



High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement
Notes on the inaugural meeting with stakeholders
Palais des Nations, Geneva, 25 February 2020

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Opening:

George Okoth-Obbo

- Stress this is the first meeting of a process of engagement, which will last 12 months.
- The Panel is eager to hear from constituencies represented in the room. Also ready to speak to issues you may raise.

Daniel Kaberuka

- The Panel is eager to hear from UN agencies, NGOs and Civil Society stakeholders.
- The Panel knows this constituency has extensive experience to share. We want you to be rank and candid with us.
- The Panel started its work this morning with a meeting with the UNSG who underlined his expectations. He asked the Panel to “think outside of the box” and stressed the following points:
 - The visibility around Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) issues has declined in recent years.
 - The issue has fallen through the cracks of the Global Compacts;
 - When the IDPs issue is still visible, it is mainly in relation to immediate humanitarian emergencies, but not considering longer-term perspectives, livelihoods/employment opportunities, lost generations, etc.
 - Importance of ensuring rights of people are respected, understanding they are citizens in the countries in question.
 - Importance of partnerships with a variety of organizations, including those which can contribute through funding.
 - IDP issues to be considered within the context of the 2030 SDGs and changes around demographics; climate change; technology; large movements of people to cities. All trends affecting internal displacement, particularly in Africa and Asia.
- The Panel will be working from this broad landscape. Is there a focus the Panel should look for? Are there things that the Panel has forgotten or underestimated? We welcome your inputs.
- Short introduction of the HLP members¹.

Interventions from the floor:

UNHCR (Filippo Grandi)

- Welcome the Panel as I haven’t had the opportunity to do it yet.
- Happy to see the composition of Panel and the Expert Advisory Group. They have the right experience and expertise.
- UNHCR has a stake in this issue and a mandated responsibility in terms of protection.
- We also have expertise to contribute and we remain at your disposal during the course of your work.

¹ Panel members’ name and background available here: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/personnel-appointments/2019-12-03/high-level-panel-internal-displacement>



- UNHCR is particularly interested in the protection issue within the current UN system. UNHCR has a lead role in protection area within the and 'so-called' Cluster system and we are eager to engage with you on this.
- Last year during preparations for this Panel, together with UN agencies, UNHCR has insisted on the Solutions angle. Solutions are diverse and often available but not pursued enough for lack of energy funding/resources and attention.
- We fully realize this involves development actors too, as well as particular approaches in e.g. urbanization contexts. Ready to help the Panel bridge the gap between humanitarian and development actors, particularly drawing on our experience on the refugee side.

ICVA

- 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 PDD.
- 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 '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 developing lessons from past developments in the ecosystem. We also suggest looking at both Global Compacts relevance for IDP response.

- Furthermore, the Panel should be able to 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.

IOM

- IOM has seconded a staff to serve on the Secretariat.
- The next 12 months represent a catalytic moment, an opportunity for fresh thinking.
- This is a new approach: there has never been a Panel like this one.
- We are building upon the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and we are looking forward for a system that addresses the issue of internal displacement.
- IOM encourages the Panel to:
 - Look at Accountability to Affected People, building upon the GP20 work.
 - It is important to consider access issues and look for durable solutions for IDPs through a Nexus approach.
 - IOM has a large portfolio of IDP interventions and we realize the need to move with partners.
 - We have expertise on data, camp coordination and camp management, assistance through distribution of non-food items, including in natural disaster.
- IOM is happy to have a principled discussion and be a bridge with Member States.



InterAction

Essential aspect for the HLP's consideration

- InterAction and its NGO members advocated for the HLP to be created and are very invested in making sure that it leads to tangible results for internally displaced people across the world.
- The HLP's added value is its political weight, visibility, and access to high-level engagement across a range of global stakeholders. These factors should be leveraged to drive political will and long-term investments toward specific roadmaps or "compacts" that promote durable solutions for IDPs.
- The "compact" should include clear commitments by affected states and communities, international donors, UN agencies and other stakeholders to achieve mutually agreed upon activities and targets. Orienting actors around a common problem and agreed solution set is necessary to take concrete steps toward reducing internal displacement and dismantling barriers to durable solutions.
- The "compacts" should be outcome-oriented and should include a range of legal, administrative, financial, and programmatic actions.
- The international community has recent experience, largely led by World Bank efforts, in creating longer term development plans to advance national progress on the SDGs in forced displacement contexts. While there is room for improvement, these pilots have led to ground-breaking policy reforms for refugee rights and self-reliance including in Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Uganda. It is rare that we are presented with the opportunity to implement.
- Approaches that have already been piloted and from which we can draw lessons learned as we chart the way forward in a similar "compact" for internal displacement contexts.
- The roadmaps should build on progress already made through existing legal frameworks and processes including the Kampala Convention, the GP20 Plan of Action and the ongoing work of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The HLP could also identify ongoing processes that need a boost of attention, visibility or concerted investment that the Panel is uniquely positioned to provide.
- The roadmaps must also be underpinned by the rights of IDPs and responsibility toward them set out in The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the international legal frameworks (international human rights law and international humanitarian law).
- The Panel's final report should be viewed as the conclusion to the first part of an international process, not its end. Follow-up mechanisms and an actionable plan, driven by dedicated senior leadership with high-level visibility should be established to drive the agenda forward after February 2021.
- The HLP should emulate the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing that gave rise to the Grand Bargain, a high-level, multi-stakeholder policy agreement that is still progressing years later.
- Accountability towards meeting the needs of IDPs is extremely limited and they are largely left out of the data collected to measure progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Panel should prioritize follow-up measures to track and review progress toward IDP inclusion in the SDGs to increase accountability in delivering the "leave no one behind" pledge contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Engagement of Stakeholders

- NGOs would like to thank the Panel and Secretariat for including NGOs and civil society on the agenda of this inaugural meeting and hope that this will be the case for all future HLP meetings.
- Ensuring robust civil society participation is key to the HLP's success. NGOs are essential partners for in-depth context and statistical analysis, identification of IDP-specific vulnerabilities, and for designing appropriate programmatic and policy interventions to address these challenges. These are all important factors for maintaining a community-level perspective that is crucial for ensuring



efforts target the priority concerns of IDPs and affected host communities, and to avoid interventions that are disconnected from their reality.

- Internally displaced persons and affected communities should be consulted, and their perspectives consistently used to evaluate whether proposed actions will have a tangible impact on their circumstances.
- Recommend that the HLP develop “consultation streams” for stakeholders, including civil society and affected populations to systematically, meaningfully and regularly engage with the HLP over the next 12 months. Stakeholder should have the opportunity to provide feedback on developing concepts.

Daniel Kaberuka

- We are keen to work with NGOs.
- Note that the Panel is independent in the whole meaning of the sense and this is the only way we can “look outside of the box”.

Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response

- Dear colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to address the panel on behalf of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response.

First: a strong focus on children

- There are **17 million children living in internal displacement because of conflict or violence around the world**, and millions more whose displacement was associated with disasters, climate change or other causes. Given that more than 40 per cent of all people internally displaced by conflict and violence are under the age of 18, any attempt at preventing or responding to internal displacement should include a strong focus on girls and boys. They have remained invisible in internal displacement data and overlooked in many policies and debates on internal displacement. It is important that the particular vulnerability of children and women amongst internally displaced people are at the core on any recommendation.

Secondly: people and rights-based approach

- We second the voices calling for the panel to take a people-centred, rights-based approach.
- To ensure that the Panel’s recommendations are informed by, and foster, continued and increased IDP participation in the planning and processes that affect them, we would encourage the panel to build strong links to existing work under the Grand Bargain participation workstream and through IASC Results Group 2. There is a strongly emerging consensus on best practice that is fully applicable to situations of internal displacement. A particular emphasis would be needed on ensuring meaningful participation of children. There are good examples in last year report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs which was focusing on internally displaced children.
- We recommend that the work of the High-Level panel must be focused on rights. Too often, when people leave their home communities, they are treated as second class citizens. In many ways, displacing internally should be a better option for those affected by conflict and disaster – they will be supported by familiar government services and more familiar with local cultures that they would be if they fled abroad – but in practice they are often treated as though they have become second class citizens, and somehow transformed from being productive members of society to a burden. Focusing on a rights-based approach, with a strong emphasis on child rights, will minimize both the perception and reality.

Third: Solutions

- We would reiterate what has been said about the importance of focusing on solutions. In particular, with ever larger proportions of the internally displaced finding shelter within urban environments, approaches that support access to essential services – education health and protection in particular - in urban areas are critical.



Fourth: Data

- This approach must be backed up with better data. The recent report of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre *Twice invisible*, highlights that many internally displaced people (IDPs) of all ages are often unaccounted for, and that a lack of disaggregated data makes it impossible to address the differing needs of different groups. Full Sex and Age disaggregation is critical to understanding vulnerability and meeting the needs of the internally displaced, as well as for coherent national and international policy towards internal displacement.
- Improved data is also critical for a better understanding of how the climate crisis will impact on internal displacement. It is broadly accepted that global heating will result in more displacement, but the evidence for this is mixed and a nuanced understanding of what drives displacement and its impact on women, men, girls and boys is essential for the Panel's work to be applicable in the coming years.

Fifth: Partnership and finance

- Finally, we would encourage the panel to explore the full range of resourcing partners. There is undoubtedly a role for the international financial Institutions in developing a resourcing architecture that supports affected states in a sustainable manner, but there is also potential in Impact Bonds, Islamic finance and an expansion in traditional donor funding. Sufficient funding is essential to support affected states to invest to reduce harm, ensure protection and provide the services that are needed both by those displaced, and by those who offer them shelter.
- All members of SCHR stand ready to work with the High-Level on Internal Displacement. All the SCHR members have large programs responding to internal displacement and we are willing to contribute our first-hand experiences of working with IDPs to inform the discussions and recommendations of the panel over the next twelve months.

The World Bank

- Congratulate the appointment of the Panel.
- Cognizant of the ambitious program and short time to achieve it.
- We refer to meetings George had with our staff in DC and in Geneva.
- We believe that the work of the HLP is of critical importance to the international community to better address issues faced by IDPs and host communities.
- This is an area where the WB Group has been active and is likely to scale up its support in the period to come, particularly under IDA 19.
- Honored and gratified by your kind offer to support the work of the Secretariat, including in data with potential useful contributions of the Joint Data Center.
- Building on positive experience we have had with similar arrangements to support the CRRF Secretariat, we propose that a Bank staff be seconded to the HLP Secretariat on a part-time basis. Such an arrangement has worked well both to provide effective support to the team and to ensure supportive relationship between the Secretariat and the world Bank Group.

International Committee of the Red Cross

- We very much welcome the creation of the High-Level Panel on IDPs as more needs to be done to address internal displacement.
- A number of clear and relevant recommendations and analysis have already been made on how to respond to internal displacement. We hope that the Panel will trigger much needed action.
- We believe that this panel presents a unique opportunity to:
 - a) showcase existing good practices at the local and regional level and facilitate exchanges across borders;
 - b) promote cooperation between actors working on internal displacement;



- c) and create a political momentum that highlights the incentives for all to address internal displacement.
- We would like to make three points:
 - First, it is essential to keep protection at the center in discussions on durable solutions. Achieving a durable solution requires that people and their rights are protected – there is no sustainable return, local integration or relocation without safety, security and people being able to access essential services and live dignified lives. Similarly, while development and peace-building and key components of a discussion on durable solutions, humanitarian considerations need to be part of the conversation.
 - Second, we hope that the prevention of displacement, notably through respecting and ensuring respect for IHL in situations of armed conflict, will be considered by the Panel. Stronger efforts are needed not only to support IDPs to achieve a durable solution, but also to prevent the emergence of conditions leading to displacement in the first place.
 - Thirdly, we encourage the panel to foster a more holistic approach to addressing conflict- and disaster-related internal displacement. In our experience, disaster and armed conflict often intersect, causing internal displacement and contributing to its protracted nature by exacerbating people’s vulnerability.
 - Finally, we very much want to support the work of the panel, its secretariat and the expert group. Some of you have already met with our delegations in various countries and I know my colleagues have extended their support. We stand ready to share our operational perspective and expertise in protection, IHL and the Kampala Convention, urban displacement, ensuring a sustainable humanitarian impact, and more broadly, work with you to stimulate engagement and action.

GP20

1. The GP20 Initiative is a three-year, multi-stakeholder consultative process focused on internal displacement. It was launched in 2018 to mark the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Our aim is a more joined-up response to internal displacement and more action on the ground for the internally displaced.
2. We welcome the establishment of the High-Level Panel which brings together the right mix of perspectives and expertise needed to address the complex phenomenon of internal displacement. It is a golden opportunity for fresh thinking to prevent and address internal displacement in the face of increasing displacement.
3. Over the past two and a half years we have brought together UN Member States, UN agencies, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, NGOs, RC/RC Movement, World Bank and others at the global, regional and national levels for focused action and reflection on internal displacement.
4. Together, we have been implementing a Plan of Action for Preventing, Addressing and Resolving Internal Displacement. Along the way we have convened regular focused discussions on internal displacement and established platforms, networks and a community of practice which are available as resources for the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.
5. Concretely these include:
 - a. Regional exchanges on internal displacement: two this year in Americas and Asia Pacific on the role of local authorities and disaster displacement respectively. Reports from IGAD and ECOWAS exchanges last year can be shared with the Secretariat.
 - b. Compilation of effective practices on preventing and addressing internal displacement: a repository of lessons learned and best practice captured through GP20 in an effort to cross-

- fertilize and inspire action elsewhere, a draft to be presented in October 2020 at a seminar on GP20 and internal displacement called for by the Human Rights Council.
- c. Steering Group meetings: multi-stakeholder thematic discussions where Member States are invited to share successes, challenges and priorities, this year's meetings will focus on disaster displacement, urban displacement and the humanitarian-displacement-peace nexus
 - d. Studies and thematic webinars: on funding and financing mechanisms for preventing and addressing internal displacement, effective practices on how data on internal displacement is being used, peacebuilding, law and policy, IDP participation
6. We stand ready to share our observations gathered throughout this process and collaborate on events, research and consultations that can support the work of the Panel. Thank you.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

- As a global humanitarian network, the **IFRC represents a network of 192 National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies**, working with displaced communities affected by disaster, conflict and climate change.
- On behalf of Red Cross Red Crescent network, the **IFRC welcomes this High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement** and the spotlight that it can shine on the issues related to displacement as well as concrete and practical solutions.
- At the end of 2018, some 17.2 million people were newly displaced because of disasters, most of which were the result of weather-related events such as cyclones, storms and monsoon rains. **Disasters triggered 61% of internal displacement globally**. These figures are a stark reminder of the failure to prevent, address and reduce internal displacement, which is one of today's most pressing global challenges.
- **Displacement is also increasingly urban**. Of the average 17 million people at risk of being displaced by floods, over 80% are in urban or semi-urban areas.
- Indeed, internal displacement is an increasingly important area of work for the IFRC and its National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies. The newly adopted **Strategy 2030** recognizes Migration and Displacement as one of the defining features of the 21st Century, and one of the five global challenges that the IFRC must prioritize.
- In 2018 IFRC undertook a year-long global review of IFRC and National Society engagement on internal displacement, which resulted in a report "**Strengthening IFRC Responses to Internal Displacement in Disasters**" and set of recommendations.
- At the Council of Delegates in December last year, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement passed a resolution titled: "**Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on internal displacement: Ten years on**". The Resolution reaffirms the engagement of all the Movement's components within the framework of the Movement's Internal Displacement Policy (2009) and in accordance with the Fundamental Principles. Specifically, the resolution focuses on the following critical areas of commitment:
 - Better responding to urban internal displacement – significant numbers of IDPs live in urban environments, outside of camps, but the response to their needs and those of host communities remains inadequate;
 - Enhancing efforts to prevent the conditions that lead to internal displacement - Including through respect for IHL in situations of armed conflict and disaster risk reduction and resilience initiatives in all situations and to mitigate the effects of climate change.
 - Strengthening protection during displacement - including by taking measures to reduce the risks that IDPs may face in each phase of displacement and by effectively implementing the 'minimum protection approach' of the Protection within the Movement framework;



- Enhancing support for durable solutions, to enable safe, voluntary and dignified return, local integration in the current locations or resettlement in another part of the country according to IDPs' wishes and priorities.
- The IFRC and its RCRC NS play an important role in terms of **protecting people against arbitrary displacement and in reducing the risk of displacement** caused by natural and man-made hazards. Understanding the events that cause displacement is seen as critical to prevent their recurrence. The focus is not so much on the root causes – be they armed conflict/violence, natural disasters, climate change, poverty - but on factors that trigger displacement in a given context.
- **The challenges that are often encountered when responding to situations of displacement** include: a) the **perception** that displacement following rapid-onset disasters is short term; b) **resource limitations** and a lack of donor appetite to support longer term plans; c) **access** to displaced people who may flee to locations which are difficult to reach for assessments and assistance; and c) **timing** which is critical if we want to adopt responses that are relevant, for instance through the preparation of comprehensive emergency operations plans in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.
- More often we see responses intended to mitigate and reduce migratory flows, focusing on internal displacement through a **'migration' lens**. This could result in solutions that are essentially designed to **prevent IDPs from crossing international borders**, as opposed to focusing on **meeting the needs of IDPs**. There is a risk that NS may become instrumentalized, implementing donor agenda's rather than recognizing IDPs and responding to their needs.
- **What do we want the High Level Panel to look closely at as part of the consultation process?**
- Localization agenda, including supporting capacities of local organizations that work with IDPs (who are always present in communities) as well as involving 'at risk' disaster and climate communities in the decisions that affect their lives
- Access to essential services and protection
- Understanding focus on intersecting vulnerability and
- Durable solutions – enhanced efforts to enable safe, dignified return and local integration or resettlement are needed.

UNFPA

- We all stand to benefit from your work.
- UNFPA would like to leverage the interdependent themes the Panel put on the table.
- UNFPA is delighted to support you. Will submit set of recommendations.
- **Data:** Mentioned before but important to highlight that we all know that we see what we measure. Data on vulnerable IDPs Data population, particularly sex and age disaggregated, is often lacking even though this is essential to ensure access to life-saving services including sexual and reproductive services and GBV Protection and Response. Those are key areas for us.
- We work to support population data systems, including census, survey, registration systems and wide range of efforts to improve IDP statistics, including advocacy efforts for the collection on sex disaggregated data on IDPs.
- GBV: Women and girls are at risk of intimate violence, partner violence, intimidation and abuse, forced/ early marriage, harmful practices at any time. We also know that internal displacement is often linked to or accompanied by a weakening or collapse of protective system and social networks that can lead to reduced access to health and protection services and accountability, meaning an environment of impunity. This is a critical point that comes from our experience in leading the interagency standing committee mandate on GBV under UNHCR global protection cluster.
- Advise the Panel to not only look at GBV response and friendly safe space but defining referral mechanisms.



- **Sexual and reproductive health and rights:** A core lifesaving component of humanitarian response. Continuously under-resourced and under-prioritized.
- Internal displacement causes additional stress on existing health systems and sexual and reproductive health. Lot of work on implementation of minimum services package is necessary, insuring IDPs and host communities receive services to avoid maternal and new born mortality. Includes restorations of health facilities, inter-agency coordination and work to establish access to reproductive health services.
- **Supplies:** We know that in displacement settings, the collapse of health system also includes interrupted medical supply chains, destruction of health facilities, infrastructures and also lack of access to functioning health facilities. Availability of lifesaving essential drugs, basic equipment and supplies are crucial to ensure that women, girls men and boys have access to lifesaving services. We work in close collaboration with NGOs, local partner, and UN on this.
- **Youth:** Young people's need is unique and are often not systematically addressed in humanitarian response. Young women are particularly at risk of violence and death.
- Would like to bring to you the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, that we co-lead with IFRC and how need and rights of young people are addressed and how they are consulted.
- **Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse:** A core non-negotiable obligation of all humanitarian actors and UNFPA feels particularly responsible as we are the lead for the GBV prevention and response in IDP settings. Also because in Sept 2020, UNFPA will take over from UNHCR as the interagency standing committee championship on PSEA and will work to establish improved referral mechanisms system, ensuring survivors received support.

UNICEF

- Welcome the establishment of and ready to contribute to work of the Panel.
- Internal displacement is of great interest for UNICEF as more children than ever are displaced internally due to conflict, violence and disasters.
- Some estimate that 17 million children make 42% of the total displaced population.
- Lack of disaggregated Data on IDPs makes it hard to understand the scale and impact of internal displacement on children.
- Internally displaced children and youth face critical lack of access to basic services, denying them their rights to education, health, child and social protection. Girls, UASC s and displaced children with disabilities face additional age, gender and situations specific risks.
- The HLP comes at a critical time, following the adoption of the GCR and GCM, both of which recognized and responded to the centrality of children in refugee response and migration governance.
- The HLP can help shed light on the specific risks and solutions for children and youth in situations of internal displacement. The HLP can recommend concrete ways and opportunities to achieve the promise of the SDG agenda to truly leave no child behind.
- To inform this discussion and ensure child rights and needs are fully considered, UNICEF is working on a new brief on risks and rights abuses faced by IDP children and youth. Looking at latest data and zooming in on education, inclusion and participation as key pathways to change the lives of million children for the better. Will share with HLP Secretariat when published.
- UNICEF appointed a senior staff (deputy emergency director) to participate in the work of the HLP Secretariat.

OCHA

- Welcome the establishment of the Panel.



1. Accountability to affected populations: should be at the heart of the Panel considerations. Also about thinking about how you will keep IDPs and host communities truly, meaningfully engaged. This is critical.
 - As we heard, we all have existing feedback loops. As a Panel, you will have to decide how you wish to consult: will there be focus groups, will it be at every step of the way? This is something challenging to all of us but urge you to consider how you want to do that.
2. State leadership is critically important, with support from the UN and NGOs but also local actors in the widest meaning of the word: local authorities, thinking about how to include less typical actors, e.g. private sector which often integrate IDPs, employing them and making sure they have durable solutions. Great to see you have at least one representative from private sector on the panel but also suggest you look at local businesses that are at the forefront.
3. Anticipatory financing, something the Emergency Relief Coordinator has pushed for. It is incredibly important to think about how to use anticipatory financing to assist displaced people.
4. Data interoperability: There is the UNHCR-WB Joint Data Center, an IOM Center, the Humanitarian Data Center in the Hague. A plethora of initiatives and the challenge is to link them up to ensure they are interoperable, connected to States systems. We would also suggest you look at the findings of the SG HLP on digital cooperation, which flags issues around digital identity and data protection.
5. Utilizing synergies among all of us here is also important. Something we haven't yet gotten right is the relationship between humanitarian and development actors. How do we better link up the two, especially with regard to durable solutions?
 - We have a lot of tools, mechanisms, systems, guiding principles, etc. Hence one difficulty is not seeing the wood from the trees; connecting all the many dots that needs to be connected. The work of the Panel should be guided by the questions: what are the "tipping points"? What are you going to truly achieve to make a difference?
 - Important thing is to challenge us and instill fresh thinking. We are all in our institutional boxes and you need to take us outside of our comfort zone.

Danish Refugee Council

- Welcomed the strong focus the HLP's TOR has on Solutions. We would also like to highlight the centrality of protection and thus see Protection of IDPs and the rights of IDPs to figure prominently in the work of the Panel and the report. We similarly believe that prevention of internal displacement should be kept at the core and go hand in hand with the response and solutions to internal displacement.
- Noted that we wish to see a high ambition of the panel looking at *prevention of* internal displacement, ensuring *protection* of IDPs and finally in finding solutions.
- Encourage the panel to make the best use of the existing knowledge and ongoing efforts around internal displacement. In this regard, we see clear linkages between the HLP and in particular GP20. Referred to the presentation by the GP20 coordinator and emphasized the collaborative efforts done under the GP20 Plan of Action as a joint effort by States (affected States as well as donors), UN agencies and NGOs.
- Mentioned that we look forward to hearing more about how the consultations with NGOs and IDPs will play out.

Oxfam

- Good afternoon, Oxfam supports the statements already delivered by the NGO networks so I'd just likely to briefly emphasize three key areas for consideration as you develop your workplan:
1. Internally displaced people and the host communities who are often first to respond, know the solutions that are needed but their voice is often ignored. Better mechanisms are needed to ensure **meaningful participation of internally displaced persons and host communities in all**



- processes affecting them**, including development processes. During the next year the panel should take a process that ensures that the participation of internally displaced people is prioritized.
2. The panel must take a right-based approach and ensure that no one is left behind, by paying attention to groups that are often marginalized. In particular, **women and girls face specific needs during displacement yet are also agents of change in terms of solutions**. *We agree that you should be guided by the inter-agency policy position on Women's And Girls' Rights And Agency In Humanitarian Action: A Life-Saving Priority [and also the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based violence in Emergencies?? Tbc My addition!]*.
 3. The Panel's work should also bring improvements in the mechanisms to respond to future internal displacement, ensuring **effective coordination and funding mechanisms**. In this regard, Oxfam recommends the panel also builds upon the existing work on localization such as through the Grand Bargain or Charter for Change.
- We welcome this opportunity for civil society dialogue with the panel and look forward to working with you to develop recommendations that can bring tangible and durable improvements in the lives of Internally Displaced Persons and host communities.

OHCHR

- Importance of ensuring the protection of the Human Rights of all people, including internally displaced populations, is at the core of our mandate. Stand ready to support efforts of the Panel in ensuring a people-centered, human rights-based approach to the recommendations.
- We wish to flag opportunities to draw on existing efforts and ensuring synergies. One is the recommendations presented by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs to the UNGA and Human Rights Council.
- Also to mention that within the context of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR will be supporting the organization of an intersessional panel mandated by HR Council to follow up on implementation a plan of action for advancing prevention, protection and solutions for IDPs. This could be of interest in informing the recommendations of the Panel.
- We stand ready to support efforts to look into linkages between the GCM and GCR when it comes to IDPs.

APRRN

- We greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide brief initial interventions on behalf of our members at your inaugural meeting today. We warmly welcome the creation of the High-Level Panel, for which we hold high expectations (notwithstanding the time limitations with which you are faced). Understanding that there will be opportunities to make written submissions, I will make only brief observations now. And APRRN endorses the interventions made by our other NGO colleagues here today.
- APRRN comprises approximately 400 members, mostly NNGOs and CSOs, across 30 countries in the region. Originally established with the mission of advancing the rights of refugees, we have, over the last 7 years, broadened our scope of work with the adoption of a Vision for Regional Protection which includes IDPs and other categories of displaced persons, as well as stateless persons in situ. This reflects the people-centred orientation and rights-based approach of our members, focusing upon all 'people in need of protection' and recognizing that people will often traverse different categories of displacement, whilst requiring protection and a durable solution. For instance, returnees will often become internally displaced; internal displacement may be a precursor to flight across a border; conflicts are often waged in areas highly susceptible to disaster, which can precipitate displacement of the already displaced; and displaced persons – especially women and girls – may be at heightened risk of trafficking, including across borders.
- Some matters which we would underscore:

- While not unique in this, the Asia-Pacific is a disaster-prone, indeed disaster-beset region, suffering escalations in extreme weather events, in which climate change effects and internal displacement (as well as displacement more broadly) are supremely complex and urgent challenges. And there is also great diversity in the region with regard to conflicts, unchecked persecution, environmental factors and other matters. As such, we welcome the indication that the HLP may conduct regional consultations as well as country case studies. We would encourage case-studies which focus upon different elements of internal displacement, and regional consultations which allow for diverse voices to be heard and factors relating to under-represented situations and populations to be reflected in the report. To that end inclusion of virtual consultations might be helpful.
- The meaningful participation of affected people – both internally displaced people and those who host them – in informing the work of the HLP is vitally important. And to be meaningful, such participation must be safe, inclusive and impactful. The adoption of an AGD-responsive approach is critical, and the prominence of SGBV must be factored, and addressed within the report’s recommendations.
- We urge the HLP to bring a protection lens and rights-based approach to this important task, as well as a solutions-orientation and focus upon prevention.
- Finally, we recall the recognition within the New York Declaration of the need for effective strategies to respond to the urgent and complex challenges of internal displacement. Along with colleagues, we were disappointed by the very limited engagement with these hooks within the ensuing texts of the GCR and GCM. In its engagement with and consideration of key existing infrastructure and guidance, we encourage the HLP to revisit the NYD and its conceptual underpinnings, such as the importance of adopting a WOSA as a resource to inform your work, alongside the many others mentioned here today.
- Once again, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. APRRN stands ready to support you, as we can, in your highly important efforts.

Plan International

- **The High Level Panel should adopt a strong Age, Gender and Diversity approach in its work, taking into consideration the voices and diverse experiences of internally displaced persons, addressing in particular discrimination and challenges faced by girls and young women.**
- Gender- age- and disability blind policies, legislation and responses largely leaves several groups of Internally Displaced Persons, in particular adolescent girls and young women without access to services and decision-making. The experience of displacement most often substantially increases the risks for adolescent girls, due to their age and gender, generating additional discrimination on access to rights and on their freedom of movement.
- Therefore, the High Level Panel should provide specific guidance on how long-term solutions for IDPs can effectively tackle discrimination and policies, legislation and response can better age, gender and diversity responsive.
- **The High Level Panel should put gender equality and a rights-based approach in the heart of its mandate, ensuring that governments are able to fulfil their human rights obligation to all internally displaced children, particularly to adolescent girls.**
- Additionally to what my colleagues raised about the importance of a rights-based approach, particularly to children, achieving gender equality must be one of the key pillars of long-term solutions for IDPs, particularly for internally displaced adolescent girls and young women as one of the sustainable development goals and a key commitment from the World Humanitarian



Summit. A consultation with forcibly displaced girls in the Lake Chad Region showed they're still unable to access education, health or protection services and don't feel listened by governments and humanitarian actors.

- **The High Level Panel must ensure that protection of Internally Displaced Persons is a key parcel of the recommendations to all stakeholders, in particular for preventing and addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.**
- Protection of IDPs, including against sexual and gender-based violence is a key responsibility of States. However, SGBV against girls and young women continues to escalate among displaced communities, likely to be under-reported for a multitude of reasons, including the weakening of reporting mechanisms, the breakdown of community-based child protection systems, shame, stigma and fear. SGBV is both a cause of forced displacement and a consequence of the breakdown of family and community structures that accompany displacement.
- The High Level Panel should ensure that protecting all children against violence, including the prevention, mitigation and support for survivors of SGBV are a key part of its recommendations.

INTERSOS

- When working on solutions for internal displacement, it is important that the needs of all vulnerable groups are addressed, such as many groups already mentioned, including of women, boys and girls, people living with disabilities, and other groups. INTERSOS particularly wishes to emphasize the needs of specific groups that often face stigma, discrimination, and social exclusion - such as LGBTQI. They are often difficult to reach, so we would urge the High Level Panel to carefully consider this in its work.
- As already mentioned by a colleague from SCHR, INTERSOS wishes to emphasize that the vast majority of internal displacement takes place in urban settings. The response to urban displacement is much more complex and challenging than responses in rural settings. We would urge the High-Level Panel to incorporate this into its recommendations.

Platform on Disaster Displacement

- Representing the Secretariat of the Platform on disaster displacement, a state-led initiative working towards greater protection of persons displaced in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.
- As such, particularly welcome the panel's attention to persons affected by internal displacement in the context of disasters and climate change, obviously as linked to other displacement risks and drivers.
- Stress importance of prevention, protection and durable solutions as expressed by colleagues in the room.
- Congratulate panel for convening, thank them for listening to us, express support to their ambitious workplan.
- Challenge to build on all that has already been developed; they have been called to work at the time of GP20, not GP2 or 3, the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles so it will be important to identify those solutions that have been underused/ under-pursued so far and make recommendations how to 'make it work this time' - no less are our expectations to the Panel.
- They have an excellent advisory group to support them and we also look forward to collaborate by providing input and effective practices as they would see helpful.

Joint IDP Profiling Service

- The Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) commends the launch of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and thanks for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.



- Since 2009, JIPS has been a technical service entirely dedicated to supporting collaborative efforts to produce and use agreed-upon data and analysis on internal displacement situations. We have done so by bringing together governments, humanitarian and development actors, with a particular emphasis on:
 - Strengthening national capacity and data systems,
 - Informing response in urban internal displacements, and
 - Informing durable solutions to internal displacement
- Since 2009, JIPS has received 190 requests for support, and has been able to support over 100 exercises in more than 25 internal displacement contexts around the world. Based on this experience supporting field-level efforts to inform adequate responses and durable solutions to internal displacement, JIPS truly believes that:
- IDPs and their host communities affected by displacement deserve not only to be made visible through data, but most importantly that the data and analysis actually represents their situations, their needs, intentions and capacities. This requires the data to be of quality, reliable, collected and shared responsibly, shared back with the communities themselves, and above all, that this data is actually used and put into action by informing adequate responses and helping them progress towards a durable solution.
- JIPS has observed an increased demand from national and local governments requesting our support in order to take a more active role in improving the evidence base on their own internal displacement contexts. JIPS encourages the HLP to develop recommendations on how to strengthen national capacity and data systems, and on how humanitarian and development actors can coordinate and work more effectively with national and local authorities, national statistical offices, and other local actors, emphasizing not only on capacity building, but also capacity sharing and complementarity. JIPS is at your disposal to share lessons from our experience supporting and working with national and local governments, and national statistical offices in internal displacement contexts.
- As many of our colleagues already mentioned, JIPS believes in a people-centred, rights-based approach to durable solutions. We encourage the HLP to build on good practices and critically look at the lessons learned, the bottlenecks as well the progress made in this area, particularly from joint initiatives. A specific resource we want to highlight is the Interagency Durable Solutions Analysis and Indicator Library, an multi-stakeholder initiative led by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, which has operationalized the IASC framework and that is now being rolled out in several countries with support from JIPS, including Sudan and Ukraine. This represents a significant resource, as it has been developed jointly by humanitarian, development and government actors - many of which are present in this room - and because it has been subject to substantive technical discussions and piloting in seven internal displacement contexts. JIPS invites the HLP to contribute to making resources, such as the mentioned Indicator Library and Analysis Guide, more accessible to all relevant actors, particularly governments, so that wheels are not re-invented but strengthened and continuously improved and adapted to the changing displacement contexts and the people that need it the most.
- Our experience in the past 10+ years supporting joint efforts on displacement data, has demonstrated that the operationalization of the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding nexus really starts with the data: these diverse actors need to work together from the moment data and evidence are being collected, agreed upon and consolidated. JIPS encourages the HLP to look critically at current data practices and develop recommendations that encourage data responsibility, data complementarity, field-level efforts to harmonize data initiatives and responsible data management at national and global levels. As mentioned before, IDPs deserve to be represented accurately and responsibly by data.
- Finally, JIPS considers that substantial political and technical challenges remain for IDPs and host communities to have a more meaningful participation in data processes. More needs to be done



at both the advocacy and technical level to make sure displaced and displacement-affected communities are able to make informed decisions, express their preferences and actively contribute to the evidence base and the analysis that informs responses and durable solutions.

- To conclude, we commend this first step taken by the HLP to consult with key stakeholders. At JIPS we stand at your disposal to share lessons, good practice and critical perspectives based on our eleven years dedicated field-level efforts to improve the evidence base on internal displacement around the world.

Christian Aid

- Christian Aid would draw out one point in particular in these initial discussions, and this speaks to the practical implementation of some of ICVA's recommendations, and a point made by our colleague in IFRC, that of ensuring that the Panel's work address the implementation of international commitments regarding localization and accountability:
 1. if participation is to be meaningful, then there needs to be direct consultation with local and national communities. This requires practical support, quite simply, such as transport for local and national community representatives to attend consultation processes in capitals. How will the views of national and local actors help shape the consultation process itself? Actioning the Grand Bargain's Localization Workstream's results, such as lessons from the Accelerating Localization through Partnerships program, will be important.
 2. If assistance to displaced persons is to become truly accountable, then an investment needs to be made in local and national communities being in the driving seat and with appropriate feedback mechanisms at every level. The Panel's work might draw from broad experience implementing the Core Humanitarian Standard across the sector.
- Finally, we welcome the attention to climate change which has led to increased frequency and intensity of the El Nino phenomenon and increased drought risk. For example, we know that Cyclone Idai was climate enhanced and displaced 600,000 people across Southern Africa already affected by the extended drought. The second phase of the Action Plan of the UN FCCC Task Force on Displacement, operated by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, begins in April and presents an opportunity to advance related commitments in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Without climate resilience investments during humanitarian response and greater investment in climate adaptation, more than 143 million people could be forced to move by 2050 to escape the slow onset impacts of climate change.

Conclusion / reactions from Members of the Panel:

Daniel Kaberuka

- Obviously IDPs and their voice is at the center of all this. Without listening to IDPs and host communities, our work will not be complete.
- Rich conversation, floating many ideas that we will take back and reflect on. This is only iteration number one in our consultation with you and already the ecosystem in this room and the ideas coming out promise me that we will be partners in this journey.
- Want to emphasize again that we are completely independent. The UNSG want it that way but that doesn't mean we are immune to listening to all kinds of ideas, including ideas that are out of the box.
- You insisted that we should not reinvent wheels and we should build on existing ideas. But we will also question/interrogate some of those ideas, build on them, figure out how to integrate them in a new paradigm, maybe. We are not simply here to extend knowledge. We are here



also to question some of the ways in which things have been done. Felt I should be saying this because this is what UNSG asked us.

- Someone asked what is the tipping point? Don't know if we should talk about a tipping point or turning point?

Paula Gavia

- Thanks for being here and for all your work.
- A bit overwhelmed because we know this is not all of the NGOs and platforms and UN Agencies but happy to hear that we count on you.
- This is very important and if we don't engage with you, this will be nothing. You have the expertise, the relationships with communities, the experience of what has worked and what has not work.
- Happy to know we are not alone. You are part of the Panel in a way and everything you said today is highly important.
- We don't want this to be a Panel that produce a report that is the ending point, in 12 months-time. It has to be the starting point or mid-term point because we have a long way to go.

Sima Samar

- Rich and helpful interventions.
- The protection of people in need is a shared responsibility of all of us. We can do it together quicker, sooner and more effectively.
- Good to hear about accountability. We all have to be accountable, not only governments, but the UN, other actors in all activities in support of vulnerable groups.
- Gender equality and women situation within IDP camps or other settings will an indicator of a safer and better place to live and we should all push for that.
- Thanks for supporting us on our bumpy road ahead.

Pauline Riak

- Congratulate all of you as individuals and organizations.
- Thinking of ICRC in particular, celebrating 150 years of the work they do. This is an extremely sad statement and at the same time a warming statement. Sad because we have had 150 years of people in dire needs; Warming because there are human beings, all of you in this room, dedicated to serving a noble cause.
- We will take your inputs into consideration. It is our hope that we will not let you down but that whatever we produce will have utility value.

George Okoth-Obbo

- How will we consult?
- One of the outcomes of the HLP meeting this week will be an agreement on its work plan, which includes a stream of stakeholder engagement and consultations. This will be shared with you in about a week after this meeting. It will enable us to do more.
- Envisaged that this process of consultations will take place at least at 3 levels: at global level, in which this medium will continue to operate; at regional level and at national level.
- In the coming weeks, the Panel's communication platform (web site) will go active. It will be friendly to communications, supportive of inputting, etc.
- We are looking at calling an engagement of the designated Focal Points in each organizations, so standby for communication from us on that.
- Giovanni Cassani will be in charge of stakeholder engagement and will share information on how to systematize things.



- It is foreseen that streams of work will exist, two types in particular:
 - consultations at national level with IDPs, hosts, affected populations. We are eager to take advantage of your work and support to make it more systematic than episodic.
 - thematic streams of consultations: already this morning the Panel considered streams on climate change, data and evidence, the triple nexus, etc. We will get back to you to see how to maximize your own initiatives in this context.

Federica Mogherini

- Significant for the HLP to start this morning with the UNSG himself. It gives the Panel significant political weight and expectations on our collective shoulders.
- It is also not only symbolic but also substantially important that we start our first day of work with you, in listening mode.
- As you said we don't start from scratch. Each situation and IDP is different from the other but there is a lot of good practices that need to be showcased and recognized.
- This is not about reinventing wheels indeed, but about making sure those wheels take us where we need to go and find solutions.
- This is why we had to start with you, as you work on the ground or enable people to work on the ground at different levels.
- Consultations will go one in Geneva, nationally and regionally as much as possible. We only have 12 months but we have many means to hear you, technology can help and inputs can come at any stage. We need to be open to the good that is existing but also – and this is maybe the part you want less to hear – getting out of our comfort zone.
- Getting out of our comfort zone is an objective and the most challenging: We have clear ToRs. We have general common understanding of what the problem is and what is needed. The real question mark for our work is how to make it happen. Which are the triggers, which are the incentives and political windows, synergies, coordinations that are needed or possible to be built to get where we know we should get. So I would personally very much appreciate if, in the coming months, we can move from the “we need this” to the “how do we get this done”.
- This is the priority: how do we make sure that different players to do what they should, are responsible for? How do we create the right incentives for them to feel the need or interest in doing this? How do we take the ‘maximum’ out of the ‘possible’ political momentum that we can have in front of us. These are the biggest questions in front of us and also for you as your expertise is not just about what to do but about how to build coalitions, create incentives, even sometimes financial incentives.
- For sure, the people centered and human rights-centered approach will be key: both displaced individuals and host communities have rights and we need to find ways to make them exercise their rights. This might be controversial in some places: how to build the political space for this to be possible is a challenge but it is important. We need a principled and people-centered approach but also pragmatic looking at practical solutions that we can put in place and recommend.
- We will have visits on the ground, we will listen to populations, otherwise our work would not be complete and would not even make sense.
- Prevention is essential and again controversial because preventing movements inside a country brings up delicate issues sometimes; Protection, durable solutions and data are key topics. We spent a lot of time discussing data today. This is crucial for effective response but also this marks a shift from denial to recognition, which in itself is something.
- HC Grandi mentioned earlier the diversity of backgrounds among Panelists. Few of us have a humanitarian background. Maybe we have hope that this diversity can help bridging the diversity of players that should be at play: the humanitarian, development, climate,



peacekeeping, political actors, the private sector, and maybe the others, e.g. the media, financing institutions. The buzz word is: come together.

- At first glance, we have a fragmented picture and it is difficult to get efficiency and effectiveness out of this picture. But there is hope that we can create synergies if we have the right incentives to do so. How to create synergies, coherence, common interests and approaches around actions that have different backgrounds, mandates and interests will be important and you can help on this as well.
- The large presence of civil society and UN agencies is very encouraging. We count very much on you. We understand the high expectations, which are ours as well. It is also a call for action on your part. You have a responsibility to make it work. Let's turn the high expectations in a high sense of responsibility for all of us.
- Producing a report is not difficult but producing a report that gives recommendations to trigger something more is our challenge. Let's be creative and come up with unconventional ideas. Let the good practices emerge. Let's see what doesn't work or is missing and needs to be brought in.

Nasser Judeh

- Rare occasion where I find myself speechless. Comments have been enriching and useful.
- Should also mention that I have another hat as member of the High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation. I was fortunate enough to participate in activities of the Global Alliance of Women Mediators. Think they should somehow be involved.

Daniel Kaberuka

- Turing point and tipping point? Let's see in a few months.
- One thing to reflect on as we end this meeting: example of 3 earthquakes: the terrible earthquake in Chile, where the State was able to respond. And the lower magnitude earthquake in Haiti. The one in Haiti ended up being a bigger disaster. Why? Because the State of Haiti was not in a position to perform its role.
- The day States are able to function and do what they have to do, for me this is the tipping point.