



Meeting report n. 7

Seventh meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change

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

The objective of the seventh meeting of the IBC was to exchange information on the RCP, discuss regional hotspots with DPPA and provide an update on activities and initiate planning for 2022.

Representatives of UNDCO, DPPA, and 14 IBC members were present: ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UN-Women, WHO and WMO.

The meeting was opened by IBC co-chairs: Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE; Bruno Pozzi, Director, UNEP Europe Office; Environment Division, UNECE; and – on behalf of Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Director – Jonathan Baker, Regional Science Advisor, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

Michael Kunz, UNECE, gave update on the RCP, notably that:

- In the framework of the IBC review, the revised Terms of Reference, work plan and menu of services of the IBCs will be adopted at the next RCP meeting in Geneva to be held on 11-12 November 2021. All IBCs will need to prepare their 2022 work plan.
- An intra-regional cross-IBC meeting for all the IBCs in the ECA region is planned for October 2021. RCP secretariat asked IBCs to provide inputs for the agenda.
- RCP is planning an interregional IBC meeting to share experience notably about establishing and functioning of the IBCs in other regions. The IBCs are encouraged to share the documents with their counterparts in other regions
- The IBC on Environment and Climate Change will be asked to provide IBC inputs and results for 2021 to a regional result report under preparation by the RCP.
- A human rights dimension to environment and climate change work is crucial, therefore great that DPPA would be present in the present meeting.
- The IBC will be invited to play a role in the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2022, as it had in 2021.

Rory Keane from DPPA highlighted:

- That the climate security mechanism has been established at UN HQ within DPPA. A climate risk checklist for political analysis will be shared with the IBC.
- Through this mechanism, climate advisors will be made available in UN missions including political and peacebuilding missions.
- In the UN-EU cooperation, there is an increasing focus on the climate and security dimensions, a central component of the latest joint priority list for UN-EU cooperation.



Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE, moderated a discussion on **Pillar 1** (strengthening environmental and climate change governance and implementing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda). Andrew Bower, UNDRR, from the task Team on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, noted that the document on integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for Risk-informed and Climate-smart Development was now finalized and would be disseminated to the UNCTs through the usual IBC channel prior to COP26. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, UNECE, from the Water Task Team informed the IBC that the task team would be organizing a webinar on preventing water conflicts through improving transboundary water cooperation in the pan-European region on 25 October 2021.

Matthew Billot, UNEP, gave updates on **Pillar 2** (supporting countries in the environmental and climate change dimension of UNSDCF and CCA processes), notably the planned training for the guidance on Integrating the Environment and Climate Change in Processes for UNSDCFs. The training events would be subregional and focus on case studies. An organization will be contracted to develop the training working closely with the consultant who drafted the guidelines, and the IBC core group. IBC members are welcomed to contribute.

With regard to **Pillar 3** (Monitoring and reporting on the environmental and climate change dimension of SDGs), Michael Kunz, UNECE, gave an update on the RCP website, under development, noting that IBCs would be able to manage their dedicated pages on the website.

Tarcisio Alvarez-Rivero, ESCWA, gave an extensive presentation on the Manara platform and its tools. He noted Manara could access 6 million documents currently available online. Users can search in 5 languages. Manara also allows users to link 30-40 UN data sources.

Jonathan Baker, UNESCO, presented a skeleton 2022 IBC workplan with some initial ideas from the IBC co-chairs, notably the possibility of focusing on 3 or 4 priority themes for 2022 and only activating the task teams as necessary. He noted that the IBC core team would share a preliminary draft for the IBC membership in the coming weeks.

List of Annexes:

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: IBC task teams' presentation

Annex 3: IBC member list updated