
During the opening session, opening remarks and statements will be delivered focusing on the theme of the Africa Dialogue Series and its relevance to the 2019 African Union theme and will set the context for the dialogue throughout the two days.

Session 1: African solidarity: Best practices and lessons learned in African countries hosting refugees

Africa hosts a third of the world’s 68 million displaced people. The solidarity that Africa has demonstrated over the decades in protecting these communities and finding solutions to their plight is often underappreciated and under reported. Progressive policies in many countries view refugees not be economic burdens but individuals whose expertise and skills that can make them self-reliant and even benefit their host communities. The experiences in Africa, especially over the last two years, were instrumental in the development of the Global Compact on Refugees. Progressive policies, innovative programmes at the national and regional levels, and development financing changed the lives of millions were some measures that were implemented. Countries engaged in a ‘whole of society’ approach, bringing together member states, humanitarian agencies, development partners, the private sector and civil society to find solutions for refugees, with the aim of 1) easing pressure on the host countries 2) enhancing refugee self-reliance 3) expanding access to third-country solutions and 4) supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

During this session, African countries hosting refugees will present their best practices and lessons learned and the AU and UN will make their interventions as well.

Panelists will consider the following guiding discussion questions:

- What are the experiences and best practices that African countries hosting refugees can share with the rest of the world?
- What policies and measures are implemented in the host countries to prevent the negative impacts of forced displacement and support people who are forcibly displaced?
- What platforms are available at national level to engage refugees and IDPs and make their voices and concerns heard?
What support is needed for the effective implementation of legal and policy instruments related to Refugees, Returnees and IDPs in Africa?

- What is the nature of the support needed by the host countries to accelerate the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)?
- What is the role of the UN and the international community in enforcing the implementation of legal and policy instruments related to Refugees, Returnees and IDPs in Africa?

Session 2: Internally Displaced Persons and the Kampala Convention

Ten years ago, the AU Convention for the protection and assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa (Kampala Convention) was adopted, and since then it has been ratified by over half of AU Members. Important provision of the Convention (articles 11-12) set out the obligations of States in relation to sustainable return, local integration of relocation. Reducing IDPs’ vulnerabilities and finding durable solutions to internal displacement in the African context is indeed essential, as more and more IDPs remain displaced for years without solutions, among the urban poor or in remote areas, struggling to access to basic services, jobs and housing, compounding their vulnerabilities and the ones of host communities.

This session will focus on effective practices and lessons learned to address protracted internal displacement and support durable solutions in Africa, including legal and policy frameworks, as well as strategies and programs.

Panelists will consider the following guiding questions:

- Since its adoption in 2009, what has been the progress in implementing the Kampala Convention and what should be the next milestones?
- What measures does the Kampala Convention prescribe States to put in place in order to support durable solutions for IDPs?
- What are the experiences and effective practices that African countries with IDPs can share with others to support durable solutions, including specific coordination mechanisms, measures in national development plans and programs?
- How can international humanitarian and development organizations work with the Government to diminish the vulnerabilities of IDPs and support durable solutions?
- How can we ensure the full and meaningful participation of IDPs in the search for durable solutions?

Session 3: Transforming the Narrative: The contribution of the Youth in Africa and the Diaspora to sustaining peace and development

This session will discuss on the role of African youth and the Diaspora in changing the narrative for finding durable solutions. It will focus on building the resilience of forcibly displaced Youth in Africa, develop their skills including use of technology and capacity towards their empowerment and inclusion in the society of the host country.

Panelists will consider the following guiding discussion questions:
- How can youth mobilize further engagement of civil society actors in countering the toxic narrative on refugees using diaspora groups, faith-based organizations, NGOs and academics?
- What are the measures needed to ensure that the forcibly displaced persons, especially youth, can access decent jobs and basic services to become empowered and engaged?
- How can young people support refugees and the internally displaced and help them integrate in the host communities?
- How can the youth combat xenophobia and help reverse the toxic narrative on the displaced persons?
- How can the AU’s Initiative of Silencing the Guns contribute to resolving the situation of forced displacement in Africa?
- How can youth support innovative ways and leverage technology to support and empower refugees and IDPs?

Session 4: Collaborating for Greater Impact and Durable Solutions for Forcibly Displaced Persons in Africa

The session will identify practical and coherent UN and international collaboration and support towards finding durable solutions for Forced Displacement in Africa.

Panelists will consider the following guiding discussion questions:

- How can the UN find synergies and ensure creating complementarities between the global and regional coordination mechanisms in Africa?
- What are the solutions for practical and coherent UN support towards finding durable solutions for Forced Displacement in Africa?
- How can the UN system-wide strengthen its coherence to deliver as one and at all levels in addressing forced displacement in Africa?
- What are the measures needed to be adopted by international actors/UN to implement integrated approaches for its interventions in Africa, taking into consideration the importance of strengthening the humanitarian, peace and the development nexus?

Session 5: Shared responsibility and the humanitarian and development nexus: Financing for Transitions

Continuous efforts to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus are crucial to ensure that increased and predictable support is provided to refugees and their hosts, anchored into national planning and priorities, systems for service delivery and socio-economic inclusion. The commitments to “leave no one behind” and “reach those furthest behind first” articulated in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development align with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees and provide an opportunity to advance the protection and solutions for refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons. Complementary financing through humanitarian and development channels is at the core of international burden- and responsibility sharing alongside other forms of support, such as technical expertise and access to 3rd country solutions. The World Bank financing as well as increased support by bilateral development
donors to refugee hosting areas have amounted to an estimated USD 6.5 billion of additional development resources mobilized. Efforts are ongoing to convene partners and mobilize support towards comprehensive responses across the African continent, capitalizing on the rich lessons learnt in the application of comprehensive responses since the endorsement of the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and further leveraging the national and regional arrangements outlined in the Compact.

This session will discuss the role of financial institutions and development partners in supporting the AU and its member States in finding durable solutions including financing for transitions from humanitarian to development assistance.

Panelists will consider the following guiding discussion questions:

- How can financing humanitarian assistance complement the development support provided to African countries hosting forced displaced persons to strengthen the nexus between humanitarian, peace and development?
- What is the responsibility of the stakeholders in mobilizing support towards comprehensive responses across the African continent on forced displacement?
- In line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, what can be done to bridge the gap and ensure smooth transition from the humanitarian assistance to sustainable development support for African countries?

Session 6: Presentation of the Summary Outcome of the ADS 2019

During this session, the facilitator will present the summary Outcome of Africa Dialogue Series 2019.

Closing Session

During the closing session, closing remarks and statements will be delivered highlighting the way forward and the key messages and takeaways of the Africa Dialogue series.