



Meeting report n. 6

Sixth meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change

22 June 2021 (14:00-15:30, Geneva time) – MS Teams

The purpose of the sixth IBC meeting was to (a) provide an overview of what has been achieved and planned by the task teams and through the pillars, (b) agree on the next steps taking into account the latest Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) meeting and R-DCO (Europe and Central Asia) updates.

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

The meeting was moderated by the co-chair Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE, and Matthew Billot, Senior Coordination Officer of the United Nations Environmental Programme, Europe office.

The meeting was opened by Marco Keiner by giving an update on actions undertaken by the IBC during the first half of 2021 and outlining the work in progress.

Updates on first meeting between Resident Coordinators and IBCs co-chairs, and on standard operating procedures for the engagement of the Peer Support Group and IBCs in the UNSDCF and CCA processes

Mona Folkesson, Senior Regional Coordination Officer, R-DCO, updated the team on the first meeting of Resident Coordinators (RCs) and IBCs co-chairs and on standard operating procedures for the engagement of the Peer Support Group (PSG) and IBCs in the UNSDCF and CCA processes:

- During the first meeting of RCs with IBCs co-chairs (9 April 2021) the following issues were highlighted:
 - RCs welcome IBC's support to translate policy guidance notes and regional resources into actionable initiatives;
 - Strong focus is needed from the analytical perspective on the subregional and cross-border contexts;
 - Need for SDG multidimensional analysis that looks across whole SDG spectrum;
 - Set up and working modalities need flexibility to address emerging needs (workplan that does not look the same from year to year);
 - Clarity is needed on difference between agencies' support and support by IBCs, which should complement each other. Surge support is more difficult for IBCs than for individual agencies;
 - Complementarity with ESCAP and how that overlap needs to be clarified, critically for programme countries in the region;



- Establishment of a roster of experts to meet needs and demand of UNCTs, which could be integrated into the Knowledge Management Hub. This is one of the 5 recommendations from the regional review and expectations are high from the DSG and ECOSOC;
 - Mapping of expertise at the regional level should be undertaken;
 - Need to better link the 2022 workplan to country requests and to start its preparation in September 2021;
 - Necessity of information-sharing interactive platform to link IBCs and UNCTs.
- RCP meeting (11 June 2021). Standard operating procedures have been elaborated for the engagement of the PSG and IBCs in the UNSDCF and CCA processes, with the primary objective of clarifying roles and responsibilities when it comes to cooperation frameworks and processes. Final changes to SOP included:
- Direct interactions between country teams and IBCs;
 - The scope of what each IBC can provide (CCA, prioritization etc.);
 - PSG providing quality assurance of the process (ref: Request for support for analytics for the Moldova CCA).
- Current processes in DCO:
- Undertaking mapping of NDCs discussions between country teams and respective government;
 - Deep dive on the UN Development System response to the triple planetary crisis, set out in UNU report “Beyond Opportunism”;
 - Appointment of a focal point from Regional DCO office for each of the IBCs.

Updates from Pillar 1 (Strengthening environmental and climate change governance and implementing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda)

Matthew Billot from UNEP, under Pillar 1, invited colleagues to give updates on task team activities.

Andrew Mackay Bower from UNDRR presented recent and planned activities of the **Task Team on Climate Change and DRR**. The task team developed an Innovation brief on coherence of DRR and climate change adaptation, which responds to the prioritisation exercise and questionnaire survey of UNCTs/RCs to assess the needs and demands. With the help of an external expert and building on several comments from the participating agencies, the Task Team is finalizing a list of good practices and innovative approaches for addressing the linkages between DRR and climate adaptation in a user-friendly initial document for UNCTs. The Innovation brief, circulated to the full IBC membership in June 2021, is undergoing final formatting and will be finalised in July 2021 with its official release to UNCTs in September 2021. It was proposed to consider the possibility of sharing the draft of with UNCTs/RCs network to collect their comments and proposals. Future activities of the past team includes:

- Identification of potential actions in relation to COP26 (Q3 2021)



- Regional engagement on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (Q3-Q4 2021)
- Compilation of resources in response to the request from Moldova UNCT in July

Matthew Billot from UNEP presented activities performed by the **Task Team on Biodiversity & Nature-Based solutions**:

- Colleagues from IPBES, based on the “*Escaping the era of pandemics*” report, showed interest in organising a webinar on biodiversity and pandemics after COP15;
- Organising a webinar on “*Meeting biodiversity targets*” (after COP 15).

Carolin Sanz Noriega from UNECE presented the work undertaken by the **Task Team on Air Pollution**. Upon the request from RC Serbia, the task team organised the webinar “*Air pollution from domestic heating in Serbia – impacts, challenges and solutions*” (26 May 2021). As a follow up to the webinar, a sub-group on air pollution from domestic heating was established under the UNCT result group 1 on Environment and Climate change; the sub-group had already held its first meeting (10 June 2021). The next step of the sub-group is to draft its ToR and to schedule another call before the summer break. Future activities will be:

- Serbia follow-up through UNCT RG 1’s newly created sub-group on air pollution from domestic heating;
- Outreach brief on lessons learned from webinar;
- Possible second webinar on air pollution from domestic heating in another country in the region, subject to demand from interested RCs.

Marika Palosaari from UNEP reported on the work of the **Task Team on Sustainable Consumption and Production**. She indicated that the webinar on *Existing guidance on practices and resources for the uptake and implementation of sustainable public procurement* was postponed to Q3 2021.

Sonja Koeppel from UNECE reported that the **Task Team on Water Management** had provided water-related inputs for the *Mainstreaming Guidance* (see below). The Task Team met in March 2021. In the meeting between RCs and co-chairs of IBCs on 6 April 2021, RCs highlighted the importance of transboundary water issues, particularly in the context of persistent issues in the region such as conflict prevention. Furthermore, RCs welcomed support from IBCs to translate regional resources, including the various global, regional and subregional programmes, into actionable initiatives adapted to the context of the subregions and countries. To respond to this request, the Task Team co-leads have developed a concept for a webinar to present tools for preventing water conflicts through improved transboundary cooperation. The webinar is planned for September or October 2021.

AnnMarie Swai from UNICEF updated the IBC members on the recent activities of the **Task Team on Environment & Youth**. The Task Team has regular meetings and is strengthening the collaboration with IBC on Adolescence and Youth.



Meruyert Syzdykbekova from UN Women reported that the **Task Team on Environment & Gender**, together with Task Team on Migration, Environment & Climate Change, will organise a webinar.

Banerjee Soumyadeep from IOM reported on the recent activities of the **Task Team on Migration, Environment and Climate Change**. A discussion with IBC on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience was started in April 2021 on possible synergies. Moreover, the interaction with some IBC members has started in the form of a collaborative webinar that is planned in late summer or early autumn. IOM, UN Women, UNHCR and UNFCCC are invited to provide panellists. Ongoing and future activities are:

- Information sheet on European Green Deal and Migration;
- Deliverable *Common key messages on migration, environment and climate change*;
- Regional webinar on the human mobility work programme under UNFCCC.

Updates from Pillar 2 (Supporting countries in the environmental and climate change dimension of UNSDCF and CCA processes)

Jonathan Baker from UNESCO presented the work undertaken under Pillar 2 on Guidance on integrating Environment and Climate Change into UNSDCFs and CCAs, gap analysis and UNSDCF programming cycles. With the help of a consultant and all IBC members, the draft of Mainstreaming Guidance and Gap analysis were finalized. The mainstreaming guidance package, its structure, purpose, approach and key findings were presented. The guidance package was to be launched on 1 July 2021 with RCs and UNCTs in the form of an interactive session. Possible actions to support the use of the guidance will be:

- Testing the guidance in specific pilot countries (to be confirmed by PSG secretariat)
- Development of training on the application of the mainstreaming guidance
- Review the guidance after one year based on the feedback from RCs and UNCTs.

Nicholas Bonvoisin from UNECE reported on the recent **request from UNCT in Moldova** to have more analytical resources and information on the topic *Analysis of disaster preparedness and resilience and Climate change impact on women - gender analysis in the environmental dimension*.

Updates from Pillar 3 (Monitoring and reporting on the environmental and climate change dimension of SDGs)

Matthew Billot from UNEP presented Pillar 3, with a focus on the Regional Knowledge Management Hub, the MANARA platform, and sharing of knowledge products and relevant resources. RCP for Europe and Central Asia has tentatively agreed to use MANARA platform as a Regional Knowledge Management Hub for the region. The draft platform has been launched and resources produced by different agencies are beginning to be linked in.



Wrap up and moving forward

Marco Keiner, co-chair and Director, Environment Division of UNECE, concluded the meeting with the following ways forward:

- The inputs for workplan 2022 are expected to be submitted before the next IBC membership meeting in the autumn
- IBC needs to remain relevant and to be ready to respond to concrete requests by the country teams for support (e.g., COP15 of CBD and COP26 of UNFCCC)
- Importance of delivering concrete and meaningful results
- The feedback from various webinars and on information materials was very positive and the IBC's work remains demand-driven
- Specific request from Moldova needs to be addressed, and new requests are expected to come more frequently.
- The Mainstreaming Guidance is to be shared with colleagues from UNCTs and RCs during the launch on 1 July 2021, in the expectation of receiving their feedback and examples.

List of Annexes:

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: IBC task teams' presentation

Annex 3: IBC member list updated