



High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement's call for written submissions: Exchange among Member States, NGOs, and other stakeholders (20 April 2020) Summary

Introduction

Following its inaugural meeting, the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement issued a [call for written submissions](#), aiming to generate bold, creative and practical ideas. With a **revised deadline set for 8 May 2020**, the submissions should feed into the Panel's work towards improved prevention, response, and solutions to internal displacement. 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. Submissions can be done in English, French, and Spanish.

To **facilitate the exchange and development of innovative ideas**, an online meeting was jointly organized on 20 April 2020 by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and the co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of the High-Level Panel, the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Norway. The objective was to provide a space for collective brainstorming and exchange perspectives on the written submissions being prepared.

Gathering **over 90 participants**, the meeting benefited from inputs from a variety of stakeholders, including representatives from Member States, NGOs, the UN system, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, GP20 and the Joint IDP Profiling Service. The high attendance, despite the COVID-19 situation, highlighted the importance of the topic and the level of **multi-stakeholder support the High-Level Panel can count on**.

Update from the Secretariat of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement:

The **Secretariat** of the High-Level Panel also contributed through opening remarks and inputs into the discussion. Reminding the purpose and objectives of the written submissions, the Secretariat highlighted how it has **adapted to the COVID-19 situation**, leveraging online meetings with the Panel and a variety of stakeholders while physical meetings and travels are on hold. The Secretariat has also been undertaking desk analysis and work with the Advisory Group on defining **key thematic workstreams** around which the Panel's work will take place. The workstreams are linked to the questions from the call for written submissions. In this context, the Secretariat is also particularly interested in working with NGOs, UN partners and others to consult IDPs and host communities through online mechanisms.

Answering specific questions, the Secretariat confirmed that it is currently working under the assumption that travels will not resume before a few months. Moreover, due current delays, discussions are under way to examine the possibility of extending the mandate of the Panel in time, possibly until the fall of 2021. On the written submission process, the Secretariat confirmed that submissions from Regional Groups are welcome and indicated that an effort will be made to provide feedback on written submissions received.

Overview of the exchange

The meeting was structured around a set of short presentations from Member States, NGOs, and other stakeholders before opening the floor for questions, comments and further preliminary details on written submissions being prepared. Without covering exhaustively the list of questions and themes, stakeholders highlighted a number of key substantive areas they intend to tackle in their submissions, indicating a level of alignment on priorities. The below sections provide a summary of the main points raised:

Effectiveness of response management, coordination and accountability:

While there was consensus around the broad idea that the Panel could recommend improvements in the way stakeholders collaborate, a specific suggestion related to **reviewing current operations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)** and how systems and resources can better deliver results for IDPs. Without calling for an overhaul of the humanitarian architecture, nor the creation of a new agency or a



revision of mandates, the Panel may be called to offer an independent assessment of what is working, what is not working and what more the IASC can do to support protection and solutions for IDPs. This could lead to an updated IASC IDP Policy, clarifying roles, responsibilities, and expected outcomes for IASC members.

Participants also suggested that the Panel could lead to the **creation of a dedicated forum** bringing together all relevant stakeholders, allowing them to exchange experiences, share lessons, and coordinate activities.

At a more practical level, the **whole-of-community approach** was also highlighted, emphasizing the importance of the role played by host communities.

Relevance and role of humanitarian, development, peace action:

Noting that the challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemics reminds us of the importance of the triple nexus, participants considered that the High-Level Panel had a major opportunity to **change the narrative, reconceptualizing the IDP challenge** as one that is not only a concern for humanitarian and human rights actors but also for development and peace actors. The **relationship between internal displacement and peacebuilding** was particularly identified as a dimension not sufficiently considered. The inclusion of IDPs in peace processes was considered as vital to prevention efforts and conflict management.

Stakeholders recommended that the Panel should consider **how development efforts can be better leveraged** to tackle internal displacement, including how bilateral development assistance can be used to support these priorities. This might also encompass 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.

In this domain, stakeholders also recommended substantial consideration of the role of the **private sector and International Financial Institutions**. The Panel could look into the international community's recent experience in forced displacement context, largely led by World Bank efforts, which lead to **groundbreaking policy reforms on refugee rights and self-reliance**. There is a rare opportunity to implement approaches that have already been piloted and from which lessons can be drawn for Internally Displaced People.

How effective solutions can be catalyzed, driven forward and supported:

Answering a clear question from the call for submissions, stakeholders asserted their intention to promote **current approaches to solutions**, while looking at whether or not new **modalities are needed to translate the [Guiding Principles](#) into concrete action and results** for IDPs. This could be done through supporting existing **innovative approaches** such as the Frameworks for Durable Solutions Initiative in Somalia and Ethiopia. Such best practices should inform the Panel's work.

One particular area highlighted was how **local integration** often represents the most viable and attainable of the durable solutions for IDPs. As a result, the Panel should focus its work on situations where governments are supportive of IDPs' desire to integrate locally.

Importantly, a written submission will focus on developing a set of **roadmaps or sets of interlocking commitments for reducing internal displacement in specific contexts**. This would involve a selection process among interested States, the identification of major barriers to durable solutions in the selected country contexts, possibly leveraging the Panels' planned field visits. A plan for dismantling the barriers and for collective action towards reducing internal displacement would follow, inclusive of financial and programmatic investments to promote local integration and consultations of a broad range of actors including IDPs and their host communities.

How can national political will, responsibility and capacity be catalyzed and cultivated:

Participants emphasized the **essential role of national authorities** in addressing internal displacement, suggesting the Panel could look into **elevating strong national examples**, to use them as broader recommendations. In this perspective, several Member States and other actors indicated their intention of sharing with the Panel some of their **existing national policies and good practices**, such as the Afghan Citizens' Charter National Priority Program (CCNPP), funded by the World Bank.



Practical political impediments to national action should also be considered in contexts where existing legal policy frameworks are in place but their implementation is a challenge. Written submissions will also offer practical reflections on the **role of diplomacy and political will** in tackling internal displacement.

New or creative financing solutions:

Under this major theme, participants indicated their intention of putting forward suggestions related to **quality funding and the importance of multiyear funding; reducing administrative burdens**, specifically looking at harmonizing program cycles (e.g. cost classification, narrative and financial reporting); **financing the Nexus**; and looking at donor commitments in supporting the **cohesive and comprehensive** treatment of all subgroups of displaced persons.

Stakeholders made reference to the **High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing**, which gave rise to the Grand Bargain humanitarian financing process, a high-level multi-stakeholder policy process that still has traction, 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 which had initially supported the creation of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement or among the panelists themselves.

Climate change and/or disaster-induced displacement:

Given the reality of climate change and related displacement figures and perspectives, participants welcomed the Panel's mandated attention to this issue. Written submissions will address this theme partly or comprehensively, with the aim of **highlighting what makes disaster displacement different from conflict displacement** (e.g. data knowledge and specific needs that IDPs face); **how the international system and policy frameworks are set up and influence responses**.

The objective will be to spell out proposals to **prevent, address, and find solutions more effectively**, looking at how to **strengthen the capacity of States and key stakeholders** (e.g. through national policies and national frameworks); how to **build up a prevention agenda** and **pull in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation** in a way that prevents displacement from happening in the first place and, when displacement is unavoidable, mitigates some of its impacts. Proposals will also consider the need to better link up the humanitarian and development perspectives in this substantive area, as well as **improving data on disaster displacement**, which remains limited.

Protection needs, vulnerability and unique experiences and effects of displacement on people of different genders, ages, abilities and diversities:

Stakeholders indicated preparing written submissions, individually and collectively, focusing on age, gender, diversity – which includes disability. The High-Level Panel was called to **seize a unique opportunity to offer clear recommendations reflecting the rights of all internally displaced people**, promoting **gender equality** and ensuring **non-discrimination** in different laws and policies. An AGD perspective is critical for ensuring an inclusive approach in the prevention of, and response to, internal displacement and, as such, is relevant to all of the questions raised in the call for submissions. Proposals will consider an AGD approach with a human rights lens, noting that many instruments and laws lack in details and are often not implemented. In this perspective, **meaningful consultations with IDPs** will be highlighted, with consideration of – and adaptation to – the safety, dignity, needs, and capacities of different ages, genders, persons with disabilities, and diverse groups of IDPs. Recommendations should also consider the importance of **collecting and analyzing disaggregated data**, and making sure that people are protecting on the basis of understood threats. Written submissions will also highlight ways to ensure **prevention of gender-based violence**, which is often exacerbated during displacement.

Stakeholders also indicated the intention of focusing on **IDP children**, who often represent half of the displaced population. Written submissions may focus on access to quality education and child protection, highlighting that the **inclusion of IDPs in planning of national education systems and in the national child protection system** is critical to ensure protection and durable solutions. A focus on children should also develop recommendations on **mental health and psychological support**, an area often neglected.



Expectations for the Panel:

Participants highlighted clear expectations for the High-Level Panel, including **hopes that its own mandate would be extended in time** to compensate for the constraints linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The most important expectation related to the results of the Panel's work, with **calls for the Panel to be forward-leaning**, seizing the opportunity to change the landscape of internal displacement. In this perspective, while building on existing evidence, research and best practices, the Panel is expected to **produce concrete and actionable recommendations**. Some participants urged the Panel to include in its final report a **clear vision of how its recommendations will be implemented**, possibly through the creation of a dedicated international forum bringing together all relevant stakeholders, allowing them to exchange experiences, share lessons, and seek support for IDP situations.

The Panel was also urged to **narrow its focus to a defined set of priorities**, while ensuring that age, gender, and diversity, including disability, (AGD) are essential dimensions of its recommendations.

Finally, a number of stakeholders, including NGOs, showed **interest in working, on an ongoing basis, with the Panel and the Secretariat on specific themes** such as organizing online consultations with IDPs; developing humanitarian financing research; improving data collection and analysis.

About the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement:

The High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement was established by the UN Secretary-General to find concrete solutions to internal displacement. The High-Level Panel will work to increase global attention on internal displacement, while developing concrete recommendations for Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders. The Panel will build on ongoing efforts related to internal displacement by Member States and relevant stakeholders within the humanitarian, development and peace communities. The Panel's report is expected to identify innovative and concrete recommendations to better prevent, respond, and achieve solutions to internal displacement.

To know more about the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement :

- Consult the Panel's website: <https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/>
- Check the already available written submissions: <https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/content/Inputs-from-Stakeholders>
- Follow the Panel on Twitter: https://twitter.com/Idps_Panel

About the Group of Friends of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

Gathering Member States and co-chaired by Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Norway, the purpose of the Group of Friends is to provide a platform for interaction between the High-Level Panel and the Permanent Missions in Geneva. This is also a forum for information sharing, consultations and briefings on issues related not only to the Panel but also on internal displacement in general. The Group does not aim to negotiate common positions among the attending States. One strength of the Group of Friends is to invite all Permanent Missions to the meetings, thus providing an open and transparent channel for interaction with States.

About ICVA

ICVA is a global network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice. Established in 1962 by a small coalition of refugee and migration NGOs, ICVA has grown into a diverse network of over 100 NGO members operating in 160 countries at global, regional, national and local levels. ICVA helps its members understand, engage and influence the humanitarian sector with a focus on Forced migration; Humanitarian coordination; Humanitarian financing; and Cross-cutting issues.

To know more about ICVA's work on the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement:

- Contact jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org and Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org
- Consult our webpage: <https://www.icvanetwork.org/high-level-panel-internal-displacement>
- Follow us on twitter: https://twitter.com/ICVA_Displaced