

## UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

### EU submission

#### **Introduction:**

*This paper answers the call of the Panel's secretariat dated 24 March 2020. The messages are based on policy<sup>1</sup> on the subject, as well as its extensive experience in responding to situations of internal displacement. Over the past 20 years, the EU has provided support to address the needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) in all major displacement situations.*

*Around the globe, the number of conflicts is on the rise, and so are weather related disasters, often exacerbated by climate change, having both direct and indirect impacts on the populations in the most affected countries. This is clearly illustrated by the steep upward curve in the number of persons affected by internal displacement globally, and for increasingly longer periods. Whereas international attention has so far focused on persons crossing borders due to economic, social and political hardship through the development of the Global Migration and Global Refugee Compacts, attention to the issue of internal displacement has waned. With the exception of the adoption of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa in 2009 (Kampala Convention) and the inclusion of Internally Displaced Persons in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, little normative and practical progress has been achieved since the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement with long-standing issues not tackled. opportunity staq(s)-*

*The EU stands strongly behind the High Level Panel. Its establishment provides a unique opportunity to*

**Enhancing most appropriate durable solutions, including local integration or relocation in another part of the country;** including through implementation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, integration of internally displaced people into national development plans, based on inclusive national programming (ex. social protection schemes), propose appropriate climate change adaptation and reconciliation, stabilisation and recovery policies and strategies.

**IDPs protection, rights and participation** (humanitarian) protection in displacement (promoting access to justice and legal aid), guaranteeing respect of rights of IDPs as equal citizens of their country, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups and conflict sensitivity, ensuring inclusion of IDP rights when devising durable solutions, fostering participation in political and peacebuilding processes and in planning recovery solutions; addressing multiple and circular displacement.

**Prevention of displacement** - flexible and risk tolerant action to build and sustain peace, prevent and respond to conflict, foster respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and human rights law, promotion of sustainable development and livelihood opportunities, and where appropriate climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and in particular preparedness.

**Revisiting UN's role in the coordination of international response,** including by strengthening the current humanitarian architecture and by better linking up humanitarian, peacebuilding and development constituencies through the empowered Resident Coordinators. Important to look into coherence between UN action (policy and programmatic) on cross-border displacement (including mixed movements) and solutions thereto (returns and (re)integration) and internal displacement.

**Financing** - review of financing modalities (at international, regional, and national level) to identify best practices (incl. non-traditional funding, remittances), work on costing of displacement situations and responses and links to financing for development commitments/SDG implementation for IDPs.

**Information and data management** - more coherent approach to IDP definitions; better qualitative and quantitative data and analysis, including on IDP related solutions; increased availability of socio-economic data and assessments of communities affected by displacement.

**Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on internal displacement** recognise the specific vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons and highlight immediate and longer-term socio-economic consequences. Consider recommendations on facilitating equal access to public health services and reconciling health and safety measures with the protection of rights of internally displaced populations. These considerations should factor in potentially negative effects on social cohesion and specific IDP rights such as the right to seek asylum due to border closures, as well as protection risks as a consequence of premature/forced returns and/or secondary displacements, amongst other context-specific vulnerability factors.

**Visibility of IDPs** while the HLP brings an important momentum, important to keep IDPs on thm0 g0t12

*displacements, both conflict and disaster related. Many countries have adopted frameworks, but their implementation may be lacking behind due to political will or capacities. Transposition of international instruments into national law and policy also continues to be slow. There are still very few countries that have transposed the Kampala convention into domestic laws, despite its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

*Supporting national and local governments in better response requires strengthening the institutional and legislative frameworks concerning IDPs, including the capacity and understanding of government officials of protection and human rights related issues. To this end, the EU supported the creation of a database on*

<https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/global-database-on-idp-laws-and-policies>

#### ***Fourth, increased accountability***

*On the international level, several initiatives to enhance national leadership and capacity and accountability already exist but could be strengthened further.*

*appropriate) bilateral dialogues with countries facing internal displacement and to provide recommendations as well as legal advice on how to address such issues. However, she may face a number of obstacles in her work, with governments often unwilling to engage in dialogue. It is hence important that the mandate be strengthened to allow the Special Rapporteur more leverage on these issues. Similar functions could be also established at regional level; e.g. an African Union Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and IDPs, mandated among other things to advocate for implementation of the Kampala Convention.*

*At the UN level, the Rights Upfront Initiative should be implemented at field level with a strong support of OHCHR representatives to the Resident Coordinators in affected countries. Similarly, Centrality of Protection should continue to feature as one of the most important guiding principles in the work of Humanitarian Country Teams.*

*Furthermore, internal displacement issues could be mainstreamed into the Universal Periodic Reviews conducted under the Human Rights Council. At national level, the importance of independent human rights committees/watchdogs should also be stressed and they need to be further strengthened*



*should be*

*Creative funding solutions include those that can effectively accompany and link short term humanitarian funding with longer-term development and prioritise sustaining and building peace. Based on the EU experience, such tools can flexibly and efficiently respond to new and protracted displacement situations. Examples at EU level include the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, the EU Trust Fund (EUTF) for Africa, the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis (EUTF Madad), as well as the Bêkou Trust Fund for*

*At national level, it is notably important to strengthen national capacities in collecting and maintaining data. The work of the UN Statistical Commission and its recommendations on displacement data has been considered as a promising framework for more harmonised and comparable data.*

*displacement tracking matrix (DTM) has been increasingly used as a primary source of information on flows and short-term humanitarian needs. However, DTM is used differently in different countries and usually only provides information on displacement numbers without providing more analytical information (to use for needs assessments or understand longer-term trends). A potential idea to explore may be to bring the DTM at more inter-agency footing in order to allow for data inputs from several sources as well as for a collective discussion and agreement on overall displacement numbers.*

*JIPS (joint IDP profiling service) has been praised for work on IDP profiling and analytical work on IDP needs and socio-economic inclusion as well as capacity building of governments to sustain such work over time. JIPS work should be however brought more to scale.*

*The UNHCR World Bank Joint Data Center (JDC) should include a focus on internal displacement situations, to generate socio-economic data to help governments devise longer-term, inclusive response strategies.*



*provide recommendations for possible further reforms/refinements related to these.*