



## Inputs to the Work of the High Level Panel on Internal Displacement

Geneva, August 2020

The work of the High Level Panel (HLP) on internally displaced persons (IDP's) could not have been opportune. It takes place at a time the numbers of (IDPs) is staggering.

Traditionally driven by wars and civil strives and other factors, today's IDPs are also forced to seek refugee elsewhere, by virtue of impact of natural disasters linked to climate changes.

In Mozambique, we witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of natural disasters driven by climate changes, last year, when the Central and Northern parts of the country were severely hit by cyclones *Idai* and *Kenneth*, respectively, leaving behind hundreds of deaths, appalling human suffering and untold destruction of vital and strategic socio economic infra-structures.

Therefore, it is important that the HLP in its work also looks seriously into the issue of IDP's driven by natural disasters by virtue of climate changes.

The platform should draw on the:

- UN Sustainable Development Goals, wit focus on goals 9 and 13, on resilient infra-structures and combating climate change, respectively;
- Relevant provisions of Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced;
- *Nansen Initiative*; it should be explored to the fullest extent, for it offers ways and strategies as to how to approach trans boundary displacement, on account of natural disasters, at a time experts projections suggest some insular countries in the Pacific Regions may be submerged on account of sea level rise
- Global Compact of Refugees (on IDP's passages)

**Prevention** – should be given top priority, for cost-effective.

Conflict analysis studies offer a host of both structural and proximate causes of wars, violent conflicts and violence (including gang violence, linked to high profile robbery; arms and drug trafficking) as drivers of IDP's. Therefore, these causes should be addressed by states and stakeholders with the support of UN, in a holistic and systemic fashion.

Inclusiveness and participatory process should be cardinal in the states' drafting of development plans and strategies, so as to avoid marginalization of certain social groups in all spheres of humanity activity, including education, as an empowering strategy.

### **Solutions**

In designing assistance and protection for IDPs states, humanitarian organizations and other stakeholders should involve local actors so that such assistance and protection are fit for purpose.

Donors should fulfill their commitments in the framework of Paris Agreement as far as financial support and technology transfer are concerned as to enable least developed and developing countries to implement their adaptation programs to climate changes and mitigation impact of climate changes.

Build back better (BBB) should be embraced in the post – natural disasters (driven by climates changes), reconstruction phase of socio-economic infrastructures, inter alia health facilities, power and water treatment and supply stations, schools and other critical services, as to motivate IDP's to return to their areas of origin.

Meanwhile, IDP's should be assisted in settling in new areas, if the affected areas of origin (residential areas) are prone to natural disasters, which is the case of some coastal sites and places with increasing sea levels.

Solutions to displacement should be sustainable and aimed at avoiding a relapse into new cycles of displacement.

### **Recommendations**

The Panel should recommend universalization of relevant conventional arms treaties and their effective implementation, including but not limited to Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Indeed evidence – based studies concluded that diversion of light and small weapons is the main source of supply of weapons to non-states actors with the attending fuelling of wars, violent conflicts and violence, inter alia gender and gender – based violence.

IDP's should be involved in the search for solutions for what drives them away from there, given their comparative advantage as to the knowledge of their communities of or origin.

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