

38th session of the Human Rights Council

Panel discussion on the human rights of internally displaced persons in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

Concept note (as of 25 June 2018)

Date and venue:	Tuesday, 26 June 2018, 4 - 6 p.m., Palais des Nations, Room XX, Geneva (will be broadcast live and archived on http://webtv.un.org)
Objectives:	The Human Rights Council will mark the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement through a panel discussion with a focus on the application thereof and on achievements, best practices and challenges in this regard as well as on recommendations to meet these challenges, pursuant the Council decision 35/101.
Chair:	H.E. Mr. Vojislav Šuc , President of the Human Rights Council
Opening statements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Adam Abdelmoula, Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)• H.E. Ms. Karin Kneissl, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria• Mr. Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Moderator:	• Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary , Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons
Panellists:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Maya Sahli Fadel, Member of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa <i>Learning from normative frameworks in Africa: The continued relevance of the Guiding Principles as a legal basis for effective, comprehensive responses to internal displacement in all its complexity</i>• H.E. Ms. Alba Marcela Castañeda, Under-Secretary for Human Rights of Honduras <i>The importance of data and evidence-base in designing comprehensive human rights-based responses to internal displacement</i>• H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations Office in Geneva <i>Addressing internal displacement through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): what can we learn from responses to internal displacement as a result of climate change?</i>• Ms. Sidonia Paul, internally displaced person, South Sudan (to be confirmed) <i>How can involving internally displaced persons in processes that affect them avoid long-term social, economic and political marginalization and contribute to reaching durable solutions?</i>
Outcome:	OHCHR summary report on the panel discussion to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its 40 th session.
Format:	<p>The duration of the panel discussion will be strictly limited to two hours. A maximum of one hour will be set aside for the podium, including opening statements, moderator comments, panellist presentations, and their responses to questions and concluding remarks. Speaking time limits for the panellists and guests, if any, will be calculated based on the maximum one hour limit for the podium.</p> <p>States and observers, including national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intervening from the floor will also have a maximum of one hour. Each speaker will have two minutes to raise issues and to ask panellists questions. The list of speakers</p>

for the discussion will be established at the beginning of the panel and, as per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups will be moved to the beginning of the list.

The practice of having two slots for Member and observer States (2x12), NHRIs (2x1) and NGOs (2x2) will be maintained but the possibility for panellists to intervene in-between will depend entirely on the time used at the start of the panel.

Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

**Accessibility
for persons
with
disabilities:**

In an effort to render the Human Rights Council more accessible to persons with disabilities and to promote their full participation in the work of the Council on an equal basis with others, the panel will be made accessible to persons with disabilities. During the debate, international sign interpretation and real-time captioning will be provided and webcasted. In Room XX, four seats are reserved for participants using wheelchairs, in the seventh (last) row. Hearing loops are available for collection from the Accessibility focal point at the Secretariat desk. Oral statements may be embossed in Braille from any of the six official languages of the United Nations, upon request and following the procedure described in the "Accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities"

(available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Accessibility.aspx>)

Background:

Since their presentation to the General Assembly in 1998, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement have gained considerable authority as an important international normative framework when responding to the complex nature of internal displacement, its multiple causes, alarming scale and duration as well as for the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs). They also became a reference tool for actors engaged and confronted with human rights, humanitarian, development and peace building aspects of internal displacement.

At national level, a variety of countries have incorporated the Guiding Principles into laws and policies. The Guiding Principles also assist policy makers in providing protection to displaced populations. Today, the Guiding Principles remain a reference document used by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons in carrying out her mandate; by States when faced with internal displacement; all other authorities (including de facto authorities) as well as by inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, groups and persons in their relations with IDPs.

Today, there are 40 million internally displaced persons due to conflict and 25 million persons are displaced every year due to natural disasters. Women make up half of all IDPs, and a further 40 per cent are under 18 years of age. The overwhelming majority of IDPs live usually in poverty in low and lower-middle income countries. The average displacement period is 17 years and about 80 per cent of IDPs have been displaced for years.

2018 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. It offers a valuable opportunity to raise awareness and to reflect on achievements, best practices and challenges facing their application, with regard to ensuring the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit and under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind are extended to the 40 million people currently internally displaced.

**Useful
documents:**

- [Human Rights Council decision 35/101](#) of 22 June 2017 entitled "Panel discussion on the human rights of internally displaced persons in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement"
- [20th Anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People 2018-2020](#);
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (2018) ([A/HRC/38/39](#))
