



### Meeting Report n. 2

#### Second meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change

17 June 2020 (14:00-15:30, Geneva time) – MS Teams

The primary purpose of the second IBC meeting was to (a) decide on priorities and actions to undertake in the coming months and (b) identify which members would take the lead on specific tasks prioritized by UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators (RCs) during the three sub-regional meetings.

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

The meeting was co-chaired by UNEP, UNESCO and UNECE.

Opening and welcoming statements were delivered by: Bruno Pozzi, Director, UNEP Europe Office; Irena Vojackova-Sollorano, a.i. Regional Director UNDCO Europe & Central Asia; Ana Luiza Massot Thompson-Flores, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe; and Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE.

The priorities identified by RCs from the subregional meetings and the preliminary results of the survey between IBC members were presented by the co-leads, with reactions and expressions of interest by IBC members reflected in the conclusions below.

Main conclusions:

- Members asked for a better understanding of the implications of leading different tasks (i.e. level of commitment, resources, time, and staff for coordination). Co-leads highlighted that topics such as build back better, biodiversity and climate change are in need of a solid and comprehensive response (e.g. guidance, recommendations, policy briefs, webinars) while for other areas it depends on what activities the IBC members are willing to put forward, and which approach would be most suitable for them.
- DCO recommended that the IBC coordinate with the technical staff from the environment and climate change working groups at the country level in order to ensure the guidance given would make sense on the ground. DCO will share a list of the working groups and co-chairs contacts of the UN country teams.



- IBC members noted that build back better was central, especially in the time of COVID 19. The IBC co-leads will lead the build back better task team and welcomed the support and contribution of the other IBC members to the papers and policy briefs to be prepared.
- The IBC members reiterated the importance of sharing and scaling up the lessons learnt and the concrete examples coming in, particularly from transboundary areas.
- WMO mentioned they would like to share products and services with member States through the RCs (policy briefs, webinars or some other events).
- UN Women shared a new report on Gender, Climate & Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change.<sup>1</sup>
- UNDP expressed their willingness to provide structured and detailed experience in working on the immediate response and the green recovery from COVID-19, and to contribute to the discussion on the socioeconomic assessments undertaken under the overall RC chapeau. They noted that the medium term response to COVID-19 could address broader themes such as climate change and environmental issues.
- FAO is willing to share some studies and experience on food security, climate change, and the poverty-COVID-19 nexus, and highlighted the importance of collaborating with the new IBC on Food Systems.
- Other key themes to be taken on by the IBC that were mentioned included synergies between DRR and climate change adaptation, migration and environment and climate change, and environment and gender.
- Non-resident agencies such as UNFCCC, UNDRR highlighted how the IBC could be used to ensure a stronger contribution on issues such as climate change and disaster risk reduction at the national level.
- DCO and IBC members also highlighted the importance of the IBC engaging the private sector in environmental and climate change issues
- IBC members supported the approach of regional checklists, (and subregional elements), to support UN country teams in their production of socioeconomic assessments and CCAs, which should be broader than each country's context.
- IBC members underlined that there is not a single methodology for socioeconomic assessment as the scope varies from country to country.

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<sup>1</sup> [Gender, Climate & Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change](#)



- The IBC is building up a repository<sup>2</sup> for policy or issue briefs aiming to serve as a resource tool for the RCs and the UN Country Teams. The co-leads called on all IBC members to share their data, knowledge, methodology and report links.
- The IBC co-leads encouraged all members to fill in the survey<sup>3</sup> which could help decide which members will take the lead on different activities.<sup>4</sup>
- The IBC members agreed to have regular meetings every two months based on the survey results; a third IBC membership meeting will be scheduled in two months' time (date to be confirmed).

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: Meeting presentation

Annex 3: IBC survey results

Annex 4: IBC task groups matrix

Annex 5: IBC member list

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unece.org/runcwelcome/issue-based-coalitions/environment-and-climate-change.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uq5PHbM5-kuwswlpVrERIFbG3TsT9KxEhz9eFdg8BohUMTFLVfExN0dWUDBOTzQ5UEg0UjhRUUkyRCQIQCN0PWcu>

<sup>4</sup> As of 24.6.2020, 15 agencies had filled the survey.