



Submission¹ to the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement from the Government of Switzerland

To support the work of the High-Level Panel and its ongoing deliberations, based on earlier submissions, and in response to the Panel's call for inputs, this submission revisits and responds in more detail to the Panel's request for ideas to assist in answering one of its core questions: *"What steps could be taken to strengthen the effectiveness of response management, coordination and accountability at all levels in contexts of internal displacement?"*²

More specifically, this submission concentrates on exploring and suggesting ways in which global leadership, accountability, and response could be strengthened within the UN and, by extension, the broader international system to better address the global crisis of internal displacement. While focused on the global level, this is entirely with the view of ensuring more effective national and international responses on the ground, in countries experiencing internal displacement. Fully recognizing that primary responsibility for addressing internal displacement rests with the State concerned, we also believe there remains significant scope to strengthen the complementary and critically important role to be played by the international community: to promote and support States to effectively fulfil this responsibility, in full respect of the rights of IDPs.

The establishment of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement represents a unique and truly urgent opportunity to catalyze more comprehensive and effective responses to internal displacement not only at the national, including local, but also international level. This requires, as we've previously emphasized, that the Panel take a critical look at the performance and set up of the UN system as it relates to addressing internal displacement, including in all three pillars of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

I. KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Key considerations informing and guiding our suggestions, for enhancing global leadership, accountability, and response to internal displacement include:

- **The international system's response to internal displacement has developed significantly at global level** since the issue first was placed on the international agenda 30 years ago. There has been increase awareness and understanding of the phenomenon of internal displacement; with the UN Guiding Principles and advances on regional level, the normative framework has been clarified; the UN has issued guidance and has clarified the institutional responsibilities within the system, and affected states have been supported to strengthen capacities for addressing internal displacement.
- **Critical areas remain in need of strengthening, particularly at field-level.** We believe the focus now must entirely be on ensuring effective responses in actual situations of internal displacement. More systematic, predictable and comprehensive responses are needed, including by the UN, to preventing arbitrary displacement, protecting and assisting IDPs, and supporting the creation of conditions enabling safe, voluntary and durable solutions to displacement for IDPs and displacement-affected communities.
- **Strengthened accountability of, and support to, RCs to coordinate the international response at country level, in support of the State and other national actors is essential.** The enhanced role and accountability of UN Resident Coordinators under the recent UN development system reform could provide important opportunities for improving international responses at country-level. However, this will require that RCs responsibilities regarding internal displacement be given greater

¹ This submission is based on research commissioned by Switzerland. Switzerland is grateful to Erin Mooney for her extensive research, in-depth analysis and thorough reflections.

² UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, Call for Submissions and Inputs, 19 March 2020.

prioritization, including by the Secretary-General to whom RCs now report. Moreover, global inter-agency evaluations repeatedly have suggested UN RCs need to be better supported to discharge their overall responsibility regarding IDPs, both through seconded staff and political support from HQ on this inherently political issue.

- **Solutions to internal displacement are one, but not the only, area in need of strengthened global leadership, accountability, and action on internal displacement.** In addition to the Panel's emphasis, which we welcome, of promoting greater engagement of development and peace actors in support of solutions to internal displacement, we reiterate our hope and expectation that the Panel also will recommend ways of strengthening international leadership, accountability, and response to prevent arbitrary displacement and to ensure access as well as protection of and humanitarian assistance to IDPs and host communities.
- **A whole-of-system response, across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and all pillars of UN response is essential.** Internal displacement is an issue that cuts across and requires the engagement of all three core pillars of UN response: human rights, peace and security, and development. Recently, development actors, both within and outside of the UN system, have been increasing their focus and operational engagement on supporting IDPs and displacement-affected communities particularly in post-conflict contexts. Peace and security actors, including the UN Security Council and UN Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund, also have undertaken initiatives regarding internal displacement. What is still missing is a joint-up approach to bring together all these efforts.
- **While there now exist several UN senior officials and experts with designated roles and responsibilities regarding internal displacement, there is no focal point or mechanism for ensuring systematic coordination of efforts across all pillars of UN response.** Most notably, since 1992, the UN Human Rights Council has appointed and maintained an independent expert on internally displaced persons. Within the UN system proper, there are a multitude of senior UN staff with specific responsibilities on internal displacement. What is needed, is strategic coordination among these to mobilize and implement the whole-of-system approach required.
- **There is a clear and urgent need for a high-level UN official to coordinate and ensure a whole-of-system global UN response to internal displacement.** While agreeing with the Panel's recommendation for the Secretary-General to appoint a senior UN official, we believe it is important to identify and analyze different institutional options as to the form this senior UN position might take (see next chapter).
- **Stronger political will must be mobilized not only to promote solutions to displacement but also to prevent arbitrary displacement and to protect IDPs and other civilians, including in host communities, at risk.** Recommendations for how to better promote and reinforce States' responsibility for comprehensively addressing internal displacement, including prevention of arbitrary displacement and protection of IDPs, and how to effectively hold States accountable when they fail to meet their responsibilities under international law as regards internal displacement, also are urgently needed.
- **Efforts to strengthen global leadership and response to internal displacement must extend beyond the UN system and IASC.** International and regional financial institutions have an important role to play; again, not only in supporting solutions to displacement but also as regards prevention of arbitrary displacement and protection of IDPs and displacement affected communities as well as other civilians at risk, including regarding GBV and from the impacts of disasters. The private sector also can make important contributions, as it is the case for the Red Cross Movement.

II. ESSENTIAL NEXT STEPS

To strengthen global leadership, accountability, and response to the global crisis of internal displacement, we believe the following eight measures to be essential next steps, each of which is elaborated below:

1. A roadmap for UN follow-up

The High-Level Panel will present its report and recommendations to the UN Secretary-General.³ Following the Secretary-General's consideration of the Panel's report, it is essential the UN develop a roadmap for follow-up. The roadmap for strengthened global response to internal displacement must set out ambitious but realistic objectives, specific timelines, clearly defined responsibilities for implementation, and resource requirements. Monitoring and reporting of implementation of the roadmap should occur annually, preferably by an independent entity.

2. Intensified direct engagement and advocacy by the UN Secretary-General

It is our hope and expectation that the Secretary-General, upon receipt of the Panel's report and review of its recommendations, will report publicly back to the UN his reflections on the Panel's recommendations, provide any updates regarding their implementation or other relevant major developments of relevance, and, most importantly, set out priorities and action points for the way forward by the UN.

The Secretary-General has indicated that among his priorities during his second term of office, to *"pursue further a much more integrated working together within the UN system that straddles across peace and security, sustainable development and humanitarian action, firmly underpinned by human rights"*, underscoring that *"the various actors in these areas need to work much more seamlessly together right from the outset of a crisis and even before to prevent it in the first place — through effective coordination that is results-oriented"*.⁴ The Secretary-General's personal leadership would be instrumental to ensuring a more joined-up approach by the UN system to internal displacement.

One important vehicle for ensuring a whole of system UN approach would be the Senior Management Group (SMG), which the Secretary-General chairs. This is a forum for policy-related matters, planning, and information-sharing on cross-cutting issues, which the global crisis of internal displacement certainly is. Moreover, the issue of internal displacement is directly relevant to mandate and role of the vast majority of the members of the SMG .

3. Coordination and managerial oversight by the Deputy Secretary-General of a whole-of-system approach

The UN Deputy Secretary-General should play a key role in coordinating and overseeing implementation of the Secretary-General's follow-up to the Panel's report and recommendations. Doing so would be fully in line with the overall responsibilities delegated by the Secretary-General to the Deputy Secretary-General which include: to assist the Secretary-General in managing the operations of the Secretariat, *"to support the Secretary-General in ensuring inter-sectoral and inter-institutional coherence of activities and programmes"* and to support the Secretary-General in elevating the United Nations' profile and leadership in the economic and social spheres.⁵

From the experience of other UN High-Level Panels of the Secretary-General, there is strong precedent and a solid track record pointing to the value of the Deputy Secretary-General performing such a role. Indeed, experience suggests that the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, via the Deputy Secretary-General, playing a direct role in follow-up efforts to a panel often is instrumental to the effectiveness and impact of follow-up efforts.

Assigning the UN Deputy Secretary-General responsibility for overseeing, on a day-to-day basis on the Secretary-General's behalf, follow-up to the Panel's recommendations and stronger UN leadership, accountability and response to internal displacement, would send a strong signal that this is a high priority for the UN and of the Secretary-General himself, bringing greater visibility to the issue, both within the UN system and externally. It would bring clarity by centralizing this responsibility in one focal point, who is just one-step away from the UN Secretary-General, to ensure a coordinated, whole-of-system approach. Meanwhile, an extensive existing political network with States and access to States and regional organizations at the highest level would be useful in efforts to generate greater political will on the issue. Meanwhile, for States and all the more so for key actors

³ It is also to be expected that the Panel's will be made publicly available.

⁴ António Guterres, *Vision Statement, "Restoring trust and inspiring hope": The next five years for the United Nations*, 23 March 2021, p. 9.

⁵ <https://www.un.org/sg/en/dsg/dsgabout.shtml>

outside of the UN, e.g. international and regional financial institutions and the private sector as well as the Red Cross Movement, the DSG's office would provide a "one-stop shop" senior UN official with whom to liaise, while knowing that any follow-up would be channeled to any and all UN entities relevant to the specific matter at hand. The DSG's managerial responsibility and leverage across all pillars of the UN, including a solid accountability chain with UN RCs, would be instrumental to ensuring that appropriate and timely action is taken by the system. Direct, regular access to the UN Secretary-General would be assured.

Moreover, the UN Deputy Secretary-General chairs the UN Sustainable Development Group, which guides, supports, tracks and oversees the coordination of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals globally. The DSG, as chair of the Group and of the regional SDG platforms, can and should play, along with the UN Development Coordination Office (see below), an instrumental role in ensuring this, so to ensure that IDPs are not, in the words of the SDG mantra, "left behind".

Certainly, the DSG, who has a myriad of other responsibilities, would need some support to effectively discharge this role. With respect to managing and supporting the UN RCs, the UN Development Coordination Office does so on a day-to-day basis. At global level, the DSG could be supported on issues of internal displacement by a small but expert implementation team. Several precedents exist from other UN SG High-Level Panels when implementation of follow-up was led by the DSG, supported by a small implementation team.⁶ Potentially, this team could be established on a no-cost basis, or at least with limited additional resources, through secondments by a number of key UN agencies. The possibility of specialized secondments from outside of the system, e.g. an international financial institution, should be explored. Secondments from States also could be considered.

Beyond this small implementation team, the DSG of course would also have convening power, via the SDG and broader managerial responsibilities delegated by the UN Secretary-General, of the more extensive group of UN offices, entities, and agencies that may need to be mobilized to respond to specific country situations or issues. The DSG's access to and participation in (often chairing) such forums provides important opportunities for integrating the issue of internal displacement across the system, especially if this is articulated as a priority of the Secretary-General. Indeed, it would be important that, in addition to a specialized support team, some safeguards are in place to ensure this new potential responsibility of the DSG is not overshadowed by other priorities. The annual reporting we recommended above on progress of implementation of the (recommended) Secretary-General's Roadmap for Addressing Internal Displacement surely would help keep this priority in focus.

4. Strengthened accountability of, and support to, UN Resident Coordinators on internal displacement

The recent development system reform, by which RCs now report to the UNSG, via the UNDCO, are expected to lead a whole-of-system approach, and will benefit from strengthened staff support presents important opportunities for realizing UN RCs long-standing role regarding internal displacement. As noted above, we believe it is essential that RC's responsibility to lead coordination of international responses to internal displacement at country-level be emphasized by the Secretary-General, to whom they report, as a priority. Specifically it is essential that this responsibility be explicitly stated in RC's revised ToRs.⁷

Given its role in managing and overseeing the Resident Coordinator system, providing substantive guidance and support to UN RCs on a day-to-day basis, and backstopping to RC Offices on the ground, the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), both at global level and in its five regional offices, has a critically important role to play in strengthening the accountability of and support. Specifically, it is essential to explicitly reflect UN RC's responsibility regarding internal displacement into its performance management system and develop clear benchmarks in this regard. Moreover, it's

⁶ For example, this was the set-up for follow-up to the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and to the UN Secretary-General's "Human Rights Up Front" initiative which was established in follow-up to the findings and recommendations of the UN's Internal Review Panel on UN Action in Sri Lanka.

⁷ Strengthening delivery of the RC's role regarding internal displacement was explored in separate consultations with the Panel on development coordination at country-level.

important that awareness of the issue be raised among RCs and exchanges of good practice and lessons learned be facilitated. The recent initiative by the Regional DCO in Asia to bring together UN RCs in the region to discuss issues of internal displacement and the RCOs' role provides a good example.

At the same time, UN RCs need to be able to count on support, both at the technical level, when needed, and at the highest-level, from the UN system when they tackle the inherently political issue of internal displacement. They also point to the need for a clear focal point within the UN to whom they can turn for such support. Should RCs require support to carry beyond what can be mobilized from within the UNCT or other local resources, the DCO should be equipped with information of global resources for potential support on internal displacement, whether substantive support on a particular issue (e.g. from UN SR on IDPs, JIPS, IDMC etc.) or opportunities for secondment of staff with specialized expertise on internal displacement via UN/IASC or donor rosters (e.g. ProCap, SDC etc.).

5. Improved humanitarian responses to internal displacement under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator and Inter-Agency Standing Committee

Within the humanitarian system, the Emergency Relief Coordinator has a pivotal role to play. While important enhancements have been made over the years, most notably with the IASC's introduction of the "cluster approach" in 2005 and subsequent humanitarian reform processes, there remains a need for strengthened accountability, leadership, and delivery of effective response. We do hope the Panel has taken our earlier reflections into account and will include specific recommendations for the strengthening the humanitarian response to situations of internal displacement. Any review of IASC responses to internal displacement of course must be an independent assessment; we reiterate our hope and expectation that the Panel will provide this.

6. Renewal of the mandate and reinforced support to the UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons

Additional to above-mentioned steps recommended to be taken by the UN system, we believe there is value in continuing the UN Human Rights Council's mandate, which is up for renewal in 2022, of an independent expert on internally displaced persons, and for strengthening support to this office. The independent research, analysis, and advocacy role to be played by the Special Rapporteur serves as a crucially important complement to efforts undertaken by the UN system itself. Indeed, the Special Rapporteur should be counted upon not only to support UN implementation of recommendations of the Panel, at least those relevant to the Rapporteur's mandate, but also to critically assess the effectiveness of such efforts and to continue to make recommendations to the UN system and IASC, as well as to Member States, regional organizations, etc., for strengthening responses to internal displacement and protecting the rights of IDPs. Consideration should be given to establishing systematic global reporting on State responses to internal displacement. A reinforced office of the UN Special Rapporteur usefully could lead such efforts so to ensure a strong protection lens and independent analysis, all the while ensuring this is a report published by and presented in the UN.

7. Continuation by Member States of the "Group of Friends"

This group, now numbering 57 States from all regions of the world, including several countries experiencing internal displacement, was instrumental in advocating and mobilizing the necessary political will to support the establishment of the High-Level Panel. The Group, which functions both in New York and Geneva, regularly has met with the Panel and actively contributed to its work. Participating States note that the Group has served as a valuable forum for sharing information and views and discussing issues in an informal setting. Particular benefit has been derived from hearing the candid perspectives shared by States affected by internal displacement. Given that mobilizing greater political will to address the global crisis of internal displacement remains a key challenge, there appears to be value to continuing the Group of Friends, including to support the UN senior leadership, Member States, and others in the implementation of the Panel's recommendations. Outreach efforts to expand the membership of the Group would be undertaken on an ongoing basis, with particular emphasis given to IDP-affected States.

8. A global support network or alliance of actors outside of the UN and its established funding mechanisms.

To mobilize political will and potential support beyond the UN, consideration usefully could be given to the developing a global alliance, or even informal network, of such actors who are in a position and pre-disposed to provide substantial support to national and sub-national responses on internal displacement. It would include, for instance, international and regional financial institutions as well as members of the private sector. This network could be tapped into by the UN senior leadership when meaningful opportunities arise which cannot be funded through existing support channels.

III. POSSIBLE SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES

Thirty years on, we fully agree with the Panel, as noted above, on the **need for a senior-level UN official to lead, coordinate and oversee a whole-of-system approach by the UN system to internal displacement.** Whether a new position, such as an SRSG needs to be established to perform this task, or whether this can be, and perhaps even best be, a task undertaken by an existing senior UN official, with staff support, is a question to consider. Before exploring the potential strengths and weaknesses of different institutional options for strengthening UN global leadership, we outline what we consider to be among the most important functions for this position and key characteristics required to perform these functions most effectively. Form must follow function.

At this stage of the international community's response to internal displacement, it is our view that strengthening global leadership, accountability and response primarily requires a role for a senior UN official in two main areas. First, is a strong internal management function, within the UN, to ensure existing responsibilities and commitments by different parts of the UN system and collectively are delivered upon by the UN system. Second, is building on the efforts of UN RCs and HCs, the ERC, UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur, the Group of Friends, and others to mobilize political will among States to effectively address internal displacement, including not only to secure durable solutions, but also to prevent arbitrary displacement in the first place and to ensure the protection of and assistance to IDPs and displacement affected communities.

More specifically, core functions of a senior UN official to lead international effort on internal displacement must include to:

- **Lead and ensure a “whole of system” UN response to internal displacement** that goes beyond humanitarian response (which requires further strengthening, to be led by the ERC and IASC) to fully mobilize all three UN pillars -- peace and security, development, and human rights to strengthen international responses to internal displacement, including: to prevent arbitrary displacement, ensure protection and assistance for IDPs and displacement affected communities and support the creation of conditions for safe, voluntary, and durable solutions to displacement;
- **Ensure all UN RCs in countries experiencing internal displacement systematically operationalize a whole of system response and receive required support to do so.** Given that the RCs now report directly to the SG, the Executive Office of the SG is best placed to do so, with the support of UN DCO, i.e. leverage this existing “accountability chain” with the highest levels of the UN to ensure more effective responses to IDPs. At the same time, the UN system must provide RCs with the support they require to fulfil this role. This requires mobilizing from within any part of the UN system or outside of it (e.g. with IFIs or the Red Cross Movement) any required support not available within country as well as providing RCs with the backing of the UN Secretariat, including at the highest level, when they engage in what inherently is a politically sensitive issue.
- **Mobilize political support at the highest political level,** both within the leadership of the State concerned, in support of the UN RC's own efforts, and among Member States of sub-regional, regional, and global inter-governmental forums, including the UN General Assembly and, as relevant, the UN Security Council, to ensure effective national, regional and international responses to internal displacement, including the protection of IDPs and other civilians at risk;

- **Strengthen and expand partnerships and resource mobilization opportunities beyond the UN system, and at Chief Executive level**, e.g. with the Presidents of international and regional financial institutions, the private sector, and non-traditional donors in a position to provide substantial support to constructive State, sub-national, and regional responses to internal displacement that otherwise struggle to secure financial support from existing mechanisms;
- **Coordinate and oversee, on behalf of the UN Secretary-General, follow-up to the Panel’s recommendations, including development and implementation of a roadmap of the Secretary-General for addressing the global crisis of internal displacement⁸**, in close consultation with Member States, UN agencies and offices, regional organizations, civil society.
- **Advise the UN Secretary-General**, including recommending when the “good offices” of the UNSG may be needed with States or when the direct engagement and authority of the UNSG is needed to resolve critical gaps in the UN response.

Key characteristics of a senior UN official to lead international efforts on internal displacement must include:

- **Authority and clout within the UN system to lead a “whole of system” response to internal displacement.** At country level, UN RCs have a key leadership role to play in this regard. At global level, RCs require the support of and access to all 3 pillars of UN response. We believe this is best done via the office of the Secretary-General,
- **Convening power of all pillars of the UN at senior-level** is essential to ensure implementation of the reforms needed and access to the support required by UN RCs to ensure effective responses to internal displacement. This convening power would need to be able to mobilize the UN Senior Management Group (chaired by the Secretary-General), the UN Sustainable Development Group at global and regional levels (both chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General), other relevant UN senior-level inter-agency forums plus, on a bilateral basis, relevant individual UN entities, all at Principals level;
- **Established oversight and accountability chain with UN RCs** (see above),
- **Direct and regular access to the UN Secretary-General,**
- **Access at the highest level to Member States, regional organizations, and other relevant organizations.**

In our view, this internal management function as well as the essential task of mobilizing greater political will is best placed in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, more specifically, to be carried out by the UN Secretary-General himself and, on a more regular basis on his behalf, by the Deputy Secretary-General, supported by a small implementation team. **For all the reasons elaborated in this submission, we would prefer this option compared to an SRSG on Solutions to Internal Displacement as proposed by the HLP, this includes notably**

- **We question the decision to limit the scope of work of the proposed position of SRSG to being strictly focused on solutions to internal displacement.** We wonder whether establishing an SRSG focused exclusively on solutions to displacement runs the risk of reinforcing, and indeed creating more, institutional silos in the UN response, rather than breaking down institutional silos?
- We would welcome clarification as to **how this position (whatever its focus) would relate to the various other existing global UN officials with responsibilities on internal displacement?** As part of its rationale for recommending establishment of an office of SRSG, the Panel points out that UN RCs, affected Governments, regional organizations, IFIs and donors have highlighted their “*uncertainty as to whom to turn to for high-level advice on internal displacement*”, including on solutions. How would this new SRSG office relate to other existing offices with a global mandate

⁸ Analogous to the Secretary-General’s Roadmap on Digital Cooperation, developed following the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation -- the only other High-Level Panel created by the current UN Secretary-General, who created the position of UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Digital Cooperation to oversee such efforts.

on internal displacement, including on advocating, engaging States and UN agencies, and mobilizing support for solutions to displacement?

- **Most notably, would this new position of SRSG on Solutions to Internal Displacement be additional to or replace (the mandate is due for renewal in 2022) the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs?** If the two senior global UN positions on internal displacement are to co-exist, how would the work of the SRSG on Solutions to Internal Displacement complement the work UN Special Rapporteur on IDPs who also has a long-standing mandate, set out in UNGA and UN Human Rights Council, regarding solutions to displacement? What would be the division of responsibility between these two offices? And how will this division of labour be made clear to others, incl. States, RC/HCs, IASC, civil society etc.?
Further, how would the role and work of these two UN global mandates on solutions to internal displacement also relate to the work of UN offices, agencies, funds and programs as well as other actors such as IOM or the Red Cross Movement with a role to play regarding solutions to internal displacement? And to the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and IASC, which though not focused on solutions have been emphasizing for several years the important contributions to be made during humanitarian response to kickstart solutions? In short, would establishment of an additional UN mandate and office on internal displacement clarify or confuse and diffuse global leadership and accountability on internal displacement?
- **What would be relationship between the SRSG on Solutions to Internal Displacement and the IASC?** How would the SRSG support implementation the *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement*, regarding which the UN Special Rapporteur has a mandated role? And support the IASC to kickstart solutions to displacement as soon as possible during humanitarian response? Would solutions be encompassed by the Panel's recommended IASC review of its IDP response and how would the SRSG contribute to this exercise and implementation of its recommendations? Would the SRSG join the UN Special Rapporteur as a standing invitee in the IASC? If so, how would they coordinate their advocacy and provision of advisory services to the IASC?
- **If coordinating these above-mentioned and other actors (e.g. DPPA, DCO) within the UN system to ensure a joined-up whole-of-system approach to solutions would be a core function of the SRSG, would the position have the authority and convening power to do so?** Or is senior-most leadership, i.e. UNSG or Deputy Secretary-General, required to do so, at executive level? What has been the experience and track record of other SRSGs in this regard?
- **What will be the relationship between the UNSRSG and UN RCs?** Will there be reporting relationship and accountability chain between all UN RCs and the SRSG (on behalf of the SG) to deliver on their responsibilities regarding internal displacement? Or will the relationship rather be optional, a continuation of the existing practice whereby an independent expert on IDPs such as the UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur/RSG or a donor-funded senior independent consultant on IDPs (e.g. under the Durable Solutions Initiative funded by Switzerland) advocates with and identified RCs who are interested and willing to engage on internal displacement?
- **What, approximately, are the envisaged staffing and budgetary requirements of this office?** Could staff of the office of the SRSG be drawn from existing staff (e.g. secondees from UN agencies/offices and possibly also INGOs, IFIs and even States) or will new staff positions need to be created and financed? How will the SRSG be selected? Will it be an open and transparent process?
- **What will be legislative basis for establishment of the SRSG position?** Will this require a resolution of the UN Security Council, as is the case with other thematic SRSGs, or can it be established based on the personal prerogative of the Secretary-General⁹? Does the legislative basis for the office's establishment have implications for how and to what extent it will be resourced especially if new staffing is required (e.g. Third Committee budgetary approval)? And whether and how its mandate will be accepted by States?

⁹ As was the case with appointment by the UN Secretary-General of a Special Envoy on Digital Cooperation, following the report of the High-Level Panel on this issue.

- **Is there political support to establish such an office?** To what extent has the proposal already been floated with States experiencing internal displacement, including those who are complicit in the creation of internal displacement, and among those States on record as voicing concerns about international engagement on issues of internal displacement given their concerns re: sovereignty? What potential obstacles could frustrate such efforts? What are the envisaged strategies for overcoming political resistance to the proposal? Is the UN Secretary-General prepared to personally advocate for this? What role, if any, is envisaged for the Group of Friends to help mobilize political will to support such efforts?
- **What is the envisaged duration of the SRSG position?** If time-bound, for how long it is envisaged to exist? What would be key benchmarks for success and for dismantling the office? Given that the global crisis of internal displacement is unlikely to be a temporary problem, what handover arrangements would be envisaged? If the office is temporary, as appears to be suggested by the Panel’s proposal, what are the arguments for not immediately skipping directly to the handover arrangements for ensuring more sustainable global leadership, accountability and response?

We look forward to further discussing these matters with the HLP.