



Meeting Report no. 1

21st April 2020 (09:30-12:30, Geneva time) – MS Teams

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

Observers: UNFPA, DWD Coordinator of the WMO Regional Climate Centres Network, other IBC chairs

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

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

UN Women presented preliminary findings of a review of IBCs. UNECE presented experiences from the former IBC, now Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics. WHO provided written input on the IBC on Health and Well-being, and IOM on the IBC on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience. The results of a survey of the needs of Resident Coordinators were presented, with reactions by UNDCO and UNDP.

Possible actions for 2020 under the three pillars (see IBC terms of reference and background paper for the meeting) were presented by the co-leads, with reactions from members reflected in the conclusions below.

Presentations were also made on communication, outreach and partnerships, and on the modalities for operationalizing the IBC, including resource mobilization.

Main conclusions:

- The IBC is now active and will be focused on a demand-driven process to support RCs and UNCTs.
- Members welcomed the workplan (list of actions) while observing that it was ambitious, and priorities would need to be set, and some actions were subject to the availability of resources. The expectations of UNCTs need to be managed and the value proposition made clear to the clients. The IBC will review the action list and



develop priorities with the RCs following sub-regional consultations and in coordination with DCO.

- Members asked how they would be involved, to which the answer was by defining, leading and contributing to the different actions.
- The themes of biodiversity, climate change and COVID-19 recovery received support and the IBC will develop policy briefs related to the COVID-19 response on 'building back better', as well as climate change and biodiversity.
- The IBC should focus on policy recommendations based on science and data and the provision of advice to UNCTs. Transboundary issues are also important.
- The IBC should seek to have input to national socio-economic assessments being carried out in the context of the pandemic.
- The IBC will develop capacity building/training courses (through webinars etc) on the 'build back better' approach, aiming to meet UNCT needs.
- The IBC needs to be selective on the foreseen means of communication.

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: Meeting presentation