

## **Internally displaced persons**

### **Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/56**

*The Commission on Human Rights,*

*Deeply disturbed* by the alarmingly high numbers throughout the world of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes, without having crossed an internationally recognized State border and who often do not receive adequate protection and assistance,

*Conscious* of the human rights and humanitarian dimensions of the problem of internal displacement,

*Aware* of the serious challenge this is creating for the international community and of the responsibility of States and the international community to explore methods and means to better address the specific protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons,

*Emphasizing* the primary responsibility of national authorities to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction as well as to address the root causes of their displacement in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

*Noting* the growing awareness in the international community of the issue of internally displaced persons worldwide and of the urgency of finding durable solutions, notably voluntary return in safety and with dignity, local integration or relocation, based on a free choice,

*Recalling* the relevant norms of international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, and recognizing that the protection of internally displaced persons has been strengthened by identifying, reaffirming and consolidating specific standards for their protection, in particular through the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex),

*Noting with appreciation* the work of the Representative of the Secretary-General in developing normative and institutional frameworks for protecting and assisting internally displaced persons, in particular the compilation and analysis of legal norms and the development of guiding principles; undertaking country missions to engage in dialogue with Governments and other pertinent actors; as well as conducting research and issuing reports on particular country situations, together with proposals for remedial measures, and on other issues relating to internal displacement,

*Welcoming* the cooperation established between the Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations as well as other international and regional organizations, in particular the participation of the Representative in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and encouraging further strengthening of

this collaboration in order to promote better assistance, protection and development strategies for internally displaced persons,

*Noting* the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in September 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/CONF.189/12), which encouraged the bodies, agencies and relevant programmes of the United Nations system and States to promote and to make use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, in particular those provisions relating to non-discrimination,

*Recalling also* its previous relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 2001/54 of 24 April 2001, taking note of General Assembly resolution 56/164 of 19 December 2001, and bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/23), regarding the need to develop global strategies to address the problem of internal displacement,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (E/CN.4/2002/95 and Add.1-3);
2. *Commends* the Representative of the Secretary-General for his efforts to promote a comprehensive strategy that focuses on prevention and better protection, assistance and development for internally displaced persons;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Representative of the Secretary-General for his activities undertaken so far, despite the limited resources available to him, and for the catalytic role he continues to play in raising the level of consciousness about the plight of internally displaced persons;
4. *Welcomes* the specific attention paid by the Representative of the Secretary-General to the special assistance, protection and development needs of internally displaced women and children and his commitment to pay more systematic and in-depth attention to women and children as well as other groups with specific needs among the internally displaced;
5. *Encourages* the Representative of the Secretary-General, through continuous dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, to continue his analysis of the causes of internal displacement, measures of prevention, the needs of those displaced and ways to strengthen protection, assistance and solutions for the internally displaced, taking into account specific situations, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Commission and the General Assembly;
6. *Welcomes* the dissemination, promotion and application of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the fact that the Representative of the Secretary-General has made use of the Guiding Principles in his dialogue with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and requests him to continue his efforts in that regard;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which have provided assistance and protection to internally displaced persons and supported the work of the Representative of the Secretary-General;
8. *Calls upon* all Governments to facilitate the activities of the Representative of the Secretary-General, in particular those Governments with situations of internal displacement which have not yet extended invitations or responded positively to requests for information from the Representative;
9. *Thanks* Governments which have invited the Representative of the Secretary-General to visit their countries and encourages them to follow up on his recommendations and suggestions and to make available information on measures taken thereon;
10. *Calls upon* Governments to provide protection and assistance, including reintegration and development assistance, to internally displaced persons, as well as to provide access for them to public services, including education, and to facilitate the efforts of relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations in these respects, including by further improving access to internally displaced persons;
11. *Stresses* the importance of appropriate follow-up to the recommendations of the Representative of the Secretary-General by Governments as well as by the relevant parts of the United Nations system in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, including at the country level;
12. *Expresses its appreciation* of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, as an important tool for dealing with situations of internal displacement, and in this regard welcomes the fact that an increasing number of States, United Nations agencies, and regional and non-governmental organizations are making use of the Guiding Principles, and encourages the further use and application of the Guiding Principles;
13. *Expresses its appreciation* for the dissemination and promotion of the Guiding Principles, inter alia at regional and other seminars on displacement, and encourages the Representative to continue to initiate or support such seminars, in consultation with regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions, and to provide support for efforts to promote capacity-building and the use of the Guiding Principles;
14. *Stresses* the need to further strengthen inter-agency arrangements and the capacities of relevant United Nations agencies to meet the immense humanitarian challenge of internal displacement, and calls upon States to provide adequate resources for programmes to assist and protect internally displaced persons;
15. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as of all the relevant humanitarian agencies in protecting and assisting

internally displaced persons, and encourages them to cooperate closely with all relevant international bodies in this regard;

16. *Encourages* the Representative of the Secretary-General, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and all other relevant humanitarian assistance, human rights and development agencies and organizations, including non-governmental organizations, further to enhance their collaboration and coordination in respect of internally displaced persons, especially through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

17. *Emphasizes* in this regard the central role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator in inter-agency coordination for the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons, welcomes the establishment of the Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement and subsequently, within the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, of the Unit on Internal Displacement, and encourages them to collaborate closely with and provide all possible assistance and support to the Representative of the Secretary-General;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the increased attention paid to internally displaced persons in the consolidated inter-agency appeals process and encourages further efforts to improve the integration of the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons in consolidated appeals;

19. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by regional organizations, such as the African Union, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe and the Economic Community of West African States, to address the assistance, protection and development needs of internally displaced persons and encourages them and other regional organizations to strengthen their activities and their cooperation with the Representative of the Secretary-General;

20. *Also welcomes* the attention paid by relevant special rapporteurs, working groups, experts and treaty bodies to issues of internal displacement, and calls upon them to continue to seek information on situations which have already created or could create internal displacement and to include relevant information and recommendations thereon in their reports and make them available to the Representative of the Secretary-General;

21. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in cooperation with Governments, the Representative of the Secretary-General and other relevant parts of the United Nations system, to promote the human rights of internally displaced persons and to develop projects in this regard, including in the area of human rights education, as part of the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation, and to include in

her report to the Commission information on their implementation;

22. *Takes note* of decision 2001/122 of 16 August 2001 of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights concerning the preparation of a working paper on the return of refugees' or displaced persons' property;

23. *Recalls with appreciation* the establishment of the global internally displaced persons database, as advocated by the Representative of the Secretary-General, and encourages the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and Governments to continue to collaborate on and support this effort, including by providing financial resources;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide his Representative, from within existing resources, with all necessary assistance to carry out his mandate effectively, and encourages the Representative of the Secretary-General to continue to seek the contribution of States, relevant organizations and institutions in order to put the work of the Representative on a more stable basis;

25. *Requests* the Representative of the Secretary-General to continue to report on his activities to the General Assembly and to the Commission;

26. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of internal displacement at its fifty-ninth session.

*55th meeting*

*25 April 2002*

[Adopted without a vote.

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**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

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