

SECRETARIAT
of
United Nations Secretary-General's
High-Level Panel on
Internal Displacement



SECRETARIAT
du
Groupe de haut niveau du Secrétaire général
de l'Organisation des Nations Unies chargé
de la question de déplacement interne

Facsimile: + 41 22 917 0023
Telephone: + 41 22 917 1452
Email: idpspanel@un.org

Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENÈVE 10

Summary Note of Meeting with States Impacted by Large-Scale Internal Displacement
Palais des Nations, Tuesday 02 November 2021

I. Introduction

1. Called by the Secretariat, the meeting with States that are currently dealing with or have had experience of large scale internal displacement took place in-person on 02 November 2021 at the Palais des Nations. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the reactions and feedback of the “impacted states” on the Panel’s Report and recommendations, provide information on and discuss the developments taking place with particular reference to follow-up of the report and answer questions and provide clarifications.

2. The meeting was attended by 19 States including 7 at Permanent Representative level: Afghanistan (PR), Armenia, Azerbaijan (PR), Colombia, Ethiopia (PR), Fiji (DPR), Georgia (PR), Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Libya, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Niger (PR), Nigeria, Serbia, Philippines and Ukraine (PR).

II. Overview

3. Opening the meeting, Head of the Secretariat Mr. George Okoth-Obbo reiterated the important role and stakes of the States impacted by or at risk of internal displacement. It was thus important to hear their reaction to the Panel’s report and for them to be key in follow-up of its recommendations above all on the ground but also regionally and globally.

4. Ms. Greta Zeender, Head of Research and Outcomes in the Secretariat then presented an overview of the Report’s key recommendations and an update of developments since the report was submitted to the Secretary-General including the preparations that were under way for a meeting of the UN leadership that the Secretary-General has called to take place before the end of the year to decide an overall Plan of Action and mechanism for follow-up of the Panel’s report and its recommendations.

5. Almost all the delegations present took the floor. Across the board, support was expressed for the Panel’s report and recommendations. States highlighted their particular experiences; the measures they have taken; and the particular issues of priority interest to them arising from or which corresponded with the Panel’s report and its recommendations.

6. In summary:
 - i. Strong support was voiced for the Panel’s calls for effective prevention of the root causes of displacement, mitigation of the risks and a decisive drive for solutions.
 - ii. For all these shifts, speakers echoed the critical importance of national ownership, political will, responsible sovereignty and government leadership.
 - iii. The shift to a development-oriented approach linked to peace, safety and security, disaster risk reduction and climate change action was strongly supported.
 - iv. The “whole of government” approach; the need for national normative, policy, institutional, knowledge and capacity institutionalization on internal displacement; and effective engagement and collaboration with the UN, national civil society organization, the private sector and IDPs themselves – while ensuring context-specific responses and, in particular, support for host communities- were highlighted.
 - v. A number of speakers specifically referred to and reinforced the importance of data on internal displacement, particularly to inform assessment and analysis, national planning, delivery and accounting for results.
 - vi. Several States stressed the importance of capacity building and access to financing with one representative expressing specific support for the recommendation for a Global Fund on Solutions to Internal displacement to be established. As one speaker put it: “Adequate financing and capacity building is key”.
 - vii. The Panel’s recommendation for the establishment of the function of an SRSG on Solutions to Internal Displacement attracted a number of reactions:
 - a) Four representatives expressed unequivocal support for such a designation.
 - b) Another argued that ownership of the internal displacement issue within and across the United Nations itself still needed to be crystallized and systematized, including advocacy and response capacity of UN and its engagement with States.
 - c) In the view of these speakers, an SRSG as recommended by the Panel could be a pragmatic step to ensure predictable engagements towards solutions within and with the UN system.
 - d) On the other hand, two governments said they did not necessarily see the need for such a position and would like more information. As one of these representatives put it: “Political will is crucial, but we favor a streamlined approach without creating another structure like an SRSG.”
 - viii. The issue of follow-up drew remarks from virtually all the speakers. All underlined the importance of robust follow-up to the Report, including:
 - a) A call for the Member States all to own the report and take decisive steps to implement and give life to its recommendations. In the words of one Permanent Representative: “We should not be satisfied with just a nice report, and we all want this quickly in action”.
 - b) A global mechanism with a mandate to follow-up on the recommendations of Panel in accordance with a plan of action which the Secretary-General was called upon to constitute. This mechanism should specifically include countries impacted by internal displacement and facilitate for States to continue engaging and sharing with each other experiences and lessons learned on the implementation of the recommendations.
 - ix. Elaborating on mechanisms that could be established to include and engage with impacted states in the best way possible, a number of ideas were expressed including:
 - Maintaining the Group of Friends of the Panel.

- Preference for thematic platforms for discussion and sharing of experiences going beyond those based only on geographical grounds.
- Drawing inspiration specifically from the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

III. Follow-up

7. Closing the meeting, the Head of Secretariat thanked all the Permanent Missions that had made themselves available to attend the meeting. He reiterated that this was only the first of the feedback and follow-up consultations that the Secretariat will hold with impacted states as with other stakeholders.

8. The Head of Secretariat assured the Representatives that the feedback they had provided and suggestions they have made would all be taken forward as relevant. Summing up specific follow-up actions:

- i. He requested all the States that had made statements to please share the written version of those statements with the Secretariat (at email address: idpspanel@un.org).
- ii. Those who had not made statements should also still elaborate their reactions to the Panel's report and share them with the Secretariat.
- iii. The statements/reactions would be placed on the Panel's website unless the submitting State wished that they be dealt with only confidentially. An unattributed synthesis would be prepared of all the reactions and shared with all the Member States and other stakeholders.
- iv. A summary of the meeting will be prepared and shared with the participants. It will also be shared with the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends as well as the Office of the Secretary-General.
- v. Dedicated discussions with the respective constituencies, including more with the impacted States will continue.
- vi. Meanwhile, Member States were requested to please attend the general meeting with all Member States which has been called to take place on Tuesday 09 November 2021. While the meeting with the impacted States had focused on the issues of more particular relevance to that constituency, the meeting of 09 November had broader objectives ranging from briefing and information sharing to the consideration of matters of general relevance to all Member States, particularly with regard to follow-up including the future of the Group of Friends.

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