



FEBRUARY 2021

Monthly Snapshot

UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

PANEL MEMBERS

Co-chair: Mr. Donald Kaberuka
Chair of the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Co-chair: Ms. Federica Mogherini
Former High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur
Director-General of Fundacion Compaz, Colombia

Mr. Mitiku Kassa Gutile
Commissioner for Emergency Response, Ethiopia

Mr. Per Heggernes
CEO of IKEA Foundation

Mr. Nasser Judeh
Senator, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Ms. Pauline Riak
Chair of the Board of Directors at the Sudd Institute, South Sudan

Ms. Sima Samar
Member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation

The Expert Advisory Group (EAG) is comprised of **Mr. Chaloka Beyani**, Associate Professor of International Law at the London School of Economics; **Ms. Alexandra Bilak**, Director of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre; **Ms. Elizabeth Ferris**, Research Professor at Georgetown University; and **Mr. Walter Kälin**, Former Representative of UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

SPOTLIGHT

Pacific governments urge accelerated action on disaster displacement



Photos (left to right): Honorable Prime Minister of Fiji, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, opened the consultation which brought together more than 200 participants. The event was moderated by H.E. Tregor Albon Ishoda, Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Fiji (seated second from the left). The Panel was represented by Panel member Nasser Judeh and Expert Advisory Group member Walter Kälin (February 11, Virtual)

11 February - The UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement has heard calls by Pacific governments for urgent action on disaster displacement from the effects of the climate crisis.

Concerns were expressed by government representatives from 10 Pacific countries in the Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement on February 11, co-hosted by the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP)'s Technical Working Group (TWG) on Human Mobility and the Secretariat of the Panel. The event brought together government officials, UN agencies, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector who discussed their respective approaches on disaster displacement, and reflected on the challenges ahead and agreed recommendations to be submitted to the Panel.

"Every year, more of our citizens will be forced to leave their homes to escape stronger storms, rising seas and swelling rivers brought about by climate change," said Honorable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji, in his opening address.

"Climate driven displacement is not a doomsday proposition. It is happening right now. In response we have to change and adapt as quickly as the climate."

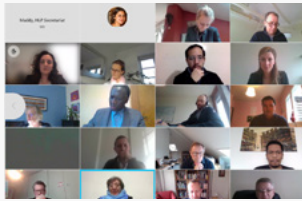
More than 50,000 people in the Pacific region are at risk of displacement from their homes each year due to extreme weather events. The consultations called for ramped up global action for more decisive responses including the inclusion of internal displacement in national development planning and the development of pertinent policy and legal frameworks as the impacts of climate change continue to escalate.

Panel Member Nasser Judeh assured that the Panel recognizes the criticality of disaster-induced displacement and other related threats. He underlined the Panel's eagerness to receive the recommendations from this consultation. "[Climate change] is an existential threat that could displace entire nations. Displacement and disaster risks need to be recognized as a shared development priority," he stressed.

[Click here](#) to watch the recording
[Click here](#) to learn more about the event



FEBRUARY EVENTS



SPOTLIGHT

Roundtable on the Role of Data in Supporting State Commitment and Capacity on Internal Displacement
 February 5, Virtual



SPOTLIGHT

Joint Panel-EU event on "Supporting Nationally Owned Durable Solutions Processes"
 February 10, Virtual

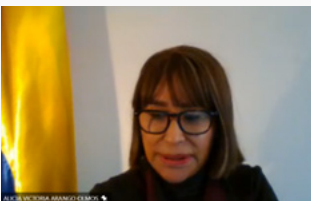


Secretariat Meeting with H.E. Ambassador Socorro Flores Liera, Permanent Representative of Mexico
 February 11, Virtual



SPOTLIGHT

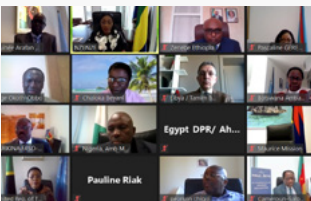
Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement
 February 11, Virtual



Secretariat Meeting with H.E. Ambassador Alicia Victoria Arango Olmos, Permanent Representative of Colombia
 February 12, Virtual



Secretariat Meeting with UNFPA Deputy Executive Director Diene Keita
 February 12, Virtual



SPOTLIGHT

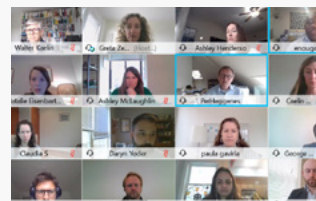
Panel Meeting with Africa Group Permanent Representatives
 February 16, Virtual



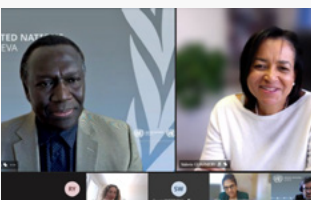
Secretariat Meeting with H.E. Ambassador Tamim M. Baiou, Permanent Representative of Libya
 February 16, Virtual



Secretariat Meeting with H.E. Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, Permanent Representative of Iraq
 February 18, Virtual



Panel Meeting with USAID on Private Sector Engagement
 February 22, Virtual



Secretariat Meeting with WFP Assistant Executive Director Valerie Guarnieri
 February 25, Virtual



SPOTLIGHT

Urban displacement consultation with mayors of Burkina Faso
 February 26, Ouagadougou/ Virtual

New Publication

Synthesis Report on Responses to Call for Submissions to the Panel

Since the launch of the Call for Submissions in March 2020, the Panel has received **nearly 100 submissions** from stakeholders including Member States, UN agencies, NGOs and academic institutions. All submissions received by the Panel were analyzed in detail and continue to inform the Panel's ongoing work.

A synthesis report was created to capture the key trends, points of convergence and divergence, and specific recommendations of all submissions.

[Click here](#) to read the Synthesis Report



SPOTLIGHT

Panel holds roundtable with data actors to test potential recommendations



Photo (left to right): Panel member Per Heggnes opened the data roundtable, highlighting the critical role of data and evidence in supporting solutions to internal displacement. More than 20 data actors across UN agencies, NGOs, academia and other initiatives took part in the targeted discussions. (February 5, Virtual)

February 5 - A virtual roundtable on "The Role of Data in Supporting State Commitment and Capacity on Internal Displacement" was held on February 5 to test and sharpen the Panel's emerging recommendations. More than 20 data actors from UN agencies, NGOs, academia and other initiatives discussed a range of topics from national ownership of data and data sensitivity to the challenges in obtaining quality data.

Panel members Per Heggnes, who delivered the opening remarks, and Sima Samar participated in the event joined by Expert Advisory Group members Alexandra Bilak and Beth Ferris. The Panel will hold other targeted roundtable discussions in the coming months to test and ground-truth the conclusions and recommendations it is elaborating.

SPOTLIGHT

Joint Panel-EU event on durable solutions stresses the need to break silos across nexus and foster common understanding



Photo: Participants exchanged their experiences and lessons learned in supporting nationally-owned solutions processes. Speakers included Panel Co-chair Federica Mogherini and Expert Advisory Group member Beth Ferris. (February 10, Virtual)

February 10 - Representatives of Member States, the European Commission, UN agencies and NGOs reflected on the international community's current approach in addressing internal displacement in an event on "Supporting Nationally Owned Durable Solutions Processes" on February 10. Co-hosted by the European Union and the Secretariat of the Panel, the event saw participants reiterating the need for actors to work in a coordinated manner across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus, break silos and foster a common understanding of national contexts.

"With millions of people stuck in protracted internal displacement around the world, the Panel believes that the issue of solutions warrants our highest attention," said Panel Co-chair Federica Mogherini in her opening remarks. She also underlined that the ideas, conclusions and recommendations from this meeting will be vital in informing the Panel's on-going analysis.

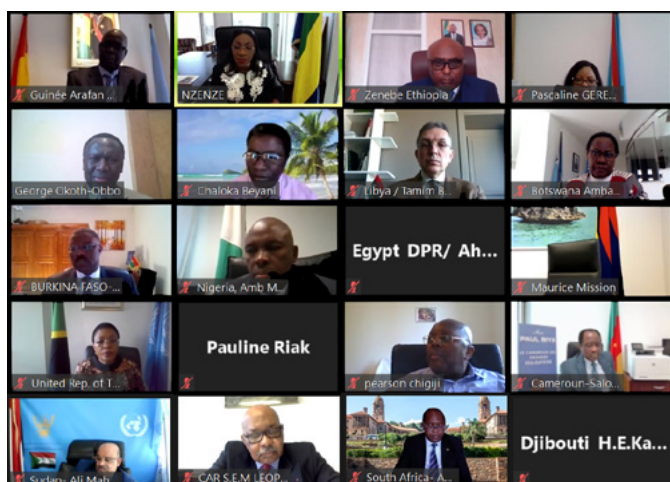
In the event, representatives from Somalia and Haiti shared their respective country approaches and experiences. Zahra Abdi, Head of Durable Solutions Unit at the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of Somalia, called attention to the recent finalization of Somalia's first ever national durable solutions strategy. Clément Bélizaire, Director of the Unit for Construction of Housing and Public Buildings of Haiti, highlighted the importance of understanding contexts, cautioning against a copy-and-paste approach to solutions.

While positive developments have been made over the past twenty years, panelists underscored strongly the need to systematize the work of humanitarian, development and peace actors across the nexus. "We have to break silos, come together in international solidarity and think from the perspectives of internally displaced persons," stressed Michael Koehler, Deputy Director-General at the EU Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation.

"It is important to invest in a common understanding and narrative of the national needs and realities," said Aude Galli, Regional Manager at the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS). Xavier Devictor, Practice Manager at the World Bank, underlined the need for actors to leverage their comparative advantage and work in a complementary manner.

As he closed the event, Martin Seychell, Deputy Director-General at the EU Directorate-General for International Partnerships, concluded: "As today's event have clearly revealed, we can only effectively tackle forced displacement jointly as it is a humanitarian, development, political challenge alike".

[Click here](#) to view the full event agenda and speakers



SPOTLIGHT

Panel meets with Africa Group Permanent Representatives

February 16 - Panel member Pauline Riak, joined by Expert Advisory Group member Chaloka Beyani and the Secretariat, met with the Permanent Representatives of the Africa Group countries in Geneva on February 16. The Group, chaired by the Permanent Representative of Gabon, shared their feedback on the Panel's priority themes, conclusions and emerging recommendations. Members spoke of the IDP challenges faced by African countries today, highlighting the urgency to tackle root causes of displacement and the drive for sustainable solutions. Africa Group members were among a group of 57 states that called on the UN Secretary-General to establish the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.

SPOTLIGHT

Mayors from Burkina Faso voice challenges of urban displacement to inform Panel



Photo: Mr. Boukari Ouédraogo (Mayor of Kaya), Mr. Daouda Zomré (Mayor of Kongoussi), Mr. Walian Illassa (Mayor of Tougouri), and Mr. Abdoul Aziz Diallo (Mayor of Dori) participated in a consultation to inform the Panel's work on urban internal displacement. (February 26, Ouagadougou)

February 26 - In a semi-virtual consultation on February 26, four mayors from Burkina Faso shared with the Panel their experiences in addressing the needs of IDPs and host communities in urban contexts. The discussion was the first in a series of local consultations co-hosted by UN-Habitat, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Secretariat of the Panel.

In the meeting, the Panel's Expert Advisory Group member Walter Kälin conversed with mayors from Kaya, Dori, Tougouri and Kongoussi on the challenges they faced at the municipal level. Elaborating the reasons for the movement of IDPs to urban areas, the mayors highlighted expectation of better access to services, social security and self-reliance; family and social ties with the communities in which the IDPs settle; and safety and security reasons.

As more than 80% of IDPs reside in or move to urban areas, the issue of urban displacement is among the priority themes of the Panel's work. This series of local consultations will culminate in a global urban internal displacement event on April 2021.

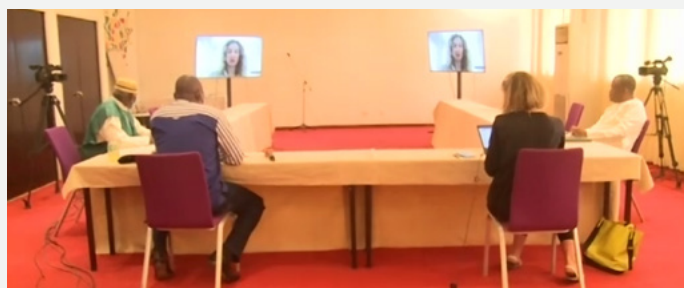


Photo: Mayors from Burkina Faso spoke of their experiences in addressing the needs of urban IDPs and host communities in a semi-virtual format. (February 26, Ouagadougou)

UPCOMING EVENTS

**03
MAR**

Participation in Aswan Forum
The Head of the Panel's Secretariat will discuss the Panel's on-going work in the Aswan Forum's session on forced displacement in Africa.

**11
MAR**

Panel Event on Peace and Security
The Panel will hold a meeting with the "Group of Friends" Member States based in New York to discuss the peace and security dimensions of internal displacement.

**16
MAR**

Panel Consultation with Donor Governments
The Panel will hold a consultation with donor governments of internal displacement responses.