



## Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement - "Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future" -

### Key Messages

Internal displacement is one of the world's most profound crises. Rooted in complex, overlapping causes - wars, violence, disasters and climate change - which are compounded by poverty, poor governance and unexpected global threats such as the on-going COVID-19, the crisis is devastating communities and even entire nations. It has trapped ever rising numbers of people in protracted displacement, inflicted crushing human suffering and is pushing the Sustainable Development Goals further out of reach.

While there has been progress over the years, the uncomfortable but undeniable truth is that there has been a collective failure in addressing and resolving internal displacement. The political will to seize the issue forthrightly is lacking. Too many states have ignored or neglected the crisis and refused or failed to acknowledge or take responsibility for their displaced citizens and residents. The international community, including development and financial partners, the United Nations and international financial institutions, have for their part not always demonstrated the level of commitment required to overcome this global crisis.

Maintaining the status quo is not an option. Governments, the international community, the private sector and civil society decisively have to step up individual and collective action and foster systematic changes to solve protracted displacement, address its drivers and mitigate displacement risks.

In particular, States have to take ownership of and responsibility for the internal displacement situations they are faced with through a development – oriented approach that goes beyond humanitarian assistance, works through local systems wherever possible and with the internally displaced themselves.

The United Nations must strengthen its commitment to and leadership by tasking Resident Coordinators to work with Governments to advance solutions; for the agencies and entities institutionally to advance solutions; and to catalyze solutions across the system and globally for which the establishment of the function of Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Solutions is strongly urged.

Innovative steps are required to ensure predictable and adequate funding as a critical enabler of effective action on displacement including, notably, the establishment of a Global Fund on Internal Displacement to provide financial and technical resources to support national solutions strategies and plans.

The capacities of the private sector have to be effectively harnessed to advance solutions, to which end, among others, a Private Sector Advisory Board should be established to facilitate the systematic engagement of the private sector in internal displacement situations.

States need to put in place systems to collect, manage and ingrain the use of credible and critical data and evidence across all the trajectories of action on internal displacement.

The steps the Panel has called for will, if implemented resolutely, shift the needle on internal displacement crucially. Each of the bearers of responsibility to whom the Panel has addressed its calls and recommendations – States, the UN, financial institutions, the private sector and civil society – should work proactively to take the recommendations forward.

At global level, the leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General will be critical in sustaining the momentum that has grown from the Panel initiative and catalyzing the change that is called for. Further than this, a High Level Event on Internal Displacement is urged in which States, world leaders, the United Nations and other concerned stakeholders would make commitments on internal displacement bearing in mind the conclusions and recommendations of the Panel.

The efforts to drive forward the objectives and outcomes inscribed in the Panel's report are inextricably linked to and should leverage action on the other crises the world is facing today, including working towards the Sustainable Development Goals, achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement and strengthening accountable governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law.