



Supporting Nationally Owned Processes for Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement

Event Concept Note

I. Introduction

The High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement was established by the UN Secretary-General to identify concrete recommendations on how to better prevent, respond and achieve solutions to internal displacement. The Panel's TOR encourages a specific focus on unlocking durable solutions to protracted displacement, including in connection to armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, and their inter-connections.

Since it started its work in February 2020, the Panel has carried out extensive research and consultations and has had the opportunity to hear from a wide range of actors. One year on, the Panel is now turning to shaping its possible recommendations. This event, organized jointly by the European Union (EU) and the Panel, is designed to catalyze a discussion of some of these ideas to help the Panel refine its thinking, including yielding practical suggestions that the Panel can consider as it writes up its report.

Participation is open to representatives from states, international humanitarian and development organizations, and others working on or affected by internal displacement – including IDPs themselves. The event will take place virtually, and registration details will follow in a separate invitation. Each actor is kindly requested to limit their participation to one or two individuals.

The High-Level Panel will be represented by Co-Chair Ms. Federica Mogherini and the EU will be represented by Commissioner Mr. Janez Lenarcic. Other members of the Panel and EU may also join.

II. Overarching framing

Submissions made to the Panel, consultations and research have emphasized that durable solutions processes are most effective when they are nationally owned and when IDPs are recognized and treated as rights-holding citizens of their countries. This national ownership of solutions critically involves the government but also requires the buy-in and engagement of IDPs and host communities, as well as of local and national civil society. Solutions processes must also respond to the specific needs of IDP women, men, boys, and girls, and be guided by their intentions and preferences – there should be no predetermined hierarchy of solutions options.

While recognizing the criticality of national ownership, inputs to the Panel have also suggested that there can be an important role for international actors in supporting solutions. It has also been noted that while in some situations, strong initiatives have been developed to support solutions to internal displacement, including joint programs between humanitarian and development actors, these are currently only present in some countries and have not been rolled out systematically.

In this context, a key question that is proposed to serve as the backbone for the discussion is: **how can international actors support a nationally owned durable solutions process?** The discussion will, in sessions addressing different but inter-related issues, identify what helps build effective partnerships and solutions-oriented initiatives that thrive.



A background paper will be shared with participants ahead of the event that outlines ideas the Panel believes merit further exploration and debate. In each of the plenary sessions, speakers and participants will be invited to react to the content in the background paper, drawing on their own experiences. All participants are encouraged to come prepared to share their ideas and views.

III. Outline and Outcome of the Event

This event will be an important contribution towards the Panel's reflection on how to best enable durable solutions. In particular, it will help to refine and test the Panel's findings on how the international community can best engage with and support nationally owned durable solutions processes, including the coordination and financing options to enable such collaboration.

The event will last a total of three and a half (3.5) hours, composed of three core sessions that are detailed below. Each of the sessions will be opened by three speakers from a mix of state, UN, and civil society backgrounds, each of whom will have eight (8) minutes to make their remarks. The presentations will then be followed by 30 minutes for open discussion, facilitated by a moderator. The event will be closed with a short summary by the High-Level Panel, followed by final remarks from the EU.

Following the event, the HLP Secretariat and EU will produce a summary document that will be shared with the High-Level Panel and participants.

(a). Opening Session (20 minutes)

The opening session will consist of:

- Opening remarks by EU Commissioner Lenarcic
- Opening remarks by High-Level Panel Co-Chair Mogherini

(b). Session 1: Supporting nationally owned durable solutions processes that are guided by international standards (55 minutes)

Guiding question: *How can the international community best support a nationally owned process in line with international standards?* States bear the primary responsibility for protecting and supporting their citizens and residents. In practice, addressing internal displacement often competes with many other national priorities, particularly in times of crisis or disaster, and governments are not always willing or able to fulfil this role. As a result, efforts to achieve solutions may either be absent or can be carried out in a manner that is inconsistent with international standards and/or best practices (e.g. the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement or the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions). It is in this context that the question of how international humanitarian, development and political actors can engage to support nationally owned approaches that adhere to international standards becomes particularly vital. In line with that overall question, the following more specific themes would also be posed for reflections by the speakers and for general debate:

- What mechanisms, systems, or structures are most effective in supporting state capacities for solutions?
- Is there a way to better harness high-level diplomacy?



- Is there value in international and government actors working to agree on specific criteria/indicators to guide solutions efforts (adapted to the context but based on international standards)?
- How can national processes be organized to effectively include IDPs and affected populations?
- What is the role for international actors in contexts where the state is unwilling to support solutions or is unwilling to adhere to relevant standards?

(c). Session 2: Coordinating solutions efforts (55 minutes)

Guiding question: *How can international actors coordinate most effectively to support durable solutions?*

To be able to support nationally owned solutions processes, international actors need effective and appropriate coordination structures. Likewise, in contexts where the government is driving displacement or is unwilling to support solutions, the international community may need to take the lead not only in providing lifesaving assistance but in laying the groundwork to support more sustainable solutions when they become available.

Inputs to the Panel have highlighted that currently, there is limited accountability for supporting solutions within the international system. Coordination between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors is weak and links with disaster and climate actors is often lacking. Solutions strategies are rare and often politicized and there is an over-reliance on humanitarian actors to facilitate solutions. In this context, what structures or systems would enable international actors to better support solutions efforts? In parallel, how can international actors support a coordinated, whole-of-government approach within states where there is a willingness to take action? Broken down further, speakers and participants would be invited to reflect and debate the following questions:

- What is the level of accountability for solutions for IDPs within the international/UN system? Could it be strengthened by more formally designating responsibility for solutions to the UN Resident Coordinator? What support would Resident Coordinators need to fulfill this role effectively?
- What does “collective outcome” mean in practical terms? Should the international system at country-level be required to articulate collective outcomes and/or a national durable solutions strategy?
- Should models such as joint (international/government, humanitarian/development/peacebuilding) solutions working groups be established more systematically? What would be the relationship of such a mechanism with the RC?
- Are humanitarian structures fit for purpose to support eventual solutions (in cases where the government is not yet able or willing to facilitate solutions themselves)?
- How can area-based coordination with local authorities focusing on durable solutions be established or enhanced? How can these be most effectively linked to national level coordination systems?

(d). Session 3: Financing for solutions (55 minutes)

Guiding question: *How can funding to governments and international actors support effective and nationally owned durable solutions processes?* Supporting solutions to displacement requires sustained



funding over multiple years – whether in the form of bilateral assistance between governments or grants to international humanitarian or development actors. Currently, there is no clear funding or appeal mechanism for durable solutions, which tends to be seen as neither humanitarian nor purely developmental. The lack of inclusion in national development plans means that IDPs are often overlooked by development donors while also often being seen as falling outside the mandate of humanitarian actors and humanitarian funding channels. Likewise, inputs to the Panel suggest that more could be done by donors to promote accountability for solutions, thereby raising the question how donors can engage and provide funding in a manner that promotes high-quality, coherent approaches to solutions. As for the other questions to be considered in this session:

- Are new solutions funding streams needed – for example, through the establishment of a dedicated appeal for durable solutions or the establishment/creation of specific pooled funds/funding tools?
- How can donors incentivize joint humanitarian-development programs towards solutions? What might this look like, and what would be required to achieve this in practice?
- To what extent is bilateral assistance conditioned on government adherence to basic standards of Do No Harm (and/or, to the government demonstrating proactive efforts to respond to displacement)? Should such assistance be further conditioned?
- What additional financial support do governments need, and what is the best way to channel that assistance?

(d). Closing Session (20 minutes)

Following the three sessions, a summary of key takeaways would be provided by the High-Level Panel. The event would then be closed with remarks first by the EU Representative.