



3 July 2014


Excellency,


On 30 May 2014, the Permanent Missions of Chile and Australia organized an "Arria" meeting of the Security Council on the topic of 'Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: Challenges and Role of the Security Council'.

The purpose of this meeting was to bring together various stakeholders (governments, representatives of the United Nations, and members of civil society), in an informal fashion, in order to exchange views and ideas on internal displacement as an important aspect of the Council's work, and to identify ways to more consistently and effectively address the protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in its resolutions and in mandate design for and monitoring of peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

Following the meeting, the Permanent Missions of Chile and Australia have prepared a non-paper, attached, summarising the discussion of the meeting. A number of proposals are included for consideration. These proposals are intended to encourage further reflection on how the Security Council could strengthen its contribution to the protection of IDPs in its work.

We take this opportunity to reiterate, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

  
**Cristian Barros**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Chile  
to the United Nations

  
**Gary Quinlan**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Australia  
to the United Nations

Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers  
of the United Nations  
New York

## Summary

### **UNSC Arria Meeting on Internally Displaced Persons**

On 30 May 2014, Chile and Australia co-hosted an Arria (informal) meeting of Security Council members on the 'Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: Challenges and Role of the Security Council'.

The purpose of the meeting - the first Arria ever to focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs) - was to highlight internal displacement as an important aspect of the Council's work, including on the protection of civilians (POC), and to identify ways to more consistently and effectively address IDP protection issues in its resolutions and in mandate design for and monitoring of peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Cristian Barros, Permanent Representative of Chile, and Ambassador Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia. The following panellists addressed the Security Council: Mr. Alfredo Zamudio (Director, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) / Norwegian Refugee Council); Dr. Costy Costantinos (Trustee, Africa Humanitarian Action), Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer (Chief, OCHA Policy Branch) and Mr. Chaloka Beyani (Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs). Mr. Udo Janz, director of UNHCR's Office in New York and Ms. Elizabeth Cafferty from the Women's Refugee Commission were also invited to make statements.

This paper, compiled by the Permanent Missions of Chile and Australia, is a co-chair's summary of the discussion by the participants during the meeting.

Panellists focused their remarks on the staggering number of IDPs (33.3 million estimated by the IDMC at the end of 2013 in their Global Overview 2014: people internally displaced by conflict and violence), their protection needs and measures that the Security Council can adopt in that regard. While one million IDPs were able to go home in 2013, over 8 million others became newly internally displaced, joining the millions of others displaced for over a year. Five countries (Syria, the DRC, Central African Republic, Nigeria, and Sudan) accounted for some 80 percent of new

displacement in 2013. These countries are either on the Council's agenda, or, in the case of Nigeria, are affected by terrorist groups which are listed in a Council sanctions regime. Most displaced (at least 60%) were outside camps. Displacement was a central result, feature or driver of conflict and humanitarian needs. Responding was therefore part of the Council's core business. The Council had not always met this challenge as robustly and consistently as it might. Despite the high number of IDPs, the knowledge of their rights and needs had in fact decreased among many international actors. Progress remained inconsistent in comparison to Council practice in other related POC areas e.g. the mandates of peacekeeping operations and the response to sexual violence.

Panellists emphasised that although it was the primary responsibility of national authorities to protect IDPs, when national protection failed the international community had a role in protection and providing assistance. Panellists also referred to the obligations of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the role of Africa's regional IDP instrument, the Kampala Convention. The challenges in implementing the latter were highlighted, as was the need to consider a broad range of durable solutions, to resolve situations of protracted displacement, and to undertake gender sensitive approaches to internal displacement.

OCHA, UNHCR and the Women's Refugee Commission encouraged Members to support a peaceful societies goal in the post-2015 sustainable development goals process, and to consider an indicator applicable to refugees and IDPs. Panellists further emphasized that finding durable solutions for IDPs is a complex process which requires sustained and integrated efforts to address the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding dimensions of displacement.

Several delegates highlighted the importance of the Council taking into account the specific needs of IDPs in its deliberations, and in cooperating with regional organisations, and to support efforts to implement the Kampala Convention.

Delegates referred to specific situations of internal displacement in their remarks, including: Syria, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, and Ukraine.

Several delegates emphasised the important role of humanitarian organisations, in particular UNHCR, in assisting IDP protection needs. The need for preventive action by the Security Council, and the need to hasten deployment of peacekeepers and to improve their training on IDP issues were also highlighted.

Questions focused on how to address and reduce the average period of protracted displacement (17 years), progress towards a whole-of-UN approach; how to reach IDPs not in camp settings, how special procedures of the Human Rights Council could be used, whether new mechanisms or instruments were needed to address IDP protection issues, and what language could be adopted in future Council resolutions to effectively address IDP issues.

Delegates also referred to the ongoing desirability of strengthening data collection, including gender disaggregated data, to inform Council deliberations.

In conclusion, Ambassador Quinlan emphasised the shocking dimensions of the IDP challenge, noting that at least 155 families or 630 people in Syria would have been newly displaced during the course of the two and a half hour meeting. Ambassador Barros expressed Chile's interest in further discussing internal displacement during its Presidency of the Council in 2015.

### Proposals

The following proposals are put forward to Council members to assist deliberations and for further consideration when dealing with IDPs:

- To request more systematically from the UN information and data, including age, sex and disability disaggregated data, on IDPs in country situations as well as a gender analysis of protection concerns for IDP populations.
- To refer, where appropriate, to the obligations under the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Kampala Convention, and call for full compliance with and implementation of the latter where relevant.

- To demand strict compliance by parties to conflict with applicable international law, in particular the prohibition against deportation, forcible transfer or displacement of the civilian population, in whole or in part, unless the security of the civilians or imperative military reasons so demand.
- To reinforce that parties to the conflict are obligated to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance to those in need, including IDPs, and ensure the freedom of movement of aid workers in that regard.
- To mandate more systematically peacekeeping missions to take specific action to ensure the protection of IDPs both within specific sites and outside camp settings.
- To ensure gender sensitive and consultative approaches are taken by peacekeeping missions in protecting IDPs.
- To fully make use of the information and analysis provided by the UN and NGOs to better understand the root causes of internal displacement to endeavour to better identify durable solutions in peace, transition and development processes to mitigate protracted situations of displacement.
- To consider whether new mechanisms or instruments should be developed to enhance protection of IDPs.