TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA

THEME:

THE YEAR OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.
Roundtable on South Sudan: A call for solidarity to Africa’s largest forced displacement crisis

MODERATOR: Mr. Arnauld Akodjenou, Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) and the UNHCR Special Advisor for the South Sudan Situation

OPENING REMARKS: Ms. Bience Gawanas, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa

ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS (TBC): Member States including South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, the DRC, CAR, US, UK and Norway; IGAD; UN agencies including OCHA and UNDP; the private sector and civil society

South Sudan’s protracted conflict, now in its sixth year, has caused over 400,000 civilian casualties and four million displaced persons. The scale of the refugee movement has not been witnessed on the African continent since the outbreak of the 1994 Rwanda genocide. This roundtable event will assist in bridging the humanitarian and development gap in South Sudan and advocate for increased international solidarity towards meeting the resilience, peacebuilding and early recovery needs of the South Sudanese
people who are currently the most forcibly displaced people in Africa. The event will bring together representatives from the AU, UN humanitarian development and peacebuilding agencies, member states, IGAD, EAC, IFIs, the private sector and civil society to discuss tackling the fragility within communities, supporting the peace efforts in South Sudan and easing the pressure on refugee host countries – including through enhancing refugee self-reliance, ensuring greater access to education, health care and jobs, expanding access to third-country solutions and supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

Emerging issues from Africa ICPD regional reviews (AADPD and ADDPD+5): linkages between mobility, human dignity and refugees, returnees and IDPs - celebrating successes and addressing challenges

MODERATOR: Mr. Mabingue Ngom, Regional Director, West and Central Africa, United Nations Population Fund

OPENING REMARKS: Mr. Dereje Wordofa, Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director (Programme), United Nations Population Fund

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Dr. Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue, Professor and Chair, Department of Development Sociology, Cornell University

PANELISTS:
- Ms. Ekhlas Ahmed, Youth Representative
- H.E. Mr. Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations
- H.E. Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations
- Ms. Bience Gawanas, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa

INTERACTIVE Q&A

TECHNICAL DEBRIEF: Dr. Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue, Professor and Chair, Department of Development Sociology, Cornell University

CLOSING REMARKS: Mr. Mabingue Ngom, Regional Director, West and Central Africa, United Nations Population Fund

This high-level event will raise awareness around the plight of African internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants and refugees, recognizing the reasons to celebrate Africa’s solidarity around them, including partners’ assistance programmes in ensuring their dignity, protection and respect.
Moreover, the event will provide an opportunity to showcase different perspectives, lessons learned and best practices, analyse gaps, offer insights on creating innovative avenues and enhancing existing means for IDPs, migrants and refugees.

More specifically, the event will highlight the linkages between ICPD beyond the 20 review conferences (AADPD+5) and the AU theme of the year and the need for increased attention to the root causes of women, girls, and young IDPs, migrants and refugees’ forced displacement; stress the need to strengthen resilience of countries and communities, while ensuring immediate humanitarian and long-term sustainable needs of these refugees and the host communities; emphasize the need to invest more in girls, women and young peoples’ education and empowerment, reproductive health and rights, social innovation for peace, security, economic and political participation and leadership; mobilize political support for, foster dialogue on and galvanize strategic partnerships for the Nairobi Summit.

**Addressing Climate Change, Disasters and Environmental Degradation: Solutions for Displacement in Africa**

**MODERATOR:** Ms. Awa Dabo, Head of Fragility and Policy Engagement Team, UNDP

**PANELISTS:**

- **Ms. Sarah Hilding**, Chief of Section, Operations and Advocacy Division, OCHA
- **Mr. Richard Blewitt**, Head of Delegation and Permanent Observer of International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to the United Nations (IFRC)
- **Ms. Rosa Malango**, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Uganda
- **Dr. Alex de Sherbinin**, Associate Director for Science Applications at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), The Earth Institute, Columbia University
- **Ms. Ama Ruth Francis**, Fellow at the Columbia Sabin Center for Climate Change Law (TBC)

The objective of this event is to raise awareness of and promote effective practices and policy instruments to minimise climate change, environment and natural hazard related root causes of forced displacement in Africa. The event will address both the root causes of forced displacement and its impacts on socioeconomic development in Africa. It will also focus on solutions for vulnerable populations for whom adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change or measures to reduce the risk of disasters may
no longer be possible, and who need assistance and protection, with full respect for their rights. The side event will emphasise that climate change adaptation, environmental management, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development actions together can help those who are displaced and also minimise displacement overall; and that the ‘Africa we Want’ 2063, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Sendai Framework are key frameworks that can be used to achieve these objectives.

**TIME**  
16:45-18:00

**SESSION**  
**Leading the Way: How New York City Government Provides Harbor for New York’s African Diaspora**

**MODERATOR:** Mr. Franck Joseph, Assistant Commissioner, New York City Commission on Human Rights

**OPENING REMARKS:** Ms. Marissa Jackson, Deputy Commissioner, New York City Commission on Human Rights

**PANELISTS:**

- **Ms. Christelle N. Onwu**, Lead Advisor for African Communities, New York City Commission on Human Rights
- **Ms. May Malik**, Deputy Commissioner, New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs
- **Mr. Ehi Uwa**, Deputy Director, New York City Department of Housing and Preservation Development
- **Mr. Amit Bagga**, Deputy Director, New York City Census 2020

**INTERACTIVE Q&A**

This event is being held to showcase New York City’s work in ensuring that the African Diaspora understand their rights and obligations as they relate to housing and immigration policies in New York. Representatives from the New York City Commission on Human Rights, the New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, the New York City Housing and Preservation Development (HPD) and the New York City Census 2020 will share information on what they have done to date as well as pending policies aimed to ensure that African diaspora feel protected in New York regardless of their immigration or asylum status.