

ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS
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International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Session title: *From local to global: getting IDPs back on the agenda*

Date: *Thursday 15 June*

Time/Room: *08h30 – 10h00 – Room 2*

Background:

The plight and needs of IDPs featured prominently during discussions at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016: the UN Secretary-General called for renewed efforts to prevent internal displacement, address its root causes and support safe, dignified and durable solutions for internally displaced people. A target to reduce internal displacement globally by 50% by 2030 was also proposed.

Notwithstanding the aims of the WHS, global policy commitments to IDPs appear to be losing momentum. The 2016 September UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, for example, did not result in any significant outcomes for IDPs. Whilst the New York Declaration acknowledged the need to reflect on strategies to assist and protect IDPs, as well as to find solutions to their plight, concrete commitments for achieving these aims have yet to be articulated.

This session therefore seeks to put the spotlight once more on internal displacement as a key challenge of our times. In doing so, it will emphasize the fundamental role of local and national actors in IDP protection and the measures necessary to reinforce and enhance their effectiveness at each stage of a crisis – from preparedness to emergency response to solutions. The session will also offer reflections on the more coordinated efforts that can be taken at the global level to prevent and find solutions to forced displacement across its continuum -- from IDPs to refugees and migrants.

Objectives of the session:

By bringing the voice of local and national actors to the fore, this session seeks to regenerate interest and action in favor of IDPs. At the same time, it intends to propose concrete steps that can be taken to bring IDPs back onto the global policy agenda.

Presentations by HDC (South Sudan) and CODHES (Colombia) will be used to highlight concretely the day-to-day challenges that IDPs face as well as the joined up and mutually reinforcing approaches local, national and international actors can consider in preventing and responding to internal displacement, and working towards solutions. These presentations will be set within the global context described by IDMC, which will be able to share current trends on the scale and drivers of internal displacement. IDMC will also explore the linkages between internal displacement and cross border movements of migrants and refugees. Setting the stage for a plenary discussion, UNHCR will outline its thinking on the subject and draw from the presentations to summarize key points for a proposed way forward.

Desired outcome of the session:

By highlighting, on the one hand, current day challenges faced by IDPs and those seeking to protect them as well as, on the other hand, the sheer scale of displacement globally, this session seeks to underscore the importance of mobilizing greater action in favour of IDPs. Panellists and participants are thus encouraged to propose concrete recommendations for moving forward in achieving this aim on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Methodology:

The four panellists are invited to speak for ten minutes each in succession before the session is opened up to a plenary discussion that will follow a Q&A format.