



**STATEMENT FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES (ICVA)
AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT
(25 FEBRUARY 2020)**

Thank you for the opportunity to bring inputs from ICVA members.

There are over 41 million IDPs worldwide. Behind this acronym are people, often living in dreadful conditions. Finding solutions is often a stated priority. Nevertheless, growing numbers face protracted situations and IDPs have often been left behind.

We therefore welcome the launch of this High-Level Panel as a unique opportunity to identify new solutions and creative ways to prevent and address internal displacement. In doing so, the Panel should build on existing knowledge and collaborative efforts such as GP20 and the Platform on Disaster Displacement.

We have high hopes for the Panel and wish for an ambitious work agenda. The highest level of ambition is to bring tangible and durable improvements in the lives of IDPs and host communities. This starts with preventing internal displacement.

We therefore make 8 recommendations:

1. People, Rights and Protection:

We strongly recommend a people-centered and rights-based approach, promoting the further implementation and domestication of the Guiding Principles and relevant legal frameworks. This is fundamental at a time when human rights are increasingly coming under attack. An age, gender, and diversity approach is vital to ensure comprehensive protection and non-discrimination. We particularly recommend building on the inter-agency position on Women's And Girls' Rights And Agency In Humanitarian Action.

Promoting the development of national legislations and policies protecting the rights of IDPs should also be a strong objective, likely to result in improved 'enabling environments' for more efficient IDP responses.

2. IDP Participation:

Such enabling environments should foster appropriate gender- and age-responsive mechanisms for meaningful participation of IDPs and host communities in processes affecting them. This can help build resilience and durable solutions, while allowing for accountability to IDPs. NGOs can assist in consulting with affected populations. The Panel can also draw on the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs and GP20.

3. Development and Solutions Focus:

We support the emphasis on durable solutions when those are aligned with people's rights and aspirations. The Panel's work can build on past initiatives including the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions and the Durable Solutions Indicator Library. Solutions should have a strong focus on children and promote gender equality.

Designing durable solutions requires that humanitarian and development actors systematically analyze and plan responses together. IDPs should be included in policies, programs and national action plans to implement the SDGs.

4. Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities:



We call on the Panel to develop recommendations to ensure we can all operate within effective coordination and funding mechanisms. This is a complex issue but one with major impacts on protection and solutions. We encourage drawing lessons from past developments in the ecosystem. We also suggest looking at both Global Compacts relevance for IDP response.

Furthermore, the Panel should make recommendations towards holding to account and supporting States in fulfilling their responsibility towards IDPs.

5. Resources and Effectiveness:

Increased global attention should translate into enhanced responsibility-sharing and much needed funding. We recommend looking back at previous recommendations, including from the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing. We also believe that there are “low hanging fruits” related to finding cost-effective ways of working.

6. Data and Evidence:

Quality data helps inform more inclusive and efficient programming, policymaking and advocacy. It also informs better preventative measures. We therefore call for to prioritize improving the collection and analysis of disaggregated data and evidence on internal displacement. The Panel can build on existing initiatives such as IDMC and the Joint IDP Profiling Service.

7. Climate Change:

IDPs not only suffer the consequences of violence and war, but are disproportionately impacted by climate change and disasters, which may cause and exacerbate conflicts. This cannot be ignored anymore. We suggest you seek advice from multi-disciplinary teams with climate, displacement and gender expertise and also consider recommendations towards ‘greening’ humanitarian and development interventions.

8. Disaster Displacement:

Given the scale of this phenomenon and its vast humanitarian and development consequences, we call on the Panel to develop recommendations on effective disaster risk reduction, mitigation, adaptation, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

To conclude, we welcome the determination to undertake broad consultations, including with local actors and suggest establishing a clear schedule of meetings with NGOs and civil society, at the global level, and during regional and country visits.

We hope that your final report will highlight concrete follow-up actions, with programmatic, legislative, and policy orientations helping States and other actors to prevent, address and respond to internal displacement.

Thank you