

The key issues, problems or imperative which, as you see it, should be prioritized by the Panel in its analysis of the crisis of internal displacement today and how prevention, response at large and solutions can be effectively advanced.

- In the light of Georgia's experience, we believe that the primary imperative of the High-Level Panel shall be protecting the Internally Displaced Persons' (IDPs) rights to return voluntarily to their homes in safety and dignity and their property rights. In this respect, it is essential for the Panel to accentuate that the right to return to one's home as well as the right to own property are both a human right and a humanitarian issue enshrined in numerous international legal documents¹ and, therefore, cannot be directly linked to political questions or the conclusion of peace agreements. It must be addressed irrespective of any solution to the underlying conflict.
- When it comes to prevention, the High-Level Panel shall do its utmost to raise the international community's attention and seek an immediate response to the instances that contain the risk of triggering the new wave of forced displacement. For example, ethnically targeted human rights violations on the ground, which might create ground for another wave of displacement.
- In order the prevention, response and solutions to be effectively advanced, it is absolutely necessary that international human rights mechanisms have full and unimpeded access to the populations in need.
- Meanwhile, in response to the current challenges facing the durable solutions of Internally Displaced Persons, it is important for the state to introduce and implement a variety of approaches that cover the full range of IDPs and ensure their decent living conditions before voluntarily returning to their permanent places of residence. Taking into account Georgia's extensive experience in this respect, we are ready to participate in the global efforts to

¹ **The Universal Declaration on Human Rights** recognizes that "everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State" and "everybody has the right ... to return to his country"

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provide that "displacement shall last no longer than required by the circumstances"... "Every human being shall have the right to be protected against being arbitrarily displaced from the place of habitual residence". Moreover, According to Principle 21, no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of property and possessions".

According to the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, "no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country" (Art. 12(4)).

The Fourth Geneva Convention provides that persons who have been evacuated must be transferred back to their homes as soon as hostilities in the area in question have ceased (Art. 49(2)).

protect Internally Displaced Persons' rights and to share our experience with all interested parties. It might be worth considering the following ideas for the resettlement of IDPs:

- **Constructing new residential buildings** – Based on financial resources, it is possible to build new residential buildings in which IDPs will be resettled. Besides the construction, it is possible to purchase apartments in buildings built by private developers and transfer them to IDP families. It is important to take into account certain standards in this process, in particular, with regard to the area of the apartments and the size of the family.
- **Redemption of private homes** – there is a possibility for state to purchase privately owned houses that the IDPs wish to buy; no matter whether they are in the city or in the countryside.
- **Mortgage financing** – when the displacement is protracted, families are often trying their best to resolve the issue of accommodation on their own. In some cases they are addressing the banks for a mortgage loan in order to buy a house. In such instances, it might be effective to provide financial assistance by covering full or part amount of loan to those families who have purchased a residential area with a mortgage loan and if this space is their only property.
- **Co-financing the purchase of apartments in residential buildings** - For those families who live in the urban areas, it is also possible to purchase houses through co-financing. In such cases, both the state and the IDP family are involved in co-payment.
- **Construction of private houses** – For those IDP families who own the land, but do not have the financial resources to build a house, one of the feasible solution might be the state support in funding the construction works.