



Meeting report n. 4

Fourth meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change

6 November 2020 (10:00-11:30, Geneva time) – MS Teams

The purpose of this fourth IBC meeting was to (a) welcome and introduce the work of the IBC to the new RCO Director (b) report on and plan the activities of the 11 task teams.

Representatives of the following organizations, members of the IBC, were present: ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WHO, WMO, UNWOMEN, and RCO.

The meeting was opened by the co-chair Bruno Pozzi, Director, UNEP Europe Office.

Gwi Yeop Son, Regional Director UNDCO Europe & Central Asia welcomed the IBC members and stressed the importance of strengthening coordinated UN delivery at country level through three key messages:

1. The IBC should be demand driven and support RCs' and UNCTs' needs for policy advice on environment and climate change at the country level, working together across pillars and mandates to ensure access to knowledge.
2. The IBC should be flexible and serve to link regional to country level.
3. The IBC should adjust its work considering the recommendations of the review of all IBCs (for example monitoring and tracking task team quality of work, considering financial and human capacity to deliver and strongly engaging with CCA design).

Monika Linn, Principal Adviser and Chief of the Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, UNECE gave an overview of the ongoing preparations for the first meeting of the Regional Collaborative Platform and the next Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and invited the IBC to participate actively.

The IBC core group members introduced the IBC workplan 2020-2021 as submitted to the Regional UN meeting and the IBC guidance for task teams.

Ana Luiza Massot Thompson-Flores, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, moderated the task team session. Co-leads of the 11 task teams established under the IBC presented the activities undertaken and potential activities for late 2020 and early 2021 with reactions and expressions of interest by other IBC members as reflected in the summary below.



Socioeconomic assessments and post pandemic recovery strategies (build back better, with a green and circular economy)

The task team is working on a *Compendium of practical measures for post-COVID green recovery*. About 20 measures have been initially identified, each with a brief description, a summary of costs and benefits, a case study showing what is done in practice, key related SDG targets and a small set of resources.

- IBC members have the possibility to send final comments on the draft by 25 November, and issuance of the compendium is planned for 30 November
- The task team will organize a dedicated webinar for RCs, UNCTs, Socioeconomic Task Forces & Environment Results Groups before end of 2020.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction

The task team is working on a *policy brief on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation*. The task team proposes to:

- Finalize the policy brief for IBC members' consideration
- Organize a webinar to inform RCs and UNCTs on the next UNFCCC COP preparations and agenda items of particular relevance to the programme countries
- Identify more specific needs of RCs in the areas of climate change and disaster risk reduction to better tailor future activities.

Biodiversity & nature-based solutions

The task team proposed two actions for late 2020 and further ideas for 2021:

- Policy brief on *Why biodiversity mainstreaming makes social and economic sense*, produced by all task team members by end 2020
- A webinar on the new IPBES report on Biodiversity and Pandemics *Escaping the Era of Pandemics*, involving UNEP, UNESCO, WHO and IPBES by end 2020
- In 2021 possible webinars on a) *Incorporating biodiversity into CCA and UNSDCF*, involving all task team members and RC/UNCTs from one or more programme countries in the region; b) *Meeting biodiversity targets*, involving also CBD, WCMC and IUCN; and c) *Understanding Nature based Solutions – with a focus on addressing climate change*, involving RC/UNCTs and the IBC task team on Climate change and disaster risk reduction, which needs to be discussed with full IBC and RC/UNCTs.



Air pollution

The task team proposed two areas of action:

- Explore the possibility of organizing a webinar on air Pollution and green post-COVID measures as part of webinar series organized by RCO and UNDP in Serbia
- Develop a matrix of work areas and activities implemented by contributing agencies at all scales (sub-national/national/regional) to identify common areas of interest and joint actions.

Sustainable consumption & production

The task team proposed to:

- Organize a webinar to present to RCs and UNCTs the existing guidance, practices and resources for the uptake and implementation of sustainable public procurement. In the coming weeks, the team will work on a date and concept
- Review the UNSDCFs to learn about countries' SCP gaps and priorities and, based on this review, further plan the activities of the task team.

Water management

The task team agreed at its meetings on the scope of its work, which includes all aspects of water management: integrated water resource management, access to water and sanitation, health and hygiene, water quality and transboundary water cooperation – the overall framework for SDG 6. Furthermore, the task team provided inputs to the *Compendium of practical measures on post-COVID green recovery* on measures related to water, specifically comments and an additional measure on transboundary water cooperation.

- The task team proposed to organize a webinar early next year on the 2021 World Water Development Report and/or SDG 6.

Food security & land management

Members agreed to utilise the task team platform as 'CoP for Actions' with specific focus on Food Security and Land Management, including a digital library on food security & land management.

- The task team proposed a quarterly webinar series on issues that are relevant to be flagged for future coordination, action, suggestion, policy guidance. A webinar would be organized jointly with the IBC on Sustainable Food System on climate change and



food security. Co-leads will reach out to members and potential issue-based counterparts (e.g., country offices, think tanks, etc.) on a quarterly basis to prepare for the event.

Sustainable infrastructure

The task team proposes to:

- Finalize and promote the compendium on sustainable infrastructure and coordinate with on-going initiatives in this area
- Complete a needs assessment on sustainable infrastructure with country teams (potential presentation of compendium and selected tools, training)

Environment & youth

The task team proposes to:

- Reach out to other agencies to join/engage with and proactively engage with the chairs of the IBC on Adolescent and Youth (UNFPA and UNICEF)
- Continue working on the inventory of key resources in close collaboration with the IBC on Adolescent and Youth. The task team will contribute to the IBC knowledge hub a dedicated *Environment and Youth knowledge management platform* with key resources policy documents, publications and newsletters
- Facilitate opportunities for networking between regional youth groups coalitions, networks and fora and IBC members/regional agencies
- Host specific webinars to convene youth groups/IBC members/regional agencies on key issues
- Identify key events in 2021 and being convened by youth groups, coalitions, networks and fora engaged in Environment or Climate.

Environment & gender

UN-Women briefed the IBC on past and upcoming activities from the organization and other agencies that could fit into the IBC work. The task team proposes to:

- Have its first meeting by end 2020 in order to kick start the work between members
- Engage with the IBC on Gender Equality.



Migration, environment & climate change

IOM contacted the co-chairs of the IBC on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience to collaborate. The task team proposes to:

- Work on an information sheet on the *European Green Deal and Migration*
- Produce common key messages on migration, environment and climate change
- Organize a regional webinar on the human mobility work programme under the UNFCCC
- Meet with the IBC on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience in November.

Final conclusions by Bruno Pozzi, Director, UNEP Europe office:

- The IBC will work on establishing a team for pillar II (*Supporting countries in the environmental and climate change dimension of UNSDCF and CCA processes*) and follow up with a clear plan and activities.
- The IBC members will work on proposals for the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.
- The IBC will map a menu of services against the needs expressed by RCs and UNCTs.
- The IBC will link up with the heads of the RC Offices for a list of experts.
- The fifth IBC meeting is foreseen within the next two months (January 2021, tbc).

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: IBC task teams' presentation

Annex 3: Task team guidance

Annex 4: IBC member list updated