

June 2020

Submission by Norway to the UN SG's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

Norway welcomes the invitation to provide written inputs to the work of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. Norway was a strong supporter of the establishment of the Panel, we are providing financial support to the work of the Panel and we are co-chairing the Groups of Friends of the Panel in Geneva and New York.

There is a momentum and expectations that the work of the High-Level Panel will result in enhanced international efforts to respond to situations of internal displacement, with a record number of internally displaced persons.

While responsibility for the **protection** of IDPs rests first and foremost with the national governments and local authorities, there is often a need for support from the international community as well as engagement by the civil society actors and private sector.

Norway would welcome recommendations from the Panel which can generate a more **holistic approach** response to situations of internal displacement. In this regard, it is encouraging that the Panel is seeking inputs from **a broad basis of stakeholders** and **experts**. Engagement and consultations with IDPs, host communities, civil society and affected states are important to provide valuable input to the Panel's work in identifying **good practices** and **lessons learned**.

The Panel should focus on **prevention, response and solutions** to displacement induced by various causes, including conflict as well as climate and natural disasters. The recommendations should include measures to **mitigate the impact** of displacement and finding **durable and practical solutions**. **Incentives** for host communities should also be included.

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement are providing good guidance on protection of internally displaced. The Kampala Convention is an example of a regional legal instrument. On the international level the UN Human Rights Conventions and International Humanitarian Law set the legal framework which the recommendations of the Panel should be drawn from. States' adherence to applicable international law when addressing the needs of IDP should be promoted.

The international legal framework is also a basis for addressing the **protection** needs of IDPs, including when it comes to protecting the life, integrity and personal security of displaced persons, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, access to identifications documents and prevention of discrimination in the access to basic services. Housing, land and property rights are also important issues in this regards as well as women's rights.

Information, data and evidence are prerequisites for identifying protection needs and vulnerabilities and addressing gaps in the current response. Data can also be useful for analysing and understanding the different contexts and drivers of internal displacement. This should build on and complement ongoing efforts related to IDPs (including IDMC, JIPS and other organizations' work on collection of data, as well as the UNHCR/World Bank Joint Data Centre established last year).

June 2020

Submission by Norway to the UN SG's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

The recommendations by the multi-stakeholder Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics, endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2020, give an opportunity to building more inclusive and efficient statistical systems.

The **2030 Agenda** seeks to address the needs for the most vulnerable, including IDPs. The link between IDP response and socio-economic development should be assessed with a view to identify effective strategies for **assistance and protection** that may be beneficial also to the affected states and (host) communities. IDPs should be integrated in **national development plans**. Access to basic services, education, livelihood opportunities and housing should be provided. In this regard there may be good practices and lessons to be learned from the new comprehensive response to refugee situations which seeks to include displaced persons in national systems and engage development actors early to the benefit of both the displaced persons and the host-community as well. Risk management, assessing the cost to society in situations of internal displacement as well as identifying incentives for host societies should be part of the panel's considerations.

It is also important to focus on the resources the IDPs represent and their positive contribution to the communities, rather than assuming that return is the priority solution for the IDP and the host community. IDPs need a chance to start a new life that is sustainable and in harmony with the host-community.

The current COVID-19 pandemic raises specific concerns as regards the provision of health services to IDPs, maintenance of economic and social resilience, risk of stigmatisation as well as the potential for both isolation and further displacement. The pandemic could be a pretext for the Panel to see how states (and the international community) are including IDPs in their short- and long-term response plans to sudden disasters, and to inform the Panel's recommendation in that regard.

There should be an integrated approach to respond to situations of internal displacement, which includes the multiple nexus between humanitarian assistance, long-term development assistance, conflict resolution, climate change and disaster risk reduction. This should also be based on ongoing efforts, including by the UN.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the HLP, the Panel is meant to prompt new and different thinking on the issue of IDPs. Whereas states have the primary responsibility to address internal displacement, we believe this is an opportunity as well to make recommendations on improved performance of the UN system and the international community as regards both the humanitarian response as well as the early and long-term inclusion of IDPs in development programmes and engagement with development actors.

Norway would welcome recommendations from the Panel on how the Panel's report should be followed up on national, regional and international level. Any follow-up mechanism on the international level must have a strong buy-in from states and should facilitate the supportive role of relevant UN agencies, other international organisations and development actors, and allow for engagements also with NGOs and civil society organisations. If possible it could be an idea to build on established mechanisms rather than creating new ones.

June 2020

Submission by Norway to the UN SG's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

In addition to the inputs in this submission, Norway has also contributed to the preparation of the submission to the Panel by the Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). In this process Norway and Switzerland co-chaired a working group which instrumentalized the PDD Member States inputs to the drafting of the Envoy's submission. The submission contains valuable analysis and recommendations for the Panel as regards internal displacement in the context of sudden and slow-onset disasters triggered by natural hazards, including the adverse effects of climate change.

Also, Norway has signed on to the NGO-initiated input titled "Leaving No One Behind: Ensuring an Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) Inclusive Approach to Internal Displacement" which was submitted to the Panel by ICVA on behalf of 51 entities. The submissions highlights many important issues, including on sexual and gender-based violence, which the Panel could draw on in its recommendations.