



**NGO Key Messages for the
16-17 December 2015
High Commissioner’s Dialogue on the Root Causes of Forced Displacement**

A record number of people have been displaced, internally and across borders, due to persecution, violent conflict, extremism, mass violations of human rights, natural resource extraction, mega development projects, the impacts of climate change, and other phenomena.

This document seeks to provide NGO analysis and key messages and recommendations for the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on the root causes of forced displacement. It attempts to give a voice to the organizations that work alongside displaced communities toward durable solutions.

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Part I: Background

Violence and displacement nexus

Understanding the nature of conflict-related displacement

In 2014, displacement from conflict reached record high of 59.5 million people. Globally, one in every 122 humans is now either a refugee, internally displaced person (IDP), or asylum seeker.¹ The multiple and overlapping causes of conflict include political, ethnic, and religious tensions, exploitation of economic resources, and organized crime. The most visible cause of displacement in conflict is the bombing of towns, cities, and communities. However, less obvious factors, such as lack of rule of law, gender-based violence (GBV), and statelessness, remain key causes of displacement.

The instability of state institutions and lack of effective rule of law make seeking justice and redressing human rights violations nearly impossible. Erosion of rule of law is linked to the weakening of democratic systems, which enables authoritarian regimes to perpetuate a climate of impunity, which can often drive people from their homes. The inability to hold accountable those actors responsible for factors behind mass forced displacement undermines efforts to achieve long lasting reconciliation

Vulnerable groups, such as women and girls, face particularly devastating consequences as a result of conflict. In general, women and girls are more often the targets of GBV, which is frequently used as a tactic during conflict and often cited among leading drivers of displacement. Conflict, forced displacement, family separation, community disruption, and a lack of social support structures can create opportunities for GBV perpetration and challenge access to justice for survivors.²

LGBT individuals are considered one of the most persecuted groups across the globe and thus experience high rates of displacement. LGBT people often suffer persecution carried out by the state actors with impunity. In Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen, parts of Nigeria and Somalia, for example, homosexual acts are punishable by death.³ In other states LGBT communities face discrimination, torture, murder and criminalization of homosexuality, which often lead to forced displacement.

Statelessness also increases the risk of displacement among members of vulnerable populations. The stripping of citizenship of Rohingya people in Myanmar and Nepalese-speaking Bhutanese forced many to flee to neighboring countries with no hope of return to their country of birth. Refugees are also at risk of becoming stateless in their host countries, making them vulnerable to exploitation and limited access to their basic rights.

Conflict in the **Central African Republic** (CAR) has led to widespread internal and external displacement into Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, and beyond. Violence and instability that began in December of 2012 resulted from political and economic tensions among state and non-state actors. The internal armed conflict between the Séléka coalition and anti-Balaka militia can be characterized as a pursuit of power and economic control over the resource rich territory in Central Africa. In the absence of rule of law, mass human rights violations, including the use of rape as a weapon of war, recruitment of child soldiers, and arbitrary violent attacks on civilians, have forced many people to seek refuge in makeshift camps characterized by overcrowding and appalling living conditions. The Interreligious Platform of Central African Republic Leaders serves as a mediator among extremist groups, seeking justice for survivors of human rights abuses and fighting impunity.

In **Central America**, three main criminal groups cause high levels of displacement in the region: (1) street gangs, called maras and operate in El Salvador and Honduras, (2) Mexican drug cartels, who mainly operate in rural and semi-rural regions and increasingly in nearby cities and the countryside of the Northern Triangle and, (3) drug traffickers, based primarily in rural Guatemala and Honduras.⁴ The justice systems in the region face particular challenges in addressing felonies, such as drug trafficking and gang-related activity, committed by organized criminal actors. Many states lack a proper mechanism to address investigations and prosecutions of such crimes, often as a result of corruption between state actors and organized criminal actors. According to the World Bank⁵, Honduras received 63,527 criminal complaints in 2006, of which only 1,015 (1%) ended with conviction. Furthermore, residents' low level of trust in the justice system and their fear of retaliation from organized criminal actors often results in underreporting criminal activity.

Much international attention has recently been dedicated to situation of women in Central America fleeing their homes to avoid GBV and other forms of violence. Nearly two-thirds of the women in the region said threats and attacks by armed criminal gangs, including rape, killings, forced recruitment of their children and extortion payments, were among the main reasons why they left their home countries.⁶

The number of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, mainly heading to Mexico and the United States is growing, along with the dangers they face.⁷ The level of vulnerability of unaccompanied children is especially high during the migratory process as children risk exposure to violence, GBV, kidnapping and extortion, trafficking and forced recruitment by organized crime groups for the transportation of drugs or support for other illegal activities.

Unlocking Protracted situations

Protracted situations are defined as situations in which people find themselves in a long-lasting and intractable state of limbo with their basic rights and essential economic, social, and psychological needs unfulfilled after years in exile.⁸

By the end of 2014 an estimated 6.4 million refugees (45%) were in 33 protracted situations.⁹ While estimating the number of IDPs in protracted displacement is complicated due to lack of reliable data, in 2014, in 90% of the countries monitored by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) IDPs had been living in protracted displacement for more than ten years.¹⁰ IDPs tend to move in and out of displacement more often than refugees, though long-term IDP populations exist in countries such as Colombia, Sudan, Burundi, Lebanon, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cyprus.¹¹

The majority of refugees and IDPs in protracted situations come from countries where conflict and persecution have persisted for years and whose instability lies at the heart of chronic regional insecurity. For both IDPs and refugees, displacement is prolonged by states actors' lack of political will to resolve conflict and find durable solutions for displaced populations. In the case of cross-border displacement, governments often prioritize voluntary return as the only viable option, which undermines the application of other durable solutions, e.g. local integration. In Azerbaijan, for example, the government insists voluntary return is the only permanent solution available, while negotiations to resolve the conflict in countries of origin have been deadlocked for years.¹² Host states' policies that force refugees into camps, limit their mobility, or deny them the right to work also prolong displacement and exacerbate discrimination against refugee communities.

Other drivers of protracted displacement include persecution and marginalization of vulnerable groups, state-led repression, mass human rights violations, and a lack of access to land and economic resources. For example, government authorities in Myanmar continue to confine more than 140,000 internally displaced and stateless Rohingya to more than 60 camps throughout Rakhine State, where they are denied adequate humanitarian aid and freedom of movement. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of

Rohingya Muslims and other ethnic and religious minorities from Myanmar have been forced to into protracted situations in Bangladesh, Thailand, and Malaysia without access to basic protection or rights. Conditions inside the camps in the region remain very harsh and reduction of funding has led to cuts in basic services such as food rations.

Protracted displacement is also a concern for IDPs who have lost their homes to natural hazard-related disasters.¹³ For example, due to lack of durable solutions there are around 146,573 people living in 271 camps in Haiti, the majority of whom were internally displaced in the aftermath of 2010 earthquake.¹⁴

Terrorism is also among the major causes of protracted displacement. For example, terrorist attacks launched by the militant group Boko Haram is a leading factor responsible for protracted displacement of IDPs in Nigeria.¹⁵

Palestinian refugees are an example of one of the largest populations in protracted displacement, dating back to 1940s, with some 5 million Palestinians displaced throughout Middle East.¹⁶ Drivers that sustain displacement for Palestinians include the denial of residency, denial of access to land, natural resources and public services, restricted mobility, denial of voluntary return, and unlawful deportation and transfers. The situation has been further aggravated by recent sieges (e.g. Yarmouk) and violent outbreaks.

Addressing “new” root causes: environmental degradation and climate change

Since 2008, the UNHCR has warned that the increasingly visible impacts of climate change will drive displacement, affecting vulnerable populations in particular. Paragraph 14(f) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Cancun Outcome Agreement recognized the phenomenon of climate change-induced displacement and invited states to improve climate change resilience to better understand, prevent (where possible), and coordinate responses to climate change-induced displacement. In both the 2013 and 2015 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs urbanization, environmental degradation, and the effects of climate change -- including growing food insecurity, more frequent and devastating weather-related disasters, rising sea-levels, and environmental degradation exacerbated by resource extraction -- were identified as some of the most important root causes of displacement. Despite the attention climate change garners in the international community, it is estimated that between 2008 and 2014, 26.4 million people were newly displaced annually by sudden-onset natural disasters, mainly floods and storms (IDMC).¹⁷

Millions more are forced from their homes by long-term climate change related natural hazards, like prolonged drought and seasonal flooding.¹⁸ Other environmental causes of displacement include poor land-use, mega-development projects, mineral extraction, and pollution. While displacement due to environmental degradation and extreme weather has devastating impacts that put populations at higher risk for impoverishment and discrimination, it also becomes a displacement driver by increasing the risks associated with future environmental disasters for both displaced and host communities.¹⁹

Natural disasters and rising sea levels in low-lying coastal regions and island states

An average of 22.5 million people have been displaced per year by climate and weather-related disasters in the last 7 years. Climate change and its impacts on vulnerable populations are expected to magnify this trend as these disasters become more frequent and severe.²⁰ Additionally, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Fifth Assessment Report, the rates of sea-level rise since the mid 19th century are higher than in the last two millennia. This trend is mainly attributed to glacier mass loss and is expected to worsen storm surges and the risk of coastal flooding, placing low-lying coastal regions and island states at risk.²¹ Furthermore, island states and low-lying coastal regions are disproportionately impacted by the chemical changes in ocean waters associated with climate change that threaten tourism and essential sources of food found in ocean waters. While the impacts of climate change become more and more obvious, the extent of these impacts on displacement remain unclear. Improved monitoring and analysis of climate change-related displacement is essential for addressing this critical issue. Many island states and states with low-lying coastal regions need international support to improve disaster risk management and financial strategies to improve climate change resilience. At the 2015 Pacific Climate Change Summit, governments of Pacific states, including Kiribati and Tuvalu, advocated for measures which included legally binding agreements on carbon emissions, urgent action to support mitigation efforts in states at greatest risk of sea level rises and greater opportunities for citizens of low-lying island states to migrate with dignity at a time of their choosing.

Drought and flooding in the Horn of Africa

Climate change may also increase the frequency and severity of long-term climatic events such as droughts and flooding. Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia are just a few of the many states facing the devastating impacts of this phenomenon. Critical aspects of these states' economies, including livestock and rain-fed agriculture, have been decimated by the

drastic increase in drought and exacerbated by high population growth.²² Pastoral communities are forced to mobilize quickly to avoid the increasingly volatile weather conditions, often crossing borders to escape extreme drought or torrential rainfall. Somalia, an already water-stressed, war-torn country, is especially vulnerable to climate change and faced immense displacement in 2011 as a result of the drought that caused a drop in agricultural output not seen since the early 1990s.²³ Between May and October of 2011, 265,500 people were displaced, 64% of whose displacement was attributed to the drought.²⁴ While the complex nature of the relationship between the conflict in Somalia and the rapidly changing climatic conditions remains unclear, the existence of the connection is obvious. Those fleeing armed conflict into the countryside or neighboring towns are often forced to flee further to escape drought and environmental degradation in new areas.²⁵

Mega Projects and Development

Approximately 15 million people are displaced each year by development projects.²⁶ The construction of the Nam Theun II Hydroelectric Dam in Laos, for example, displaced 6,200 indigenous people and affected 110,000 more people downstream of the project. Without meaningful consultation with local populations, affected communities could not raise their concerns and, to this day, struggle to recover their livelihoods.²⁷ Nearly six percent of Cambodia's population has been displaced by land acquisitions and public mega projects that often seek to exploit Cambodia's rich natural resources to grow rubber, sugar, and teak.²⁸ On her official visit to Colombia in 2010, UN Independent Expert on minority issues, Ms. Gay McDougall, noted that Afro-Colombian populations face immense challenges from displacement due to one-crop agriculture, logging and mining, and mega development projects that appear prominently in national development plans and clearly lack a foundation in environmental protection and human rights. McDougall also noted that, although Colombian law required that communities be given prior and informed consultations for the exploitation of natural resources in their territories, the laws did not adequately define how or with whom the consultations should take place. Additionally, as in the case of Somalia, environmental degradation and land disputes are closely linked to the armed conflict in Colombia²⁹, which has displaced more than 6.3 million people.³⁰ Evidence of this link was also found in research presented at the 2013 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs, which identified challenges for Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities whose source of displacement is a combination between armed conflict, mega projects, and mining.³¹

Part II: Recommendations

We highlight the importance of distinguishing between the root causes of displacement induced by natural disasters and displacement induced by conflict. In responding to displacement, it is important to understand root causes, as they will be relevant for understanding the nature and duration of displacement, providing support and protections to displaced populations, and identifying durable solutions. The root causes of displacement are many. They pose different challenges and require different responses.

Session I: Understanding the causes of conflict-related displacement, the potential of humanitarian action and the drivers of onward movement

It is important to promote inclusive political dialogue that ensures genuine protection for people during conflicts, disasters, and other shocks. Activities and programs should aim at empowering and strengthening the resilience of communities. Locally-led programming can help communities find sustainable solutions to displacement. Respecting the rights to employment, education, housing, and health of displaced persons and those in protracted situations will allow refugees and IDPs to rebuild their lives.

To governments:

- **Pursue justice and accountability to strengthen the rule law** in the wake of armed conflict through the prosecution of perpetrators and reparations that seek to make the victims whole again. This can provide the **essential means to address the root causes and remedy the effects of conflict, violence, and mass atrocities and human rights violations**. Similarly, justice and accountability can contribute to the establishment of conditions necessary for resolving existing situations of displacement.
- **Promote women's full and equal participation and leadership** in efforts to prevent, manage, and resolve conflict and build peaceful societies.
- **Uphold policies and international agreements to advance and protect women's rights** in situations of conflict and armed violence, including protection from gender-based violence.

To program funders:

- **Normalize multi-year, multi-sector funding models that promote resilience in fragile states.** For decades, recurring crises in fragile states have been met with short-term humanitarian interventions that save lives but fail to empower communities or improve their resilience. UNHCR, UNICEF and the Common Humanitarian Fund, in particular, rarely support programming longer than one year. Typically, their programs are 3 or 6 months long. This is unrealistic, and ineffective – especially in protracted crises, which currently consumes ~80% of all humanitarian aid funding for displaced persons. Building community and systemic resilience in fragile contexts requires activities that address emergency needs, livelihoods, and governance, and transcend ‘humanitarian’ and ‘development’ silos.
 - **Increase investments in governance gaps and sources of injustice that enable violence and instability.** [A recent OECD Fragile States report found](#) that of the billions of dollars invested in foreign aid, only nine percent of official development assistance globally is dedicated to justice and security. Increased investments must be made to improve governance in holistic and community-driven ways by host government, major donor agencies including actors like UNDP, banks and bilateral donors.
 - **Support locally driven programming and locally led program management.** [A February 2015 USAID Office of Inspector General audit](#) found that the interests of institutional donors often trump the needs of local communities to the detriment of good governance programming. While USAID is one of the few donors with public audits, projects funded by other large government institutions often suffer similar micromanagement: prevailing myths around ‘what works’ often outmaneuver locally driven and evidence-based program proposals.
 - **Supporting community-level conflict prevention and peace building groups, such as *La Red Mariposas de Alas Nuevas Construyendo Futuro*, a grassroots women’s organization in Colombia and winner of the 2014 Nansen Award for Refugees, is extremely important to the development of peace and security and prevention of displacement.** Increased support to grassroots NGOs can diminish communities’ exposure to violence and partnering with these community-level organizations can provide important insight into the dynamics of the conflict and the impacts on vulnerable populations.
- Inter-faith platforms should be expanded and promoted:** such platforms can play a key role in fragile states in raising public awareness of the importance of peaceful cohabitation and mutual respect, maintaining a thread of communication between different communities, despite extremist groups, and reporting abuses and violations of human rights. For example, the Interreligious

Platform of Central African Republic Leaders serves as a mediator among extremist groups and seeks to bring justice to victims of human rights abuses to fight impunity.

Session II: Addressing ‘new’ root causes: urbanization, environmental degradation, food insecurity, water scarcity, natural hazards and climate change

In contrast to conflict-related displacement, there are enormous opportunities to prevent and mitigate displacement caused by disasters. Mitigating the adverse effects of climate change to prevent future climate and disaster displacement is fundamental to a long-term solution for displacement. It is essential to build and strengthen partnerships to ensure there are adequate resources provided for climate change mitigation measures. In light of the 21st meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, we urge states to consider climate change’s current and future impacts on displacement and commit to global partnerships that will sufficiently finance the necessary mitigation and adaptation strategies that will protect the most vulnerable populations. However, it is also essential to avoid mitigation policies that cause displacement. For example, policies that incentivize biofuel production require large tracts of land and often overlook land rights of local populations and the negative impact on food security, leading to displacement of those communities.³²

On climate change-induced extreme weather and displacement

To governments:

- **Utilizing the toolbox of potential policy options found in the State-led Nansen Initiative on Disaster-Induced Cross Border Displacement’s draft Protection Agenda** can prevent and prepare for increased displacement in the future. These policies seek to prevent people from being displaced in the first place, help people move in a safe, regular and planned manner before inevitable movements are necessary, and provide protection where displacement is unavoidable.
- **Ensuring public and private sector policies are in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** and resettlement for development

projects will ensure local community participation and minimize negative impacts on local communities, including displacement.

To actors providing support to displaced communities and funders:

- **Committing to work with relevant partners to maximize support to States** will strengthen partnerships necessary for preventing climate change-related displacement.
- **Linking program implementers with locally led, participatory context analysis and long-term strategy development** for building resilience can avoid competitiveness concerns for donors and provide greater investment opportunities for foundations and private actors interested in long-term impact. Context analyses and strategies created by UN agencies should be widely shared.³³
- **Greater project resources should be dedicated to monitoring and evaluation, research, and impact measurement.** Sufficient resources are required in order to measure the impact of an intervention and identify opportunities for improvement.
- To address the complex and diverse causes of displacement that often affect one region at the same time, **cross-disciplinary working groups that include experts in climate change adaptation and mitigation, humanitarian relief, development, peace and security, post-conflict recovery, and human rights protection should be created** to ensure all root causes of the displacement are addressed.³⁴
- **Ensuring that disaster response procedures and funding mechanisms are geared to engage local CSOs and communities** will help to identify opportunities to reduce risk and build resilience.³⁵
- **Creating participatory strategies** that allow local communities a voice in development projects at all levels and stages can help avoid displacement due to development and business, such as mega projects and resource extraction.
- **Investing in systemic resilience to environmental shocks should be viewed as a long-term commitment and must include appropriate context analyses upon which specific projects are based. Normalizing contingency funding is a vital component of long-term resilience programming.** Crisis-modifier funds or similar contingency mechanisms can allow government and IGO programs to respond to sudden emergencies or crisis without derailing longer-term efforts, and would encourage humanitarian relief funds to be spent in a manner that supports longer term goals wherever possible.

On development and urbanization

To governments:

- There is a need for an **inclusive approach** to addressing rights of displaced and host communities, with humanitarian, development, peace building and human rights **working together** with national and local authorities.
- **Humanitarian and development practitioners should base their responses on international human rights law, in particular the right to adequate housing**, and on relevant guidelines such as the UN basic principles and guidelines on development-induced displacement and eviction.

To actors providing support to displaced communities and funders:

- **National, municipal and international entities involved in development activities should engage earlier during the humanitarian phase to ensure the continuity and coherence of short-term and longer-term interventions.** These interventions should be integrated into broader urban planning and growth strategies.
- **Addressing displacement should be placed on national development agendas for both IDP and host communities.** International organisations and agencies can help advocate for and shape national housing policies that service the needs of all vulnerable populations. Humanitarians' traditional focus on target groups such as IDPs needs to be complemented by broader development plans addressing these structural issues.¹

Session III: Unlocking protracted situations and finding solutions

- **Greater knowledge and practical tools** are needed to facilitate conflict resolution.
- **Greater investment in education in humanitarian and protracted crisis contexts is much needed** to ensure children can access a safe and quality education in the first phase of humanitarian response and, once re-established, access is sustained regardless of how contexts change.
- **Displacement should be recognized as not only a humanitarian, but also a development concern and opportunity.** Human mobility may act as a positive adaptation strategy. This must be facilitated in a dignified manner. In this regard,

¹<http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/publications/2015/20150325-global-home-sweet-home/20150325-global-home-sweet-home-en-full-report.pdf>

we emphasize the **need to review the responsibilities and leadership roles of actors who will take a lead in providing solutions and the instruments used to address the root causes of displacement.**

- **OAS, AU, ECOSOC, ASEAN and SAARC must assume greater responsibility in working towards peace, security and stability** especially when impacts are of regional nature.
- States should explore local integration options that allow refugees to be self-reliant and recognize that refugees can make important contributions to host communities.

All actors involved in unlocking protracted situations must work towards durable solutions:

- **Implementing vital commitments regarding protracted situations**, such as the Addis Ababa Commitment towards Somali Refugees, should be adequately monitored and evaluated in order to identify best practices for solving protracted displacement.
- **Creating and supporting partnerships: Public and private actors** should work together to develop frameworks and tools to support the peace process and achieve durable solutions. Additionally, **cooperation among states and non-state actors** is fundamental to developing frameworks and tools and ensuring the durability of solutions. Finally, international actors must recognise that **local and national actors** are often filling gaps in advocacy and service provision. They often have better access to communities, understand cultural sensitivities and their work is less likely to be dismissed. They are also often the key actors in facilitating peace building, conflict resolution and prevention. **Local and national actors must be better recognized by international actors as key partners and be provided with increased resources to carry out their crucial work.**
- **States shall explore legal alternatives and pathways for migration**, such as labour migration schemes, education visas, and accelerated family reunification. Building fences and closing borders is not a solution and forces refugees to take risky journeys and makes them more vulnerable to trafficking and people smuggling.
- **Voluntary repatriation**, potentially the most effective of the durable solutions, can only be achieved when refugees feel their most critical needs will be met, particularly the protection of their human rights and their access to land and livelihoods.
- **Promote humanitarian frameworks** within conflict resolution tracks. Durable solutions should be essential parts of the conflict resolution channels rather than a follow up agenda point.

Debate on Criminal violence, youth and displacement in Central America

Governments should dedicate funding to address the multiple causes identified as migration drivers, with an emphasis on battling the high levels of violence and poverty, as well as a lack of education and employment opportunities. Governments need to begin by acknowledging that criminal violence forcibly displaces people.

States of Central America and Mexico must seek structural solutions to prevent and combat violence, focusing their efforts on the respect for human rights and strengthening of state institutions. They should reject repressive policies that may increase violence and cause children to flee from their homes and communities to seek safety and protection in other countries.

The following five recommendations are concrete examples of how States can address root causes related to children on the move. They all seek to prevent children from becoming vulnerable while at the same time discouraging unsafe movement and increasing children's choices.

- 1) **Develop anti-poverty strategies and employment support**: job counseling, education and training; social protection measures, cash transfers, pensions, child grants, social welfare and family support mechanisms.
- 2) **Invest in education**: invest in social capital, by making education relevant and of good quality.
- 3) **Tackle abuse and exploitation at home and in the community** through monitoring and awareness-raising of parents, teachers, health workers and children themselves, with adequate provision of prevention and support services.
- 4) **Address inadequate care of children** through family support and appropriate alternative care.
- 5) **Prevent migration that put children at the most risk**: raising awareness and providing relevant information on migration to children and their families about the potential for exploitation and other risks associated with migration, and how to avoid them.

Children on the move:

- **States need to put in place integrated and inclusive national child protection systems that address both prevention and response throughout the migration process**. This should be done in a coordinated manner across sectors

and allow for non-discriminatory access for all children, including non-nationals. Child protection systems include a legal framework that protects children, a central government coordination mechanism, effective regulation and monitoring at all levels, a committed and trained workforce with relevant competencies and mandates, data collection systems and mechanisms to ensure the participation of children and of children's organisations. These systems should also include child sensitive and age appropriate procedures and tools to identify, protect and assist children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children and children in need of international protection. Greater coordination between the relevant actors that come into contact with children on the move in the affected countries at local, national and regional levels is key to ensure a continuum of protection for the many children who are crossing borders, often alone. States should issue specific guidelines for ensuring that reception and screening practices at areas of arrival/transit such as airports and other points of entry are in full compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international human rights standards.

- **Best interest of the child:** States should make clear in their legislation, policy, and practice that the principle of the child's best interests takes priority over migration control and policy or other administrative considerations. In doing so, States should ensure that information on migration procedures, risks and rights, health and psycho-social support, legal representation and guardianship, interviews and other processes are conveyed in a child-friendly and culturally-sensitive manner.

Looking Forward

The NGO Friends of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Root Causes encourages the High Commissioner to include in his closing summary his vision for the way forward. We hope this vision will include components to scale up existing best practice and catalyze new partnerships with actors outside the humanitarian sector to address root causes.

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³ Kyle Knight, "Analysis: The plight of LGBTI asylum seekers, refugees", *Irin News*, 7 May 2013, <http://www.irinnews.org/report/97989/analysis-the-plight-of-lgbti-asylum-seekers-refugees>.

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- ²⁶ Michael M. Cernea and Hari Mohan Mathur (eds), *Can Compensation Prevent Impoverishment: Reforming Resettlement Through Investments and Benefit-Sharing*, Oxford University Press, 2008, pp. 20.
- ²⁷ *The Dark Side of Development*, Devex, 31 October, 2013, <https://www.devex.com/news/the-dark-side-of-development-82218>.

²⁸ Andreas Neef & Jane Singer (2015), *Development-induced displacement in Asia: conflicts, risks, and resilience*, *Development in Practice*, 25:5, 601-611, DOI: 10.1080/09614524.2015.1052374.

²⁹ *Statement by the UN Independent Expert on minority issues, Ms. Gay McDougall, on the conclusion of her official visit to Colombia, 1 to 12 February 2010*, <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=9821&>.

³⁰ UNHCR Colombia Overview, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e492ad6.html>.

³¹ UNHCR, *2013 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs: Advocating Together for Protection*, <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/522dab244.pdf>, pp. 11.

³² Sara Vigil, "Displacement as a consequence of climate change mitigation policies", *Forced Migration Review* 49, May 2015, <http://www.fmreview.org/en/climatechange-disasters.pdf>.

³³ If UNDP, OCHA, and UNHCR seek to continue to 'own' strategy development and needs assessments management, they must invest in enhanced data management and commit to data transparency so that all implementing organizations can access the same data to eliminate the need to duplicate assessments.

³⁴ Anna Lindley, "Questioning 'drought displacement': environment, politics, and migration in Somalia", *Forced Migration Review*, February 2014, <http://www.fmreview.org/crisis/lindley>.

³⁵ Report Annual Consultations with NGOs, op. cit., pp. 25-26.