



Photo By Sarah Elliott

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# **NGO FEEDBACK ON THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL “DRAFT ACTION AGENDA ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT”**

**A document issued by InterAction and ICVA**



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## INTRODUCTION

From its inception in February 2020, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been strongly engaged in the process led by the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. Reacting to the release of its report on September 29, 2021, NGO members of InterAction and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), sent a [letter to the United Nations Secretary-General](#) expressing strong support for the Panel's recommendations and urging him to take immediate action in implementing those clearly within his purview.

It is therefore with great interest that InterAction and ICVA members received the draft **U.N. Secretary-General Action Agenda on Internal Displacement**, as part of follow-up initiatives to the High-Level Panel's report. At the outset, NGOs express their appreciation for the continued participatory approach and the opportunity to provide inputs and contribute to shaping strategic and tangible collective interventions on solutions to protracted displacement.

This collective feedback intends to help further strengthen the proposed mechanisms, particularly by suggesting ways to reinforce the whole-of-society approach. The feedback comments are mainly organized following the structure of the Action Agenda—first providing overall comments related to the framing, overarching goals, and guiding principles before addressing elements of major importance to NGOs in the draft Action Agenda. The final section comments on some of the High-Level Panel's proposals that are not reflected in the draft Action Agenda.

## GOALS AND GUIDING CONSIDERATIONS

### OVERALL COMMENTS

Overall, NGOs find the Action Agenda to be robust and comprehensive, prioritizing solutions-focused programming and reflecting well the wide consultation that took place. NGOs appreciate that many of the Panel's recommendations have been reflected in the draft Action Agenda, with elements directly lifted into its text and the three interlinked goals framing the draft Action Agenda. NGOs found important strengths and positive elements as well as elements that require further fleshing out. NGOs hope to be engaged as details further develop.

NGOs very much appreciate the Guiding Considerations, which strongly feature the rights and agency of internally displaced persons (IDPs) as citizens and residents, and age, gender, and diversity approaches as well as environmental aspects. Having those important parameters repeated across the entire draft Action Agenda is also appreciated. The element of ‘leaving no one behind’ helps to make the Action Agenda inclusive. The references to the increasing urban character of displacement (later connected to urban profiling), including the need to take into account the urban ecosystem and engage urban authorities as well as the emphasis on collaborative and responsible data processes are welcome.

The clear reference to the value of a “whole-of-society approach, including strong involvement of civil society” and a commitment to localization are crucial to improving responses. Having the role of NGOs featured more systematically throughout the Action Agenda—not just in certain places, as is currently the case—would reflect the findings of the panel and would indicate the intention to deliver fully on a whole-of-society approach.<sup>1</sup> The proposed infrastructure for the implementation of the agenda in the current draft makes it difficult to see how the ambitions around inclusive ways of working and bringing new actors onboard will be operationalized. While the Action Agenda *is* about what the U.N. will do, there are several places where there are opportunities to bring in more prominently the role that NGOs and civil society organizations can play.

The Action Agenda identifies crucial areas for improvement, particularly the strong nexus approach and the increased emphasis on the ‘P’ (peace) pillar. The focus on finding development approaches to internal displacement was rarely attempted in the past. The focus on strengthening the linkages between internal displacement and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) addresses a gap (in the SDGs); stronger integration of displacement into the SDGs could lead to progress in other areas, including funding allocation, related data collection, analysis, monitoring and evaluation, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Possible suggested wording to underline an inclusive way of working could perhaps read as follows: “The Special Adviser will actively ensure partnership at all levels with government, donors, civil society and humanitarian agencies working with displaced populations.” “Given the integral role NGOs play in drawing attention to and supporting displacement affected communities, the S.A. will work with U.N. agencies NGO and people of concern to mobilize multisector expertise across the humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and human rights interventions.”

There is a concern that there may be too many disconnected initiatives, requiring the establishment of working synergies. To achieve this aim going forward, an event bringing together all the stakeholders would help, as well as developing basic Terms of Reference for the various initiatives. Moreover, better defining how the recent Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and the Action Agenda on Internal Displacement can/will be brought together and possibly reinforce each other will be essential. It is particularly important to be careful to avoid duplications with the existing coordination platforms and preventing the creation of unwieldy systems, particularly at field level. Many already exist and new ones are being set up.

Overall, several commitments in the draft Action Agenda lack sufficient details, such as on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) review and the topic of funding solutions (further elaborated below). Further clarification will be needed about how NGOs can engage with the various Action Agenda mechanisms including how the Steering Group will interact with the U.N. Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team, and its position in countries which have government-chaired durable solutions working groups. At the global level, clarification is needed on the interaction with GP2.0 and the Grand Bargain reference group. NGOs would welcome opportunities to engage with the development of Terms of Reference to provide feedback based on experience of field-level coordination and implementation. The accountability framework of the Action Agenda—i.e., how progress will be monitored and evaluated—also requires further elaboration. Moreover, clarifications would be necessary regarding promoting and strengthening government accountability and leadership on the issue, and accountability for rights abuses and emphasis on rights-based approaches, particularly in contexts where governments may be part of the problem.

## FINDING SOLUTIONS TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

### LEADERSHIP BY NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND U.N. ENGAGEMENT ON SOLUTIONS AT GLOBAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL

- **U.N. Commitment 1:** *Redouble efforts to ensure meaningful participation and systematic inclusion of IDPs and local community members of all ages, genders, and diversities in decision-making on solutions, including by scaling up community-based planning; advocate with States to put in place measures to ensure IDPs are heard and included in solutions planning.*

NGOs applaud this commitment while pointing out that making it a reality will require sufficient resources to collect and analyze relevant data, including on languages spoken and appropriate means of communication to ensure that no one is left behind.

NGOs welcome the focus in this section of the draft Action Agenda on a whole-of-government approach and creating a safe and conducive environment for solutions. For this to happen, it is crucial that explicit reference is made to the right of IDPs to access services, including education, child protection, healthcare (including sexual reproductive and health services), and social protection. This is crucial particularly in light of the emphasis in the Agenda on adopting a continuum with development solutions.

- **U.N. Commitment 4:** *Strengthen U.N. leadership and accountability on internal displacement by appointing a time-bound **Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement** to work in concert with a **Steering Group on Internal Displacement Solutions**, which will operate at global and country-level.*

The planned appointment of a Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, to work in concert with a Steering Group, will bring critical visibility and political leverage for solutions for IDPs. This position should serve to ensure more accountability on how solutions are being implemented and catalyzed. The Special Adviser and her/his team should act as a bridge between different stakeholders and particularly by working closely and consistently with NGOs. NGOs would be interested in better understanding how their interactions with the Special Adviser will be conceptualized and organized. NGOs would also like to see further elaboration on how the Special Adviser and the Steering Group will work with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, and what leverage they will use to bring pressure to bear on States. Noting the Special Adviser's three core responsibilities, NGOs suggest that the profile for the Special Adviser should be an individual with the political clout and experience necessary to engage States.

NGOs strongly encourage further inclusive reflections on the membership of the Steering Group of U.N. agencies and how to operationalize the “hub and spokes model” meant to help link up to and mobilize other relevant actors. In particular, the composition of the global Steering Group should be revisited to include other U.N. entities with expertise reflecting key priority areas in the Action Agenda, such as environment, agriculture, and peacebuilding (e.g., FAO, UNEP, U.N. Habitat, and in line with the principle of ensuring a fully inclusive AGD approach, we would recommend that relevant agencies such as UNICEF

are also included). The linkages to the peace and security architecture of the U.N., including a strong ‘P’ actor in the global and national Steering Groups are particularly lacking. For the nexus approach, one could for instance imagine that a lead for each of the three pillars (H, D and P) be designated within the Steering Group. A more inclusive approach would be closer to the concept of a ‘Coalition of Champions’ highlighted in the High-Level Panel’s Report.

NGOs should be more systematically included throughout the different elements of the Action Agenda, particularly in the Steering Group at the global level. The current set-up of a small group of U.N. agencies runs the risk of missing out on a lot of specific expertise and operational experience that NGOs and civil society can bring. NGOs therefore strongly suggest considering including NGO representation in the global Steering Group, building on past positive experience on internal displacement efforts, such as the Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement. Organizing NGO representation on the Steering Group from the three IASC NGO networks would allow for those representatives to draw upon the expertise across the NGO community and make links to relevant countries. At country level, there is also a need to clarify how NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs) and IDP groups will be included in any solutions forum, ensuring that these forums are not duplicative of other coordination bodies.

- **U.N. Commitment 5:** *Designate **Resident Coordinators to serve as the U.N.’s lead on solutions at country-level**, including to: proactively engage governments on this issue; ensure solutions are reflected in UNSDCF and HRP; ensure a dedicated and costed solutions strategy is developed as needed; and ensure relevant and inclusive coordination mechanisms are in place.*

The critical role of Resident Coordinators in the Action Agenda is appreciated. NGOs are concerned that the U.N. Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) process is not sufficiently inclusive of NGOs, CSOs or IDP/host community organizations. Overall, the role of NGOs in developing the UNSDCFs is too limited. Moving ahead, it is important to ensure that any solutions processes and coordination are more broadly inclusive (i.e., beyond the U.N. and host government), building on the whole-of-society and whole-of-solutions approaches. UNSDCFs must be more inclusive, particularly as their predecessors (UNDAFs) were usually not inclusive of NGOs.

- **U.N. Commitment 6:** *Provide **additional support to Resident Coordinators** through ensuring they can draw on advice and support from global and regional level and—where relevant—dedicated capacity at country-level.*

NGOs are pleased to see the Resident Coordinators being recognized as the natural and authoritative U.N. entry point in country for providing solutions leadership. We welcome the recognition of the importance of coordination between the different U.N. agencies to push for a more coherent, joined up approach to this issue and for advancing national solutions plans with all relevant skills and competencies involved. Beyond reiterating the role of Resident Coordinators, it is also about integrating internal displacement into existing processes and development corporation frameworks. Encouraging States to put in place a mechanism coordinated by high-level focal points to implement a whole-of-government solutions strategy, in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator offices, is positive. We welcome the suggested whole-of-government solutions strategies and encourage that the consultative process for its development and the mechanism to be established for facilitating collaboration are fully inclusive of civil society and of the views of diverse groups of IDPs and local communities, including children and young people.

A more in-depth reflection on how Resident Coordinators can best be supported in their efforts—financially but also structurally and at an organizational level—would be a welcome addition to the Action Agenda, particularly as this aspect was not part of the analysis of the High-Level Panel’s Report. NGOs also note that the strong emphasis on Resident Coordinators in the draft Action Agenda would need to be balanced with increased references to Humanitarian Coordinators and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) beyond the section on Protection. This aspect would also contribute to better including civil society organizations given that NGOs are not represented in U.N. Country Teams, while they are part of HCTs. In countries where there is no HCT, creative ways would need to be explored to be inclusive of NGOs, CSOs, and diverse IDP and host community groups.

Moreover, the draft Action Agenda seems to place additional burdens on the RCs/HCs who already cover extensive portfolios, a factor that may require patience and adaptation to various country situations. A focus on existing mechanisms and coordination platforms could be more effective in some contexts. NGOs encourage the development of a clear plan to fund additional resources, support prioritization, and maintain accountability. In many contexts, there will be a need for dedicated advisers to support the Resident Coordinator Offices. At the country level, it would also be important to consider how to mobilize multisector expertise across the humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, and human rights interventions and to ensure age, gender, and diversity considerations are fully included. As mentioned above, one way to accomplish this would be to extend the membership of the Steering Groups to other U.N. entities and non-U.N. entities and identify non-U.N. co-leads.

- **U.N. Commitment 7:** *Task U.N. development, peacebuilding, humanitarian, human rights, disaster risk reduction, and climate change actors to develop **global institutional plans**, by the end of 2022, for how they will reinforce their internal capacities and engagement on solutions to internal displacement.*

NGOs welcome the decision to task U.N. agencies to develop global institutional plans related to their internal capacities and engagement on solutions to internal displacement. NGOs would be keen to understand how the process will be taken forward collectively, with a view to building synergies and avoiding duplications. NGOs are also interested in providing inputs and feedback into the development of those plans, as appropriate and useful. It is crucial that such plans have a specific focus and dedicated sections on age, gender, and diversity and NGOs are happy to provide support to ensure that such focus is fully reflected in these plans.

#### FINANCING FOR SOLUTIONS

- **U.N. Commitment 9:** *Convene an **ad hoc forum of relevant development finance actors and affected States** to explore how catalytic financing could be made more readily available for solutions and, by mid-2022, agree on the most appropriate model and expedite its establishment.*
- **U.N. Commitment 10:** *Host a **dedicated thematic window for solutions to internal displacement within the U.N. Joint SDG Fund** that supports joint, solutions-focused programs identified by U.N. Country Teams.*

Being appreciative of the approach taken to address internal displacement proactively and systematically as part of development financing, we encourage the inclusion of age, gender, and diversity considerations and data. NGOs welcome the approach of mobilizing existing funding mechanisms while still exploring avenues for catalytic financing. It would be useful to include NGOs in discussions of the ad hoc forum, as they could bring perspectives from their own work on solutions.

NGOs consider that the Action Agenda requires further details and elaborations in its section of Financing for Solutions, for example on dedicated and costed solution strategies. The proposed financing window under the U.N. Joint SDG Fund—directly linked to the U.N. Country Teams—raises the question of how this window will benefit stakeholders outside of the U.N., who are critical actors and implementers in solutions programming. It appears that the Joint SDG fund is currently only accessible to U.N. agencies,

leaving behind NGOs and IDP organizations. The fund is also not accessible to States, which is also problematic as the High-Level Panel's recommendation to establish a Fund on Internal Displacement Solutions was precisely aimed at providing governments with the necessary financial means to support their durable solutions initiatives and national development plans (in line with the guiding principle of national responsibility and ownership and measures to incentivize political will). Finding creative ways of ensuring access to the fund for non-U.N. actors, including NGOs, will be important for the initiative to fully bring a value-added. One way of achieving this aim would be to associate Humanitarian Country Teams to the work of the UNCT in identifying solutions-focused programs. There is also interest from NGOs in exploring ideas for new financing mechanisms and additional coordination mechanisms with the World Bank and IFIs.

Finally, coherence and efforts to avoid unnecessary duplications will also be important in the realm of financing for solutions. From this perspective, NGOs wonder what would be the proposed link between the ad hoc forum for finance actors and the current OPAG-IASC Task force, which has a role to play in humanitarian financing? It will be important to have these roles defined so that NGOs are able to engage strategically and efficiently.

#### ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON SOLUTIONS

- **U.N. Commitment 11:** *The U.N. will work with relevant partners to identify 3-4 contexts where there are opportunities to pilot means of strengthening engagement with the private sector, working with Resident Coordinators.*

NGOs consider that further thinking is needed on more systematic engagement of the private sector. Efforts so far have only scratched the surface and more unpacking is needed if we all believe that the private sector has a role to play. It is also important that the role of existing or potential entrepreneurs from IDP communities is fully acknowledged as well as the role of the private sector in supporting vocational training and livelihood opportunities for young people. In this perspective, beyond piloting projects with the private sector in a few countries, it would be important to reflect on what can be done and importantly who will be responsible for engaging with those actors.

#### DATA FOR SOLUTIONS

- **U.N. Commitment 13:** *Convene a time-bound taskforce of relevant data actors that will examine opportunities and barriers to more effective use of data for solutions and, by mid-2022; put*

*forward a proposal for a fit-for-purpose process or coordination model to address data-specific issues and gaps.*

NGOs welcome the continued focus on data and look forward to contributing to the taskforce convened, including in the drafting of dedicated Terms of Reference (ToRs). The data collection and analysis efforts will have to be focused on development, socio-economic data, and relevant demographic data and ensure a full inclusion of an age, gender, and diversity approach. Humanitarian data collection and ongoing humanitarian assessments still remain a priority, but a concerted effort is now needed to produce, centralize, and bring together all sources of data relevant to bring better development strategies and frameworks. This should include efforts to generate more disaggregated data, including around sex and age. This will also have implications on how we set ourselves up to generate evidence.

NGOs noted with some disappointment that the call by the High-Level Panel to set up IDP data working groups led or co-led by the government was to some extent diluted in the draft Action Agenda, which only calls for the establishment of a data taskforce to “examine the Panel’s recommendation for the establishment of IDP data working groups.” This approach risks losing the strong focus on government ownership and responsibility present in the High-Level Panel report. This tendency is also visible in the wording concerning the use of data by governments. While the High-Level Panel tasked governments with putting “in place processes and systems to collect, analyze and manage internal displacement data”, the Action Agenda only mentions the U.N. as “support(ing) states to put in place relevant mechanisms to harness Internal displacement data.”

## PREVENTING DISPLACEMENT CRISES

### REDUCING CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE AS DRIVERS OF DISPLACEMENT

- **U.N. Commitment 15:** *To reduce risks of displacement associated with human rights violations and conflict, **drive forward implementation of the Call to Action for Human Rights**, and address displacement specifically in my forthcoming **Agenda for Protection**.*

Noting with interest the reference to reducing risks associated with human rights violations and conflict, NGOs are eager to better understand how the Action Agenda and the Call to Action for Human Rights can be brought together to strongly support rights-based approaches. It will also be critical to involve IDP organizations and women, children, and youth in conflict prevention, as well as NGOs.

## REDUCING THE DISPLACEMENT RISKS POSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS

- **U.N. Commitment 19: *Address displacement proactively and systematically as part of the U.N.’s work on climate change, including by supporting the work on the Task Force on Displacement under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.***

NGOs are very appreciative that the draft Action Agenda identifies climate change and disasters as a major factor in internal displacement dynamics, a risk multiplier, and a priority to address collectively. References to the need to “scale up work on adapting to climate change” is important and in line with many NGOs’ policies and approaches, and an appropriate way to respond to climate related displacement. NGOs strongly support the U.N. commitment to “advocate strongly for States to deliver on the \$100 billion climate finance commitment to support developing countries and to dedicate at least half of these funds to climate change adaptation and resilience.” NGOs stand ready to contribute their considerable expertise, including through their connections to the Task Force on Displacement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

NGOs also note that climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) are now considered as part of solutions efforts, with the Secretary-General tasking U.N. agencies—including UNDRR and UNFCCC—to develop global institutional plans on how they can reinforce their engagement on solutions to internal displacement. There is however a question as to how those U.N. agencies and other entities not part of the Steering Group will concretely be integrated in those efforts. Moreover, a lot of the disaster and climate change related recommendations and commitments remain situated in the prevention chapter and in addressing intersecting risks, with a role for the solutions focused Steering Group. As prevention and solutions actors have a lot in common, NGOs believe that there is scope for a stronger focus on solutions, particularly considering themes such as climate finance and looking at the Steering Group’s membership.

It is welcomed that the draft Action Agenda includes U.N. commitments to address displacement more systematically as part of its work on climate change and in working with governments to ensure displacement is considered within DRR policies and plans. If implemented, this could represent an important step towards more systematically integrating displacement into DRR and climate change responses, which has been frequently lacking in the past. NGOs will be attentive to developments in this connection, especially considering how UNDRR and UNFCCC may be called on to support solutions to

internal displacement. Given the specific threats faced by diverse groups of individuals, children, and families due to climate change, it is paramount that a specific focus on their needs is part of this process.

#### ADDRESSING INTERSECTING THREATS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO DISPLACEMENT

- **U.N. Commitment 22:** *The Steering Group on Internal Displacement Solutions and specialist agencies and entities on DRR, climate change, human rights, humanitarian affairs development, and peacebuilding will work within their organizations and together to **promote holistic understanding of displacement and risk intersections** and will support UNCTs and HCTs to reflect this in their work.*

As already highlighted, NGOs consider that the linkages to the peace and security elements of the U.N. architecture are rather weak, including on the lack of strong peace actors represented in the Steering Group, both at global and national level. Therefore, in this section on intersecting threats, NGOs reiterate the suggestion to reconsider the composition of the Steering Group to include non-U.N. actors and U.N. agencies particularly covering peace and environmental issues, as well as some non-U.N. actors. This would also help in supporting the critical objective of developing an inclusive approach in conflict prevention, involving diverse IDP organizations, women, girls, children, and youth as well as NGOs. NGOs encourage further thinking around how to work with States that have low capacity or whose actions directly contribute to causing internal displacement.

## ENSURING BETTER PROTECTION FOR IDPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

- **U.N. Commitment 27:** *Complete in 2022 the **independent review of humanitarian response to internal displacement** currently being commissioned by the IASC, and act upon its findings and recommendations.*

NGOs appreciate that the draft Action Agenda promotes an independent review of humanitarian response to internal displacement by the IASC, within a clear timeframe. However, NGOs are still unclear about the scope of the IASC review, as many discussions seem to revolve around the leadership function, inclusion, roles, and responsibilities of clusters. Noting that the long-awaited “Draft Concept Note for an independent review of the humanitarian response to internal displacement” was shared on February 17, NGOs are attentive to bring their own comments and contribution to finalizing of the approach. NGO inputs in developing the ToRs will be critical, given that they have invested heavily in the cluster system since its

inception, including through commenting on the recent draft Concept Note. In particular, greater NGO representation in the review's Reference Group will be critical, as will a focus on age, gender, and diversity considerations across the review and as far as children are concerned, focus on the access to and provision of essential services such as education, healthcare, and child protection. Given that the draft ToRs were received two months behind schedule, further delays will need to be avoided going forward if the independent review is to be completed in 2022. NGOs would also be interested in better understanding whether and how the Special Adviser and the Steering Group will be connected to the review effort. NGOs also appreciate the draft Action Agenda's specific references to Housing, Land and Property and civil documentation.

- **U.N. Commitment 29: *Continue strengthening accountability to IDPs and host communities, including by redoubling efforts to deliver on the Participation Revolution promised in the Grand Bargain.***

NGOs consider that the Grand Bargain is well reflected in the Secretary-General's draft Action Agenda, in particular the focus on improving efficiency through innovation and the use of flexible, multi-year funding. The draft Action Agenda has avoided the trap of pinning too many hopes on the Grand Bargain, and instead keeps the focus on what it can actually deliver.

## CONCLUSION AND FOLLOW-UP

### a) Role of GP2.0 Platform

Among NGOs, there is a lot of recognition of the potential for GP2.0 to draw together some of the different resources and capacities that exist, and it is going to be a very important forum. However, NGOs would appreciate further details about the GP2.0 Terms of Reference, its specific role as part of the roll-out of the Action Agenda, and its articulation with the Special Adviser, her/his team, and the Steering Group of U.N. Agencies. Some overlaps in membership are noted which, it is hoped, could be ground for constructive synergies. NGOs also acknowledge with appreciation that some NGOs/networks are part of the membership of GP2.0 but note that this membership should not be construed as fully representing the NGO community, particularly given that feedback mechanisms and mandates are not in place. If GP2.0 is to take on a role in delivering on the Action Agenda, it may be appropriate to reconsider membership and provide opportunities for participation to agencies not currently involved. NGOs are also interested in

knowing more about the role of GP2.0 in developing regional discussions on the draft Action Agenda and how civil society, at regional level, might be associated to the efforts.

**b) Call on governments to organize national dialogues that draw together affected communities and relevant experts to assess the potential domestic application of this Action Agenda**

NGOs note the need for clarification on how these will be convened, supported, and resourced—for example, to clarify whether this will be a deliverable of the global/regional/country-level Steering Groups. And, if so, whether they will have associated funds to support the effort. NGOs also express the need to ensure the whole-of-society approach is reflected in these dialogues including how they are envisaged in contexts where IDPs are under the control of non-state actors.

NGOs stand ready to support governments in organizing these national dialogues, given that we work with affected communities on a daily basis and look forward to supporting IDP communities and organizations representing different ages, genders, and diversities to contribute their critical views to national dialogues.

**c) Similar appeal to regional and subregional organizations to convene discussions among their Member States**

Investment-driven economic growth will not automatically translate into broad benefits for people living in fragile contexts due to ineffectual and corrupt public administration. Generating inclusive growth is primarily the work of governments. Other donor governments and advisory firms should continue to work to incentivize those governments to build inclusive growth into their national development plans and investment laws. NGOs suggest that the Secretary-General should also make an appeal to regional and sub-regional organizations to include IDPs of different ages, genders, and diversities, as well as NGOs and CSOs in their discussions.

**BEYOND THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL ACTION AGENDA**

In their October 2021 letter to the U.N. Secretary-General, InterAction, and ICVA members called for U.N. action, recognizing our collective responsibility to generate real change and challenge the status quo. It was believed that the U.N. Secretary-General was in a position to provide an initial impetus for more multi-stakeholder initiatives. NGOs recognize that the draft Action Agenda cannot cover all the issues that were flagged by the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. However, it is still useful to reflect on how certain elements could be inserted or connected to the Action Agenda in a useful manner. In particular,

putting governments in the lead and holding them responsible and accountable for their IDP populations was a major starting point and one of the biggest strengths of the Panel's report. However, this momentum risks being lost if governments are not sufficiently involved in the follow-up and implementation of the Action Agenda.

In this perspective, NGOs suggest:

- Re-establish an enlarged and more inclusive Group of Friends than was established during the High-Level Panel's mandate, ensuring participation from donor countries and countries with a large IDP population and NGOs.
- Promoting a discussion with States to consider the High-Level Panel's Report and develop their own commitments going forward, particularly given that many of the recommendations are targeting States.
- Establishing a Member State follow-up mechanism allowing for peer-to-peer exchange and the discussion of best practice examples.
- Considering concrete ways for NGOs to contribute to the Secretary-General's forthcoming Agenda for Protection.
- Ensuring explicit and dedicated focus on children and young people and an AGD agenda.
- Reflecting on how to maintain the High-Level Panel's ambition of countering the 'invisibility' of internal displacement issues, possibly through working towards a catalyzing event or building upon planned opportunities in 2022-2023.

#### ABOUT ICVA

ICVA is a global network of non-governmental organizations whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice.

#### ABOUT INTERACTION

InterAction is a convener, thought leader, and voice for nearly 200 NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people.