

2020 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment
High-Level Panel
**“Mobilizing action to improve humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons
and achieve durable solutions”**

Thursday 11 June, 10:00am-12:30pm (New York time), virtual

Objectives

This event will explore concrete ways the international community can better support IDPs, host communities and governments to help IDPs to move towards durable solutions to internal displacement considering ever-growing numbers who are uprooted within their own countries.

Panelists will share experiences of new approaches towards achieving durable solutions to the increasing phenomenon of protracted displacement and how long-term solutions can be advanced from the very outset of a humanitarian emergency. This event will also explore the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis to IDPs and host communities and provide an opportunity to engage with a member of the Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement which started its work at the end of February 2020.

Background and theme

By the end of 2019, the global population of internally displaced persons due to conflict, violence and disasters reached an all-time high of more than 50 million. The number of newly displaced reached 33.4 million in 2019, the highest number since 2012.

The numbers also show that ever more people are displaced for ever longer periods of time, reinforcing the need to find solutions to protracted displacement. In several subregions, conflict increasingly intersects with disasters and droughts in driving displacement, complicating the search for durable solutions and testing the resilience of the communities that host them. Internally displaced persons are among the most vulnerable and face a variety of risks to their lives, health and well-being, undermining the efforts of affected countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Against this background, there is growing consensus that the international community should step up its efforts to address the growing challenge of internal displacement, and support IDPs, host communities and affected States, in the pursuit of achieving durable solutions. In the fall of 2019, the Secretary-General announced the establishment of a High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement to draw international attention to the issue and propose concrete solutions to help affected people and communities.

In 2020, in the face of the COVID-19 crisis, internally displaced persons are disproportionately exposed to the disease and its impacts, from job losses to food shortages, compounding existing vulnerabilities and reinforcing the need for efforts to strengthen their resilience and advance durable solutions.

Guiding Questions:

- What practical steps can be taken to better promote durable solutions for IDPs and the communities that host them? What lessons have we learned thus far on what works and what does not?
- How can the United Nations and its partners better support national governments in fulfilling their responsibilities to advance durable solutions to IDPs and host communities?
- What can Multilateral Development Banks do to support national governments?
- How can we advance humanitarian-development-peace collaboration in the pursuit of durable solutions? How can the UN's peace pillar support solutions that would help IDPs achieve durable solutions?
- What efforts need to be taken to more effectively address the growing challenge of displacement in the context of climate change?
- How can durable solutions be advanced within efforts to support IDPs, host communities and States as they face increasing vulnerability and impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Panel:

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists:

- Ms. Federica Mogherini, Co-Chair, Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement
- Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Mr. Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- Mr. António Vitorino, Director General, International Organization for Migration
- Dr. Asha Mohammed, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society
- Dr. Nasir Ahmad Andisha, Co-Chair of the Group of Friends on Internal Displacement, and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office in Geneva
- Ms. Veronica Ngum Ndi, Gender Officer, Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities