

Talking Points

Intersessional seminar on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons 2018–2020 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

Date: Thursday 29 October 2020, 9.30 – 12.00 (GVA time)

Estimated time of remarks: 9:50 (GVA time)

Format: 10-minute opening remarks

Login details: <https://rtce-unog.webex.com/rtce-unog/j.php?MTID=m89788e4a1f0450e0ab527819c056f88c>

Meeting number: 137 757 4036 Password: EuZZkZvA566

- I am grateful to have this opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement
- **Twenty-two years ago**, states, the UN, and civil society organizations came together and agreed that more **needed to be done to address internal displacement** globally. The UN Commission on Human Rights called for the UN to develop a framework to guide national and international responses to internal displacement, and the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#) came into being.
- At the time, there were an estimated 25 million IDPs worldwide. **Today this number has nearly doubled**. The Guiding Principles have been a critical tool, but it is clear that much more needs to be done to support their adoption and implementation.
- Over the past two years, the [GP20 Plan of Action](#) has served as an essential tool in further advancing the aims of the Guiding Principles, and I commend the work of the GP20 Secretariat, its Steering Committee and all the partners for their dedication in driving these efforts forward. In this, I want to recognize the critical stewardship role of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, Ms. Cecilia Jimenez Damary. GP20's work in bringing states together and consolidating and sharing best practices has filled a critical gap and has created a valuable community of practice.
- As GP20 nears the end of its initial mandate, the question we all must ask ourselves is: **what next?** How do we continue to make progress on preventing, responding, and achieving solutions to internal displacement globally?
- I am speaking to you today as Co-Chair of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, which was established in part because UN member states and the Secretary-General believe that **bold, concrete changes are needed in the way we go about addressing these problems**. It is not enough to simply tinker around the edges when the numbers of internally displaced people continue to grow each year.
- Over the next 11 months, the High-Level Panel will be working to **identify recommendations** for the UN and member states on the type of action and change that is needed. We have and continue to benefit greatly from the work of the GP20, as well as from conversations with many

governments represented here today. This work will continue and be expanded, and we are indeed already in the process of convening a series of high-level dialogues to further sharpen the Panel's current thinking.

- In addition to the Panel's dedicated work, today's seminar is an opportunity to leap forward with this discussion. The Panel is continuing to dig into a number of key questions, including: what drives **commitment** in taking action on internal displacement? How can state **capacity** on internal displacement be most effectively supported? How can we close the **implementation gap** between policies and action? GP20 has not only explored these issues, but has already started to address them by providing a platform where experiences can be shared. We look forward to receiving the compendium currently being consolidated by GP20, which will undoubtedly be a critical resource of the Panel.
- From today's discussion, the Panel looks forward to hearing not only about the best practices and lessons learned of states, but also about how mechanisms like GP20 could support state and international action in the future. In submissions to the Panel, many actors (both state and non-state) talked about the **importance of peer-to-peer exchange**, for example. What type of model would work best for this purpose? Are there other platforms or technical assistance mechanisms that would be useful for states?
- **Ultimately, the High-Level Panel's goal is to identify recommendations that will support you** in preventing and responding to internal displacement – both as individual member states and as a body of actors who are committed to tackling our shared displacement challenge. It is clear that none of us can do this alone. Although I cannot stay for the full seminar today, the Panel looks forward to receiving the outcome report of the discussion and will be particularly grateful for specific ideas and suggestions of how we can drive real change.