



## High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement’s call for written submissions – exchange among NGOs, Member States and other stakeholders

Online  
20 April 2020

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## 1. ICVA welcome remarks

- This meeting focuses on the recent call for written submissions from the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.
- It is jointly organized by ICVA and the Group of friends of the High-Level Panel. Many to the co-chairs of this Group (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Norway) for their contributions in the organization of this meeting.
- The objective is to help develop collective brainstorming and have an exchange of ideas on the written contributions. This may help generate innovative ideas and thinking, and possibly link to collaborations.

## 2. Introduction by the HLP Secretariat

### Giovanni Cassani

- Happy to hear that this event was of such interest among different stakeholders. This is a quite diverse group and I hope it will spark a very interesting debate.
- A lot has happened since the first meeting of the Panel on 25-27 February. This is a different world now and we have to adapt to the drastic changes that COVID-19 brought to our lives.
- The Secretariat has been working from home for the past few weeks and all physical meetings and travels of the Secretariat have been put on hold.
- The Panel was supposed to meet again in May but this meeting has been canceled and the assumption is that travel will not happen until at least October.
- We have been able to do online meetings, bilaterally, with the Advisory Group but also with different groups of stakeholders, UN Agencies, Member States, the Panel itself.
- We have been working on collecting background information for the use of the Panel itself.
- We have been able to work with the Advisory Group on the key thematic workstreams around which the Panel's work will take place.
- For the moment, there are six thematic workstreams on: prevention, political will, the nexus, innovative financial instruments, data and evidence, private sector engagement.
- The workstreams are very much matching the questions from the call for submission.
- We are reaching to NGO and UN partners to help us in ways to consult IDPs and host communities in the field, through online consultations. We are in the process of identifying online mechanisms where they exist.
- We have been working on the call for submissions that all stakeholders should have received by now. It is definitely one of our tools for the moment to engage with stakeholders.
- Due to the COVID delays, the Panel co-chairs have requested to the UN Secretary-General, in writing, an extension of the mandate of the Panel. The question is now in the process of being discussed with key donors of the Panel and we should be able to send out an official communication with the results of this consultation soon.
- The call for submissions was sent to Member States in Geneva and New York, to UN agencies, NGO networks, Initiatives, Human Rights organizations, Academics, and Think Tanks at the end of March.
- The call was also posted on [Twitter](#) and on the [Panel's website](#) which is now up and running.
- The original deadline for submissions was meant to be on 24 April. We received a number of requests to extend it and we have decided to [extend the deadline until 8 May 2020](#).
- This deadline is linked to the call of submissions but there will be opportunities to continue to submit information to the Secretariat and the Panel beyond the deadline on particular thematic streams or particular subject of interest to different constituencies.



- The call for submissions asked stakeholders to be bold and creative and to contribute with innovative ideas on how to tackle the challenges around internal displacement.
- Submissions can be done in English, French, and Spanish, in Word or PDF format and they can be sent to the email address [idpspanel@un.org](mailto:idpspanel@un.org)

### 3. Series of short presentations

#### United States of America

- We welcome the opportunity to come together and discuss this important process.
- We sincerely hope to continue discussions in collaboration with you all on key aspects of the Panel's work and in the lead-up to key milestones throughout the Panel process.
- The US government submission is still being finalized, at capital level. What will be outlined this afternoon should be considered notional at this stage.
- The submission will tackle several key questions from the call, in one single document.
- The United States will reiterate the call for the Panel to be forward-leaning and highlight the opportunity that this process presents to change the landscape of internal displacement. We will reiterate our desire to see the Panel build on existing evidence, research and best practices, while pursuing out-of-the-box ideas.
- Most importantly we will reinforce the need for the Panel to produce concrete and actionable recommendations. One key substantive area that we intend to highlight in our submission is the need to review current IASC operations and how these systems and resources can better deliver results for IDPs.
- We are not asking for a revision or overhaul of the architecture, nor a creation of a new agency or a revision of mandates. Rather we want the Panel to offer an independent assessment of what is working, what is not working and what more IASC can do to support protection and solutions for IDPs. This could lead to an updated IDP Policy for the IASC that perhaps clarifies roles, responsibilities, and expected outcomes for IASC members.
- The US will also recommend that the Panel devotes significant attention on how development efforts can be better leveraged to tackle internal displacement. This might include an elaboration of responsibilities within the UN development system to prioritize and champion the needs of IDPs and what national authorities need to do to better integrate IDPs into national development planning and financing.
- The Panel could reflect on how bilateral development assistance can be used to support these priorities.
- There should be substantial consideration for the role of the private sector and international financial institutions to support these efforts too.
- We will also promote current approaches to solutions, and whether or not new modalities are needed to translate the guiding principles into concrete action and results for IDPs. We are encouraged to see other organizations going in this direction.
- We will emphasize the essential role of national authorities in addressing internal displacement. It could include measures to elevate strong national examples, to use them as broader recommendations as well as a call to consider the practical political impediments to national action in a context where existing legal policy frameworks are in place but their implementation is a challenge.
- We are encouraged by the emphasis on the concept of prevention, with the particular focus on the need to uphold International Humanitarian Law and improve the investments and practices also for disaster risk reduction.



- Finally, we will reflect on the role of diplomacy and political will in tackling internal displacement.

## Switzerland

- We are currently finalizing our written submission and will now touch upon some of the topics that we will be highlighting.
- One focus is to call on the Panel to look into changing the narrative. We believe the IDP challenge should be reconceptualized, not only as a challenge for humanitarian/human rights actors but also as a concern for development/peace actors. On peace actors especially, we believe the relationship between internal displacement and peacebuilding is currently not sufficiently considered. Peace cannot be achieved if internal displacement is not addressed and vice versa. This will probably be one of our main topics of reflection.
- Another topic that we believe deserves great attention is the challenge posed by disaster and climate change-related internal displacement. Given the reality of climate change, related displacement figures will certainly grow. It would appear to us as a missed opportunity if the Panel did not address what we understand to be one of the main challenges of the 21st century.
- We are supportive of innovative approaches to internal displacement, e.g. in Somalia and Ethiopia with the Framework for Durable Solutions Initiatives. We hope the Panel will look at such best practices to inform its work, especially on the role of the Resident Coordinator.
- Finally, we would like to urge the Panel to include in its final report a clear vision of how its recommendations will be implemented, addressing both the questions of global IDP governance and the role of States. Ideally the Panel would lead to the creation of a dedicated forum that brings together all relevant stakeholders, allowing them to exchange experiences, share lessons, and coordinate activities.

## InterAction

- InterAction is an NGO consortium based in Washington DC. We will submit a submission which will focus on a number of topics. The primary topic will be a proposal to focus on developing specific country road maps towards durable solutions for IDPs.
- InterAction has a Forced Displacement Working Group, comprised of a number of our operational members and members that advocate on IDP rights.
- We urge the Panel to narrow its focus to a defined set of priorities and to pave the way for other actors to take forward the implementation of its recommendations.
- 3/4 of the estimated 41.3 million IDPs are found in only 10 countries, leading us to conclude that moving towards durable solutions in this context could result in a transformative impact on the overall global IDP crisis.
- Local integration is often the most viable of the durable solutions for IDPs, not the only one but oftentimes the most attainable given the reality. We feel that the Panel should focus on situations where governments are supportive of IDPs' desires to integrate locally.
- Recommended outcomes for the Panel include a set of roadmaps for reducing internal displacement in specific contexts. These roadmaps could potentially be transformed in the future into a set of interlocking commitments in the form of a Compact by interested actors, after the Panel mandate ends.
- Four key steps to move towards the roadmaps include:
  - 1) The first step would be to initiate an official country selection process, inviting Member States to signal their interest in developing a roadmap to address internal displacement in their country. Selection criteria and factors that could be considered in selecting a country

for focus would be the demonstrated willingness and leadership on identifying barriers, gaps, and exploring durable solutions for IDPs.

2) Identify major barriers to durable solutions for IDPs in the selected country contexts. The Panels' planned field visits could be leveraged as opportunities to identify barriers and constraints to durable solutions for IDPs in each of these selected contexts.

3) Analysis should be conducted to identify and understand the key obstacles to IDP durable solutions, identify potential opportunities to dismantle them, and outline a potential plan for collective action towards reducing internal displacement. This could include aspects of the legal and policy landscape that impact the ability of IDPs to locally integrate, including access to quality education, health services, decent work, restoring housing land and property, freedom of movement, national social protection, etc. It should also include an understanding of the context and capacities at the local national and regional levels to provide better long-term support and integration of IDPs into communities.

4) It should include opportunities for financial and programmatic investments to promote local integration and finally and very importantly consultation of a broad range of actors including IDPs and their host communities, local civil society, and NGOs.

- We have a catalog of areas from which the Panel could select priority actions to form a country roadmap. The framework draws from the Regional Durable Solution Secretariat Solutions framework and from the durable solutions initiative. The framework provides an illustration of the number of different areas that could be barriers and could be unlocked depending on what the situation is in each of these countries.
- The international community's recent experience in forced displacement context largely led by World Bank efforts, draw on a range of actors to implement innovative combinations of legal administrative trade policy and country financing mechanisms to strengthen long-term self-reliance of refugees and host communities. While there is room for improvement, this has led to groundbreaking policy reforms in refugee rights and self-reliance in Jordan, Turkey, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Uganda.
- This presents a rare opportunity to implement approaches that have already been piloted and from which we can draw lessons learned that apply also to internally displaced people.
- The fourth step once these road maps have been developed and simultaneously during this process is to drive political will and investments to implement a working agenda that can be taken forward after the Panel completes its mandate.
- The Panel could begin a dialogue with Member States that voiced support for its creation, encouraging action around these roadmaps and its final recommendations.
- We very much believe that the Panel should use the model of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing that gave rise to the Grand Bargain humanitarian financing process, a high-level multi-stakeholder policy process that is still progressing years after adoption.
- Like the Grand Bargain, the Panel's agenda could be driven forward by an eminent person or a dedicated senior leadership with high-level visibility and political influence. This champion may emerge out of a number of Member States signatory to the letter that called for the creation of the Panel or among the panelists themselves.

### Platform on Disaster Displacement

- PDD is a State-led initiative currently under the leadership of France and Fiji. Our primary objective is to find ways to better protect people that are displaced in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.
- We are very pleased that the terms of reference of the High-Level Panel are explicit in mentioning displacement linked to disasters and adverse effect of climate change. That type of displacement shall also be within the scope of work of the Panel.



- With our Steering Group and with our Envoy of the Chair, Professor Walter Källin, we have decided to submit a paper to the call for submissions.
- We plan to engage with the High-Level Panel also beyond this submission and we had hoped to have a regional thematic or technical regional thematic meeting on disaster displacement in the Asia Pacific in March/April. Plans were disrupted by COVID.
- We have created a Working Group among our Steering Group members. We will meet this Thursday to receive feedback from Steering Group members, which also includes UNHCR.
- We have also shared our draft with our Advisory Committee which is a group of experts, international organizations, and civil society actors.
- The draft is a comprehensive paper trying to address 3 key areas:
  - 1) Highlight the key challenges related to internal disaster displacement, e.g. what makes disaster displacement different from conflict displacement.

There are specific challenges related to data knowledge and specific needs that IDPs face. We have also identified issues related to how the international system is set up and how the international response is looking. So, one part of the draft submission is essentially a problem statement teasing out some of the key challenges related to disaster displacement.
  - 2) What States and other stakeholders do about disaster displacement.

There are several global frameworks from which we can draw our response on disaster displacement. So, we look at global policy frameworks related to climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction.
  - 3) Spell out proposals to prevent, address, and find solutions more effectively, covering 5 sub-items:
    - a) How to strengthen the capacity of States and key stakeholders, for example through national policies and national frameworks.
    - b) How to build up a prevention agenda, how to pull in Disaster Risk Reduction / Climate Change Adaptation in a way that prevents displacement from happening in the first place, and if displacement is unavoidable how can we mitigate some of its impacts?
    - c) How to improve effectiveness is related to the Nexus, in particular how we can link up the humanitarian side with development? On the development side, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Action needs to come in both in the prevention and the response agenda.
    - d) Data on disaster displacement is limited, poor and it needs to be scaled up to have better data, e.g. there is no global stock data on disaster displacement, we do not know how those displaced found a solution and what has been the process.
    - e) Linked to the solution agenda and how to build up innovative financing, there are interesting examples of forecast based on financing, climate, and meteorological data to anticipate disaster displacement and also what could happen if you are able to tap into climate change financing and climate change adaptation finance.
- Looking forward to continuing work with a High-Level Panel, also through regional exchange and sharing on effective practices.

### Women's Refugee Commission

- A number of NGOs are working on a joint submission around leaving no one behind: ensuring an age, gender, and diversity inclusive approach to internal displacement.
- We have a small group that has been working on the draft, which includes Plan International, Oxfam, Care International and the Women's Refugee Commission.
- The idea is, once we have a first draft, to share it broadly with other NGOs, States, UN Agencies, etc.
- Why are we focusing on age, gender, diversity – which includes disability-? First, to provide some recommendations that we would like to see the Panel put forward but also in terms of how the Panel is going to be consulting IDPs, given the challenges with COVID-19.



- We are also talking about an AGD approach with a human rights lens. A lot of human rights instruments do not go into detail.
- We are also talking about why an AGD approach includes meaningful participation, collecting, analyzing disaggregated data, and making sure that we are protecting people and understanding what those protection threats are.
- Underlying the AGD approach is gender equality and ensuring non-discrimination in different laws and policies. We are trying to push the Panel for more gender equality.
- We are also looking at ways to ensure prevention of gender-based violence, an area that is often exacerbated during displacement.
- So we are looking at what we can do to push the Panel to think with an AGD approach, how can they make some recommendations that will be more inclusive of all types of IDPs regardless of age, gender, diversity. We would like others to contribute and send that message by joining us with the draft submission.

## 4. Open discussion

### Afghanistan

- We are currently working on our submission, focusing on:
  - 1) The need for the establishment of an international forum for discussion, looking at IDP issues, and seeking support for the IDP situations.
  - 2) The need for national policies for each country is also underlined. Afghanistan has a national policy; we think this is helping every country to address IDP issues at national level. We also wish to take into account a whole of displacement approach because we face the issue of refugees, returnees, IDPs in Afghanistan.
  - 3) The Humanitarian-Development Nexus: The challenge of coronavirus is proof that the Nexus is very important.
  - 4) Whole-of-community approach: As much as the problems of IDPs are important to be addressed this also depends on host communities. The inclusion of IDPs in peace processes is vital because conflict management and inclusion of IDPs is helping to prevent more conflicts in the future.
  - 5) An important source of donor commitments in supporting the cohesive and comprehensive treatment of all subgroups of displaced persons. Importance of the engagement and actions of the private sectors on the need of IDPs.
- We want to share some of the best practices such as the Citizens Charter National Priority Program in Afghanistan, funded by the World Bank and on our priority areas for return and reintegration, in close partnership with UNHCR.

### ICVA

- Interested to hear about COVID-19 inclusion in the written submissions.
- There is a question as to whether the Panel would consider submissions from Regional Groups.

### Giovanni Cassani

- Yes, the Panel would consider submissions from Regional Groups.

### Save the Children

- We are planning to write a submission with a strong focus on children. In many contexts, half the IDPs are children, therefore this focus would be important to find solutions.
- We are planning to look at 4 main themes:



- 1) Education: unfortunately IDP children often do not have access to quality education.
  - 2) Child protection: to address protection issues children face in internal displacement. A strong focus both on Education and Child protection would be on the integration of IDPs in planning of national education systems and in the national child protection system, which is something critical to ensure protection and solutions.
  - 3) Mental health and psychological support: We have conducted surveys in Iraq, Yemen, Syria with internally displaced children and all the surveys highlighted very strong issues around mental health issues. This is something which is neglected and should be addressed.
  - 4) Durable solutions for children in the context of internal displacement.
- We notice the HLP is willing to organize online consultations with IDPs. We would be happy to work with the Secretariat on this.

### Norwegian Refugee Council

- We are currently working on a written submission with four areas of focus.
  - 1) Quality funding and the importance of multiyear funding and pushing for an increase in this type of funding.
  - 2) Reducing administrative burdens, specifically looking at harmonizing program cycle and as it pertains to proposals cost classification, reporting, and narrative, financial reporting.
  - 3) Innovative financing particularly around leadership and drawing on many of the recommendations from the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, which we have seen traction on but on a small scale.
  - 4) Humanitarian financing, financing the Nexus.
- Lastly, NRC would be interested in taking up further dialogue on humanitarian financing research with the Panel.
- We would also suggest that actors could sign onto the PDD submission.

### GP20

- We will be having a submission from GP20 which is a multi-stakeholder initiative bringing together Member States, UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, the World Bank, and others.
- The submission is drafted on the basis of work done so far in the GP20 lifespan (since 2018). Over the past 2.5 years, we have had multi-stakeholder discussions, events, initiatives.
- We are pulling out all of the good practices that have been spoken about along the way around national responsibility, durable solutions, financing, data, response and we have added another section entirely devoted to the engagement of internally displaced persons.
- The submission is around 7 pages we are very focused on what worked on the ground.
- The draft is with the GP20 co-chairs at the moment which are OCHA and UNHCR. We will circulate it later this week to all of the G20 partners and others who might be interested, such as the Platform on Disaster Displacement.
- We also hope to work with the Panel Secretariat on regional exchanges and webinars for the rest of the year.

### ICVA

- We have heard a wide range of interventions tackling most of the call for submissions.
- There is also the call from the Secretariat to help in consultations with IDPs and host communities.
- One question was whether the PDD submission is open to other organizations signing on? Maybe that could give more weight to the submission.



## Platform on Disasters Displacement

- PDD is a State-led initiative, under the leadership of France, Fiji, and 17 other Steering Group members. As mentioned, we will be discussing the submission later this week.
- If someone would like to support the submission and endorse the overall recommendations, nothing is better than that, this is a public good that increases its value the more it is used.
- The submission itself will follow the Steering Group channel. I do not think there is an opportunity to add names or organizations on the back of the submission but that does not prevent anyone from sending as a separate email to the High-Level Panel Secretariat, indicating their support to the submission.
- A question for Giovanni on the request for extension of the mandate of the Panel in time: until when is it asked for?

## United Kingdom (DIFID)

- We are very supportive of the Panel in the UK and we stand ready to do our part on the issue of IDPs.
- We are currently writing a submission across our country network. We will focus on four priorities 1) Improving protection for IDPs 2) Better identifying and enabling IDPs access and what they need the most 3) Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus 4) Coordination between agencies.

## Colombia

- Expressing some of views regarding data that has been shown in the PowerPoint Presentation, which is misleading. The data shown for Colombia referred to historical figures (since 1985), not over the past one or two years; one of the issues that the Panel has to take into account is the question of data.
- Colombia will be happy to share our best practices through our written submission.

## 5. Concluding remarks

### HLP Secretariat

#### Giovanni Cassani

- The process of defining the extension of the mandate is still being discussed. We took into account that the work of the Panel and the final recommendations would not be as relevant, and as important if they did not include enough regional consultations and face-to-face visits in affected countries, talking with governments, affected communities and individuals within host communities and IDPs.
- Hopeful that after October 2020 it will be possible to restart at least some of the travels and ideally in 2021 some of the country visits.
- For now, the request is aiming at an extension of the mandate of the Panel until September 2021, but it still needs to be agreed.
- We will read the written submissions with attention and a lot of interest. We will certainly be able then to provide feedback to all stakeholders in terms of what are the major trends, what are the different categories advocating for, so that you would have a sense as well of what has been proposed by the different actors.
- Wishing a good work for those who are still writing this submission and hope that the extension will allow for additional reflections and consultations.
- The Secretariat is available in case you have any questions, any doubt and you would like to reach out to us to clarify any of those points:



## ICVA

- We hope the meeting was useful in mapping the topics and what is going to be highlighted in the written submissions. This should be helpful for all of those that are advanced or less advanced in their work.
- Thankful for the two additional weeks to work on the submissions.
- After this meeting there can be some more discussions on the sides between those of you working on similar aspects.
- We will continue to support ICVA members and, as much as we can, other constituencies on the work for the submissions. One aspect is that we will work on developing a summary of this meeting in coordination with the co-Chairs of the Group-of-Friends and then make sure that we can share that to all you before the deadline of the 8 May, so it can be useful.
- We hope to issue also an explainer paper on the Panel to explain the work being done and how NGOs can continue to contribute to the work of the Panel.
- The attendance today highlighted the importance of the topic and the fact that so many of you are interested and working on written submissions, despite the COVID situation, indicates how important the initiative is.