) the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development peer learning session organized by the IBC on Partnership for Sustainable Recovery, cluster Planet (March, 16); 2) webinars on key topics of the recovery measures of interest to UNCTs; 3) collection of additional case studies to be posted on IBC webpage to facilitate experience sharing on recovery measures.

Jonathan Baker from UNESCO presented the work undertaken under **Pillar II - Guidance on integrating Environment & Climate Change into UNSDCFs and CCAs, gap analysis and UNSDCF programming cycles**. He highlighted the drafting various guidance and tools to support UNCTs in the development of Environment and Climate Change aspects of CCAs and UNSDCFs undertaken in close coordination by DCO and with the help of a consultant. These products include a Guidance for integrating environment and climate change in CCA and UNSDCF processes and a Gap analysis across CCAs and CFs to complement the guidance.

Marianna Bolshakova from UNEP presented **Pillar 3 – Regional Knowledge Management Hub - MANARA platform, sharing of knowledge products/ relevant resources**, notably how the IBC could contribute to the Regional Knowledge Management Hub (RKMH), notably the MANARA platform, as a part of the regional reform recommendations. She noted MANARA will be presented to the Deputy Secretary General (DSG) in mid-March, and it will go online shortly afterwards. The IBC co-chairs will facilitate sharing relevant environment and climate change knowledge products in MANARA, and encourage all the members to engage with MANARA and make relevant knowledge product available through it.



Jonathan Baker from UNESCO provided a short overview of received updates in **task team** activities, notably the **Biodiversity & Nature-Based Solutions** and **Water Management** task teams (slides attached). The Environment and Gender and Environment and Youth task teams also briefly presented their progress (slides attached).

The final agenda item of the meeting focused **on the challenges and opportunities for the IBC in 2021. To facilitate the discussion and gather some views of the members of the IBC**, Marika Palosaari from UNEP managed a short **interactive** live poll including 4 multiple choice questions. Over 20 participants of the meeting took part in the poll with the following results:

1. *How can the IBC best support the UN system in its work on green recovery in the region?*

The three most popular answers were:

- Support the linking of transboundary aspects into national level programming
- Strengthen capacity within the UNCTs through training sessions on specific themes
- Provide substantive guidance on key topics through thematic briefing notes.

2. *How relevant are the knowledge products and other content produced by this IBC for your work at the country level?*

Over 80% of the participants of the poll felt that the content procured by the IBC had been useful. About one third of the participants of the poll responded that the content has been 'Highly relevant and applicable' and almost half of the responders said that the content has been 'Relevant to a certain extent'.

3. *Have you promoted and used the knowledge products and other content produced by this IBC?*

Nearly 60% of the responders had promoted and used the content produced by the IBC. One person responded that the content had not been used as it was not relevant to them.

4. *What could be the next steps in engaging with RCs and UNCTs in 2021?*

The three most popular answers were:

- Get feedback from RCs and UNCTs on the relevance, usefulness and effectiveness of the IBC work so far
- Closer engagement with Environment /Planet Result Groups from UNCTs
- Defining better harmonization and complementarity with Peer Support Group for the support in CCAs and UNCDFs.

The facilitators of this session of the meeting concluded it by confirming that the views communicated through the poll will be taken into consideration in the further planning of the IBC's work and that the IBC will continue to consult its members and stakeholders regarding their needs and priorities.



Marco Keiner, co-chair and Director, Environment Division of UNECE, concluded the meeting with the following **conclusions and way forward**

- There has been real progress in terms of the IBC contributing to the recovery measures (notably the compendium), and the IBC needs to further strengthen its support for CCAs and UNSDCFs.
- IBC should continue to put emphasis on green recovery and ensure coordination with other IBCs in our region.
- It is important to identify an efficient mechanism to support Environment Results Groups at the country level.
- Also, key is to continuously coordinate with RCs to further reflect on the activities and, if needed, re-assess IBC priorities.
- SLIDO poll showed that IBC products are relevant and being used; this needs to be built on.
- IBC members should use the IBC products, e.g., refer to the measures mentioned in the compendium, in IBC activities this year.

### **List of Annexes:**

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: IBC task teams' presentation

Annex 3: IBC member list updated