



Meeting to exchange on the written submissions to the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

14 April 2020

Online

Participants: APRRN/Act Alliance, Care, Danish Refugee Council, Institute for Study of International Migration, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Displacement Monitoring Center, Jesuit Refugee Service, Oxfam, Norwegian Refugee Council, Plan International, Save the Children, Translators Without Borders, Women's Refugee Commission

ICVA

- We are midway through the deadline to send the written submissions and this meeting is an opportunity to exchange on what you are preparing, hoping to help with cross-fertilization and reinforce messaging.
- As you noted from earlier communications, and based on your request, we followed up with the HLP Secretariat on the possibility of having collective submissions. It is possible and on this call, it would be interesting to hear whether there is an appetite for collective submissions?
- The Secretariat changed its approach, as now on the [Panel's website](#) it looks like written submissions are broadly open (including to academics, etc.).
- At ICVA, we have not necessarily taken a decision yet about sending a submission. We understand it would be useful but we also face constraints in terms of time, focus that would bring 'outside of the box thinking', etc.
- Provided we have time and support from members, one idea could be to focus on question 2 of the call for submission, "Across the objectives of prevention, response and solutions, how can national political will, responsibility and capacity be catalyzed and cultivated". NGOs and ICVA would have something to say, in terms of incentives, enabling environment, accountability. It could be very short, e.g. around 2 pages. This might work if the deadline is extended.
- According to Giovanni/Secretariat, the deadline is not strict and there might be an extension.
- ICVA's priority is to support NGOs in their own submissions. In that sense, on Monday 20 April at 3:00 pm (Gva time), we are organizing a meeting with Member States, NGOs and other stakeholders. The invitation is coming but mark this in your agenda already.
- We have been coordinating with Ethiopia and Norway missions in Geneva for this. Initially, it was meant to simply be a meeting between interested NGOs and a few States but Norway/Ethiopia suggested this could be a broader meeting, co-hosted by the Chairs of the Group of Friends of the HLP and ICVA.
- This complicated a bit the organization in a short time but we believe this should bring more States to the meeting, so worth the additional efforts. We are in discussion with Norway/Ethiopia on how to structure the meeting and will come back to you shortly on this.
- We are trying to see if the Panel's Secretariat would be able to join the meeting too, they could provide answers to questions and open by reminding the parameters and objectives of the written submissions.

Women's Refugee Commission

- We are working on a collective submission involving Care, Oxfam, Plan International, WRC on AGD and Diversity. It will be open to sign-on.
- The submission will cover the following elements:

Notes for ICVA Members only – not to be circulated to other parties



- IDP protection;
- need analysis on AGD & Diversity to ensure appropriate responses;
- Looking at policies, laws and approaches that acknowledge AGD & Diversity;
- Looking at Gender equality & non-discrimination;
- Child protection and GBV;
- How NGOs can increase political will as a paradigm shift for better IDP protection.
- Secondly, WRC is working on an individual submission focused on the need for women participation, e.g. how you get to gender equality, fight GBV.
- Hoping that the Secretariat will extend the deadline.

Care

- In addition to the piece that we are preparing on AGD & disabilities with others, CARE is asking itself if the Panel Secretariat has already identified gaps in the literature / data they may have already reviewed? That could guide what to submit.

Save the Children

- Save could be interested in joining the collective AGD & Diversity submission.

APRRN

- Both APRRN and ACT Alliance may be interested in signing on too.

Save the Children

- Any clarifications on the flexibility around the deadline?

Norwegian Refugee Council

- On the deadline, an extension would be useful.
- We are supporting the development of an UNDRR submission as well as working on an individual submission on climate change and disaster displacement, and we are very open to a collective submission on the topic. The Financing component would be included in the individual submission.
- Would the end of the Panel mission in February 2021 extended due to COVID-19?

ICVA

- When you talk about sign-on to collective submissions, do you think also about States? If so, the meeting of Monday could be an opportunity.
- We have been told the deadline is not too strict. Submissions will not be rejected if they arrive a few days late. We also heard that the Secretariat might send an e-mail to extend the deadline by 1-2 weeks but no confirmation on this.
- If NGOs convey the same message on the need to have an extension, it would help.
- We will communicate to the Secretariat that an extension would be useful, emphasizing the need for more time due to COVID-19 and sign-ons to collective submissions.
- Hopefully the same message could be conveyed from States too.
- Also to remind that Giovanni mentioned that, when you make a submission, you can also indicate you have a project or a report in the pipeline that will not produce result before the deadline, so you will come back with more details to the Panel. There is no plan for a second round of submissions at the moment but there is this possibility of sending follow-up details a few months down the line. Best if it is mentioned in the submission.



- On the closure of the Panel, during our last meeting with George, he alluded to it but said it was not discussed yet. Next Monday meeting could be a moment to ask again the question.
- Ethiopia highlighted this issue in our exchanges, being willing to get an update on how COVID-19 is impacting the Panel/Secretariat's work and the achievement of their mandate?
- On climate-displacement, it would be interesting to hear whether some are interested in NRC suggestion about a collective submission. Of course, we can expect PDD to also submit something on this.

Institute for Study of International Migration

- Doing a study for UNHCR and IOM, under the framework of the global protection cluster task team on law and policy, looking at how five countries (Afghanistan, Colombia, Somalia, Niger and Philippines) that are facing both conflict-related displacement as well as disaster-related displacement are addressing protection and assistance of IDPs in their laws and policies.
- It highlights how IDPs specific laws and policies are addressing both causes, e.g. which causes are included in the IDP. Also looking at climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction laws and policies, to see how they reference-displacement, evacuations, relocations, as well as conflicts dynamics and the intersection between conflict and disasters.
- Doing interviews and trying to get insights on practices-focused on addressing protection and assistance needs of both categories of IDPs.

Norwegian Refugee Council

- Really interesting. Happy to share NRC's work on UNDRR submission (which will also be mirrored in our NRC submission) and see if there is an opportunity to collaborate.

Plan international

- Originally, we were planning consultations with IDPs in Sudan, Colombia and Philippines which had to be postponed due to travel restrictions. Have other organizations been able to consult with IDPs maybe through various online platforms or have already undertaken consultations before travel restrictions?

ICVA

As UNDRR is mentioned and as for UN submissions, the feeling I got from a GP20 meeting is they are struggling with the idea of being innovative in such a short time. Difficult for big UN agencies to suggest something innovative (and probably for all of us).

- In a similar vein, we take the opportunity to share with you that the World Bank Focal Point on the HLP and written submission is Caroline Sergeant. She is well known to many of us and quite open to exchanging with NGOs so we would say don't hesitate to reach out to her or we will be happy to make the connection if necessary.
- On the question about IDP participation, broadly, just to remind that the Secretariat is trying to figure out how to develop consultations in the current context. Do you have any suggestions for the Secretariat?

Translators Without Borders

- No easy answer, we are supporting some partners like IFRC and UNICEF to enhance their feedback mechanisms, so one idea might be to tap into existing mechanisms like report to collect some targeted inputs on the topics relevant to the panel. The main caveat is that this approach might not reach all, especially some of the most vulnerable groups (those without



access to ICTs or connectivity, with no or low digital literacy, etc.). I would also suggest consulting with national NGO networks that might have easier access to, and better representation of IDPs.

ICVA

- All the caveats are understood and correct. Our understanding is that the Panel is not pretending to have a comprehensive approach, what they want now is to make sure they do some consultations with IDPs. Even with the simplest tool, e.g. if in a country an NGO has a WhatsApp group with IDPs, that can be used as a vehicle to consult IDPs, they are not looking for the perfect mechanisms.
- The written submission is one thing where you can highlight IDPs participation, and then there are those consultations with IDPs *per se* that you can try to organize with the Secretariat.
- Looking at the Panel's guidance in the call for submissions, question 1 is: "The key issues, problems or imperative which, as you see it, should be prioritized by the Panel in its analysis of the crisis of internal displacement today and how prevention, response at large and solutions can be effectively advanced". Is anyone looking at that? A broad theme but basically looking at the priority on response and solutions. And we can add the question 2 which is looking at national political will, capacity that can be catalyzed and cultivated.

Norwegian Refugee Council

- Echoing the UN's challenge of struggling with the innovation. It would be interesting to see how UN agencies are coming together to create 'bold, creative and practical' suggestions, particularly on 'creative', bold and practical is perhaps a bit easier.

ICVA

- The issue of being creative/innovative is a challenge for all of us. Thinking of a discussion I had with WRC/Manisha, I remember a very useful point made: one way to be innovative might be to repeat what NGOs have been advocating for, recommending for a long time but has not been put in practice. The innovation is to finally take the step to apply recommendations.
- It would be useful to know how many of you are advanced or still looking at options?

Care

- Indeed, innovation can also be scaling up known and tested approaches at scale.

Save the children

- Solutions that have been bold and creative were often not implemented due to lack of political will.

Jesuit Refugee Service

- The innovation would be to implement what has been put forward.

Women's Refugee Commission

- We are quite advanced on the submissions.

APRRN/Act Alliance

- APRRN and ACT Alliance both still considering whether to submit or still open to idea of joining others.

Notes for ICVA Members only – not to be circulated to other parties



Translators Without Borders

- We are quite advanced in our draft, answering mostly question 1 in relation to issues facing linguistic minorities and providing examples of promising practices for communication and participation on the basis of our work with multiple partners in Northeast Nigeria and ideas about how those can be scaled-up.
- We are also keen to sign the collective submission on AGD & diversity.

ICVA

- Back to the questions list, question 3. “The relevance and role of humanitarian, development, peace, climate change and disaster reduction action and how a more integrated approach in these respects can be fostered. Submissions can in these respects also address the role of the Private Sector, Regional or International Financial Institutions and other development partners and actors”. There, we will have something from the WB probably and that comes back to climate change and disaster displacement. PDD will probably make a submission on climate change.
- For Monday’s meeting, we are inviting Member States, as well as NGO networks, Voice, SCHR and InterAction, PDD, GP20.
- GP20 is working on a submission.
- Question 4 has a focus on Solutions. Any of you working on that?
- Same for question 5 on Financing? (FYI, Norway seems interested in that topic)
- By the way, you can of course tackle more than one topic in one submission, and I like the idea to look at collective thematic.

Danish Refugee Council

- We are working on a written submission. We are planning and focus on the messages we have conveyed previously to the HLP, around on Protection and Solutions. We do not have more details on the submission at the moment.

Norwegian Refugee Council

- NRC will work on the financing, but don’t have a big update on this, we would weave into our submission. We will send on workstreams on the Grand Bargain, happy to share, liaised and collaborate.

ICVA

- On the submission, the length is not expected to be too long, 5-10 pages maximum. Keywords are ‘straight to the point’, ‘innovate’, ‘out of the box’, and also, demonstrating good practices.
- Questions 6 and 7. Data and evidence. Coordination and accountability. Is anyone working on that?
- Sharing information with you about a quick discussion we had with the US mission in Geneva. The architecture point is something important for them and we were quite surprised to hear from them that they consider this to be the main mandate of the Panel. Apparently the US will push for recommendations related to the architecture.

Women’s Refugee Commission

- The discussion around architecture is a potentially huge disruption. It is a small part of the Panel ToRs and could drag on for a long time.



- For the AGD submissions, we are focusing on what States should be doing and what the Panel could recommend to States, we are not going into the architecture recommendations.

Norwegian Refugee Council

- Agree with WRC there, do not want to distract with the huge architecture question. It was mentioned during the inauguration meeting that this would not be a focus.
- When the Panel was being established, there was discussion about having the Special Rapporteur for IDPs reporting directly to the SG, but not broader than that from NRC side.

ICVA

- We made similar points to the US mission, saying that we felt NGOs consider that looking at the UN architecture could be a huge disruption in terms of for the Panel's work. But we also mentioned that some NGOs made the valid argument (cf ICVA statement of 25 Feb) that the architecture and the coordination system have a direct impact on the protection and the solutions provided on the ground so something that should be looked at.
- We did not have the impression that this was such a direct objective of the Panel either. Not what we remember from George's presentations either.
- Are we talking about changing the cluster system or basically re-position the Special Rapporteur at the level it was in the past? This is not necessarily the same level of impact.
- We can also wonder whether the current COVID crisis will push some to call for rethinking the humanitarian architecture? We hear a lot of what the world after the pandemic might be and it is logical to think the humanitarian architecture might be affected.
- Will some of you address health issues in their submissions, particularly because of COVID-19? Assuming that it will be part of other submissions such as WRC.

Women's Refugee Commission

- Yes, we will cover sexual and reproductive health.
- A number of States seem to be thinking about a cluster approach version 2.0 and that could be where the American focus comes from.
- Maybe Monday's meeting is an opportunity to pass a message to States, that the HLP work should not be disrupted.

ICVA

- Encourage you to think whether COVID-19 reference would make sense within your submissions. Not that it should be forced into the submissions but at the same time it might be odd if there's no-one referring to it in the current context.
- Next meeting: Monday 20 April at 3 pm (Gva time). The meeting would be useful in relation to collective submissions and getting messages through to the Secretariat and States.
- We will ask for an extension for the deadline.