

NGO Statement for the 2022 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges: Development Cooperation

Dear chair,

Over 100 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide with limited access to food, services, and protection. This Dialogue is therefore critical to address multiple, intersecting factors exacerbating forced displacement and statelessness, the global hunger crisis being one urgent example.

We welcome UNHCR's mobilization of development actors into humanitarian efforts, including towards the 2023 GRF, and highlight the following points:

1. Early Action

The Ukraine response has demonstrated how an enabling political environment can support quick, diverse, and coordinated mobilization. The proactive reconstruction and recovery approach has validated long established – but inconsistently applied – good practices calling for broadening the base of donors and financing tools.

While humanitarian donors should recognize current funding arrangements' limitations, development actors are critical in addressing root causes of displacement, supporting disaster risk reduction, ensuring predictable unearmarked multi-year funding, and creating new financing instruments and partnerships at all levels. All should side seize the opportunity to remove bureaucratic, donor-centric, barriers and inconsistencies, and promote transparent climate finance.

2. Inclusion

As displaced and stateless people, especially discriminated groups, struggle to access basic rights, UNHCR has a unique role to ensure needs are met and protection standards are fulfilled.

Host countries' achievements in including displaced populations in national systems should be recognized, supported, and underscored in international protection principles, measuring progress through monitoring systems.

We welcome specialized financial mechanisms' focus on inclusion, such as the World Bank's IDA Window and Global Concessional Financing Facility. Further efforts are required, particularly to root development approaches and funding into local systems, expertise, and capacities. Prioritizing initiatives led by communities will indeed strengthen equitable partnerships and yield better humanitarian and development outcomes.

3. Solutions

Durable solutions enable rebuilding lives but are inadequately accessible. Improving development cooperation can help increase access to solutions – all solutions – by building national and regional capacity. Governments should therefore equally consider resettlement and local integration, not only voluntary return, which when pursued, must be safe, dignified and support reintegration.

Existing local integration initiatives could be expanded through investment and technical support. Development partners and host governments should invest in promoting self-reliance, along with

countering discrimination, improving social cohesion, and working with municipalities to address urban displacement.

Meanwhile, increased access to resettlement should be supported through coordinated strategic initiatives involving development actors among others.

Finally, UNHCR should proactively and systematically include Internal Displacement in its advocacy on development cooperation, guaranteeing durable solutions are integrated into strategies, programs, and funding aimed at reducing fragility. Support should prioritize affected states and civil society.

Thank you.