



*American Model United Nations*

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

## Report to the General Assembly on Internally Displaced Persons:

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## Executive Summary

During consultations, several delegates deliberated on basis of sovereignty and the use of the Cluster Approach as an expansion of efforts in regard to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Due to many conflicts consuming the world presently, UNHCR views the issues of IDPs as a necessary topic that should be addressed via a mechanism of different approach.

With that said, delegates discussed extensively issues of humanitarian relief, ethnic violence, modernization and development, and good governance.

In addition, delegates discussed promoting entrepreneurship for IDPs as well as the importance of retrieving lost documents IDPs lost during flight.

Further, delegates encouraged societal integration for IDPs as well as their travel be aided by NGOs. Permanent housing and sheltering also consumed many discussions on this topic. Representatives expressed concern for protection of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Delegates suggested more cooperation with NGOs in alleviating the housing problem and suggested alternative, durable solutions. Many educational opportunities were discussed for IDPs including vocational training.

Delegates discussed peace treaties in concern of regional blocs. Physical protection of IDPs also took the forefront of discussion. Representatives felt that Cooperation via Solidarity was a suitable solution to the IDP problem.

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2 Finally, a number of Member States expressed extreme concern over border security as it  
3 relates to the internal displacement issue.

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5 No draft resolutions were recommended.

## **Matters calling for action by the United Nations General Assembly**

### ***Draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly***

- 6 The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees recommends to the General
- 7 Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:
- 8
- 9 The body did not vote on the recommendation of any draft resolutions.

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## **Consideration of Internally Displaced Persons:**

- 11 At its 2014 session, the Commission considered agenda item 2, Internally Displaced  
12 Persons.  
13

### ***Action taken by the Commission***

- 15 No draft resolutions were recommended during consultations.

## Adoption of the Report

[Leave this section blank. A summary of the votes and amendments of this Draft Report will be added once the report is considered by the Committee]

### Deliberations

During consultative sessions, the delegates wished to address state sovereignty as it relates to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) along with the strengthening of approach mechanisms. In that regard, representatives saw state sovereignty as a key issue due to the problematic nature of internal displacement and emphasized the need to maintain and increase support of existing emergency response programs. The ability to respond efficiently within acceptable times frames is of essential importance to ensure the prolonging of internal displacement is curbed at every possible turn. The delegates wished to emphasize the importance of increasing discussion on sovereign states to address the need of recognizing the internally displaced and therefore, working on solutions that will look to realize the nucleus causes of IDPs. In that context, delegates realized that the responsibility of the well-being of the internally displaced relies solely with the Member State in order to respect sovereignty.

### Sovereignty as assured by regional cooperation:

Recalling all previous resolutions on internally displaced persons adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, including Assembly resolutions, specifically, resolution 46/182 passed on December 19, 1991. Contained in the aforementioned resolution, sovereign nations have the duty to care for their persons internally displaced by natural disasters or other emergencies. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) should work together by contributing resources with a strictly humanitarian focus.

Realizing that each member state does not have the resources to solve every issue that may arise within their territorial boundaries, the body has the following recommendations. First, this body would encourage other regional blocs to adopt conventions similar to the Kampala Convention of 2009, reaffirming the rights of (IDPs) by maintaining the sovereignty of member states. Second, we invite states to join these new conventions regarding IDPs to promote cooperation within regional blocs which Member States identify themselves with most. Cooperation within blocs would reduce the number of IDPs and alleviate substantial burdens placed on individual states. This body calls upon the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to revise and update the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to reflect the current technologically connected world. Additionally, we call upon states to make every effort to assist in the return of IDPs to their homes. Finally we suggest that states struggling with IDPs seek assistance from NGOs and IGOs to help member states meet the unique needs of IDPs.

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60 Several delegations found the concept of self-policing to be the best way to address  
61 sovereignty concerns. Many delegations endeavored to create incentive structures related  
62 to international monetary organizations. These incentive structures would, in theory,  
63 motivate individual nations to fall in accordance with the standards of IDP treatment that  
64 emancipated from the 1998 convention.

65  
66 As it relates to natural disasters and climate change, the delegates indicated the necessity  
67 of ensuring that the emergency response approach is issued within 24 hours of any  
68 natural disaster or affect from climate change. With that said, certain peaceful  
69 negotiations need to take place with Member States who have not been willing to  
70 acknowledge their IDP populations. Therefore, with respect to state sovereignty,  
71 delegates suggested that additional support be allocated within UNHCR for such  
72 negotiation measures, whatever form this support may take as specified by the body.

74 In addition, delegates wished to appeal to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)  
75 to expand the role of the UNHCR in the Cluster Approach. Currently the UNHCR does  
76 not see involvement with displacement caused by natural disasters or insurmountable,  
77 escalating climate change issues. This is a natural expansion of UNHCR's role as  
78 delegates recognize our distinct ability to deal with issues of displacement regardless of  
79 the cause.

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81 Outside of the expansion of UNHCR's role, issues of quick moving political unrest  
82 should also be addressed as it relates to the sovereign state. The functions of a cluster  
83 approach at the country level are:

- 84 1. Supporting service delivery by providing a platform for agreement on  
85 approached and elimination of duplication;  
86
- 87 2. Informing strategic decision-making of the Humanitarian  
88 Coordinator/Humanitarian Country Team for the humanization response though  
89 coordination of needs assessed;  
90
- 91 3. Planning and strategy development including sectoral plans, adherence to  
92 standards and funding needs;  
93
- 94 4. Advocacy to address identified concerns on behalf of cluster participants and  
95 the affected population;  
96
- 97 5. Monitoring and reporting on the cluster strategy and results; recommending  
98 corrective action where necessary;  
99
- 100 6. Contingency planning, preparedness, capacity building where needed and  
101 where capacity exists within the cluster approach.  
102

103 Furthermore, we see the Cluster Approach as a way to add to long-term solutions that will

104 further prevent the formation of certain root causes of displacement such as situations of  
105 civil and political unrest.

106 The body commends the work being done via the cluster group approach to provide aid  
107 and eradicate the issue of IDPs through international cooperation. Portugal suggests a  
108 reevaluation of each cluster to ensure they are continuing to meet the needs of member  
109 states with high percentages of IDPs within their nation. This reevaluation should be  
110 similar to the one performed in 2010 in focus and scope, and should be performed within  
111 the upcoming year. For future reevaluations, the body agreed with Portugal's suggestion  
112 for the creation of a body within the UNHCR who is tasked with performing these  
113 reevaluations every four years.

#### 114 115 Modernization and Development:

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117 Taking all of these points an additional step further, delegates wished to see the build up  
118 of infrastructure through modernization and development in enabling IDPs in accessing  
119 resources allocated by United Nation agencies and NGOs. Internal infrastructure has  
120 proven Member States do not have adequate means to address situations of natural  
121 disaster, climate change, and political unrest. By contributing to the build-up of  
122 infrastructure over the long-term, Member States will be able to increase prevention  
123 practices, thus seeing the decline of internal displacement as a result. Further, we believe  
124 that matters relating to building infrastructure should be left to the decision of the  
125 Member State. We further recommend neighbors and global powers to offer resources if  
126 the Member State wishes to modernize efficiently and effectively. Through a means of  
127 burden sharing and solidarity, solutions can be reached in the long term to curb  
128 displacement.

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130 Representatives emphasized the importance of coordinating with the United Nations  
131 Development Programme (UNDP) in developing infrastructural establishments.  
132 Delegations suggested that developmental programs focused on rebuilding and  
133 construction be undertaken by the IDPs themselves in order to stimulate financial  
134 stability in the private sector.

#### 135 136 Ethnic Violence:

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138 Given that internally displaced peoples are still wards of their state, but often times, the  
139 protection mechanisms of the state are compromised in some significant form, Oman  
140 wished wished to bring the issue of ethnic violence into the ongoing discussion. Many  
141 divisions in identity exist due to cultural and social constructions within the sovereign  
142 state. With that said, the delegates wished to recommend to Member States the formation  
143 of a position inside the respective Member State to help facilitate open-dialogue between  
144 differing ethnic and religious groups. We see this as a root cause of internal displacement  
145 and would hope to increase prevention through a measure of diplomatic conversation and  
146 debate.

#### 147 148 Increase in Humanitarian Relief Policy:

DOC:333



Also discussed, representatives wished to see an increase in humanitarian relief policy with 4 specific sub-points addressed:

1. With respect to humanity, an initiation to centralize goals on preserving human life and alleviate suffering for the internally displaced;

2. To echo the importance of securing human life, representatives wished to see the increase in impartiality. IDPs still grapple with the issues of discrimination therefore, impartiality ought to be based solely on need;

I 3. With respect to impartiality, we also view neutrality as an important step to the increase of the effectiveness of humanitarian relief. Humanitarian assistance must not favor any side in any conflict.

4. Finally, the importance of independence should be addressed in humanitarian efforts. Independence for IDPs is defined by delegates as autonomy of humanitarian objects from the personal, political, publicity, economic, military or other objectives that any government or agency may hold.

Delegates suggested the UNHCR increase basic humanitarian aid to all IDPs in areas of conflicts. Delegates specifically recommended that NGOs primarily distribute this aid as to reduce negative sentiments against UNHCR from nations concerned about protecting their national sovereignty in relation to point 3 above. This aid would include health, safety, and cultural aid.

Good Governance:

Several representatives also viewed good governance as an item that would address the root causes of internal displacement. The delegates stressed the importance of developing good governance to be more conducive to the actions we have thus far suggested. We hope to establish a method of participation and partnership amongst women and men who should be able to share control over decisions that directly affect them which echoes the sentiments of Chapter IX of the United Nations Charter in which all persons have the right to self-determination. We see this as a point that easily relates to the relief problem, thus curbing the root causes of displacement. The IDPs should absolutely be consulted with to determine the destination of their relocation within the sovereign borders of the State. We see this as a root cause of dissatisfaction with location of displacement.

Next, delegates wished to see increased transparency of a level that is determined by the sovereign State in the elimination of root causes of internal displacement. Representatives expressed a desire to see the sovereign states address the issue of transparency by being willing to provide accurate and accessible information. In addition, accountability is of grave concern in carrying out these suggestions. It is the belief of many delegates that sovereign States should exhibit a characteristic of willingness to be publically scrutinized. Further, and most importantly, delegates wished to address efficiency and effectiveness.

We encourage institutions to meet their sole objectives on the premises of equality. As it relates to IDPs, delegates would like to see equal treatment and non-discrimination in ethnicity, gender, political allegiance, religion and language. For purposes of avoiding corruption and ensuring this effectiveness, appropriate and transparent actions are necessary.

Additional recommendations for action by the Commission:

Promoting Entrepreneurship:

When reintegrating internally displaced peoples (IDPs), promoting entrepreneurship is key to helping individual(s) create roots back in their communities. This promotes financial stability, which will help ease people into the reintegration process. Entrepreneurship begins with a stable primary and secondary education, with additional vocational training recommended. Training younger generations of IDPs will result in greater sustainable economic and social success.

While the sovereignty of nations is recognized, there are several steps/processes that are recommended for all nations with internally displaced peoples to adopt. To promote sustainable businesses, the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) body suggests that individual nations provide solid infrastructure for all peoples (including community centers and updated technology), expedited microcredit loans, and to help raise awareness of business opportunities via public and state media outlets. This will make it easier for small business owners to attract both local and foreign investors.

It is the recommendation of the UNHCR that promoting entrepreneurship will expedite the long-term reintegration of IDPs into society.

Document Loss and Retrieval:

Representatives discussed the difficulty some IDPs have receiving healthcare, education, or job permits during or after political or natural disasters as a result of losing documentation during flight. Possible solutions that were discussed included allowing alternative forms of informal documentation, sending trained document retrieval teams into conflict savaged or formerly conflict savaged regions, providing resources for document retrieval, and providing education and legal service to IDPs.

Some of these solutions can only be presented as suggestions to nations with IDPs. For example, the UNHCR can suggest that these countries legally accept receipts for utilities, descriptions of former homes, witness reports by local authorities, voter registration or other similar information instead of formal documentation for IDPs. However, delegates pointed out that the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council can also help directly by providing countries that request help with document retrieval teams, resources, or legal and awareness education campaigns. Moreover, United Nations (UN) personnel can help facilitate communication between IDPs and national governments,

making document retrieval processes more efficient.

Finally, representatives suggested that the General Assembly and the Security Council send UN personnel to help national governments issue IDPs new documentations in cases in which old documents are destroyed or unable to be found. UN personnel could help national officials crosscheck to investigate whether IDPs are registered in any other pre-existing national databases in cases in which sovereign nations request this assistance.

#### Tracking of Accurate Data:

Representatives pointed out that accurate data of numbers of IDPs across the world is difficult to determine due to the fact that IDP populations are often spread across countries in difficult to reach places. This is problematic in determining the amount and kind of aid the UNHCR, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and national agencies need to provide. To this end, it would be beneficial for the UNHCR to compile data regarding the number and approximate location of IDPs in each nation in the world. The UNHCR thus reaffirms and supports an expansion of the work of the Norwegian Refugee Councils' Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (NRC-IDMC). The NRC-IDMC compiles data from a combination of self-reported numbers by the nations, direct field report, and secondary sources such as new reporting and NGO data. This database should remain public in order to assist national and local governments and relevant NGOs.

#### Relocation Transportation:

Representatives recognized the necessity of providing and encouraging transportation of IDPs from IDP-based communities into society. This will reduce congestion in IDP communities and encourage independence for those moving out of the IDP camps. Through vocational training and entrepreneurship (both of which are detailed later in this report), IDPs will be able to secure jobs within society, which will be facilitated by transportation into society. Representatives additionally suggest that transportation for IDPs be provided by NGOs when the NGOs are transporting cargo and other necessary resources.

#### Permanent Housing:

Representatives recognized the resettlement or return of IDPs as a way in which they can take back their rights. In conjunction with the United Nations Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Organization of Migration (IOM), UNHCR can assist in the return and resettlement of IDPs. Representatives were concerned with how displacement impacts the safety of IDPs, stressing the UNHCR's data about the increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBC) for displaced persons.

Representatives also displayed concern for the protection of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). These children are prone to risks like: sexual harassment,

smuggling, discrimination, trafficking, forced marriage, child labor, and numerous other forms set above. The resettlement of unaccompanied and separated children is of the utmost importance for the UNHCR and the complex nature of this resettlement must be addressed. Representatives recommended a regional approach to the resettlement of the IDPs that are minors with the assistance of the OCHA and the IOM.

Representatives additionally brought up the suggestion that permanent housing and shelter would provide needed self-sustainability. Delegates referenced the Regional Housing Program (RHP) introduced by Montenegro and created by Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, as an example for countries looking for successful housing program. It was discussed how the RHP is already helping over 20,000 refugees with a specific emphasis on IDPs. The RHP works to provide low incoming housing in urban and rural areas with high levels of IDPs. The RHP offers permanent and transitional living for IDPs so they can begin to become self-sustainable. Representatives noted that having a home and place of residence is the most basic step and need to getting IDPs to self-reliance. The delegation from Sri Lanka specifically suggested relocating IDPs to permanent housing back in their place of origin in order to better respect the IDP's wishes and reintegrate them into society. Once a system of housing is created, perhaps modeled after the RHP but with specific catering to the host country's needs, other steps towards reintegration can be taken.

Given the reluctance of banks to loan money to IDPs for housing because of the instability of the IDP, the UNHCR encourages the body to find alternative ways to alleviate the housing problem through the work of NGOs. Portugal, Ukraine, and Armenia agree that permanent housing securities help improve society and the life of IDPs. Having each sovereign nation understand the benefits of sustainable housing for IDPs can better the quality of life, create more competitive economies, and enhance the security of person. The UNHCR calls upon the Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) to be proactive in areas torn by conflict and natural disasters and asserts the need to expand the work being done by the GSC, due to the fact that housing is a foundation of IDPs to reintegrate into society. The work being done by the GSC has shown to be beneficial, and the UNHCR hopes to further their reach.

The body also discussed using housing for IDPs as a stabilization method of IDPs within their homeland in order to aid reintegration efforts. Providing housing and vocational training would help launch them back into society as productive citizens, as Senegal suggested.

Education:

Representatives deliberated about the importance of maintaining institutionalized education for internally displaced youth. Noting that displacement causes the lack of access to public education systems and establishments, the delegations highlighted the importance of preventing "lost generations" due to unfortunate conditions of displacement. The body emphasized the significance of maintaining accessibility to

public education for internally displaced persons in temporary housing as well as those pursuing permanent resettlement. Representatives suggested that the UN work with national governments in order to ensure this public education.

#### Vocational Training:

Representatives recognized the necessity to give former IDPs the ability to be economically self-sufficient once re-integrated into the general population. To that end, delegates discussed providing vocational training at IDP camps and in urban areas with high concentrations of IDPs. Representatives further discussed the necessity for this vocational training to be appropriate for each region, both practical and culturally sensitive. Some possible industries delegates discussed included farming, construction, crafts, and technology. Delegates suggested enhancing this vocational training by creating partnerships with local businesses and community leaders where possible, in order to provide students with apprenticeship opportunities and possible eventual job opportunities. In addition, delegates suggested cooperation between Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) and Member State governments to assist with the establishment of these programs, in order to ensure the success of IDPs.

#### Peace Negotiations:

Representatives discussed the necessity for peace treaties that resolve political violence in ways that are fair and beneficial to misplaced population. One recommendation delegates suggested is having IDP camps elect councils to attend peace negotiations. Nations would be highly encouraged to give representatives of such councils seats in negotiation processes. As a result, peace treaties would be expected to address the IDP situation and how to permanently reintegrate such populations in the future.

#### Protection of IDPs:

Delegates would like to note the need for increased protection of IDPs as taking precedence to economic initiatives. Jordan, Canada, Palestine, and Dominican Republic are particularly concerned with this ideal. Cooperation between nations in close geographic proximity to nations with large numbers of IDPs is crucial to ensuring the safety and human rights of IDPs within conflict zones and typically violent areas. Certain delegates discussed encouraging Member States to continue to fairly prosecute those who take advantage of IDPs. Other delegates expressed concern with this statement as it is a potential violation of state sovereignty in dealing with IDPs.

#### Regional Efforts:

The body discussed the pursuit of regional agreements between member states regarding their regional specific issues. Reframing the issue of IDPs as an international issue versus an issue specific to member states will allow for more regional and international cooperation. The body suggests focusing on the economic involvement of IDPs within

their own nation in order to aid reintegration efforts. UNHCR also commends Uganda on their work with the Kampala Convention, and the resulting progress they have sparked within their region.

#### Cooperation via Solidarity:

Though the protection of IDPs is the responsibility of home nations, cooperation is imperative to solving the issue. The oversight of distribution of aid through NGO and governmental cooperation will assure aid is being used appropriately. Creating unified action plans addressing long and short term solutions to the issue that have previously been effective will outline a clear focus for future committee sessions. The creation of a body charged with dealing specifically with IDP's, as well as national representatives within member states who are experts on the issue was discussed as well. The need to establish strategies to stop the separation of families within the IDP crisis is crucial to solving this problem as well. Japan also suggested the involvement of NMCs as being beneficial.

#### Border Security:

The body recognizes the high number of IDPs who are displaced due to armed conflict stemming from border infringement. Estonia and Georgia have emphasized internationally recognized borders are an aspect of state sovereignty and refusal to recognize international borders is a violation of state sovereignty. Dominican Republic of Congo focused on maintaining and strengthening border security within member states experiencing armed conflict that arise from outside the country's borders. Estonia and Georgia maintained that nations experiencing border infringement should receive immediate attention from the international community and is in support of the creation of additional automatic procedure to be implemented by the United Nations to address the issue of unwelcome occupation within a sovereign state by another state. Gabon and DRC called for formation of an international committee concerned with border infringement issues in order to create mutual communication and benefit. The body also emphasized that the sharing of technical advancements such as border monitoring systems, IDP records and tracking, international intel sharing, or any strategy concerned with border security can assist in member state stabilization. Gabon recommended the creation of an International court to recognize contested borders in search of establishing a compromise that resolves this issue.

Singapore discussed the idea of shifting the focus of the cluster group system to be the reintegration of IDPs back into their society. The body agreed that using the cluster group approach to specifically target the self-reliance and independence of IDPs would spark significant conversation on further solutions that might be implemented.

In conclusion, Member States desire to have all above recommendations implemented in the respective states as they see fit. We also wish to express that this report is not a mechanism of change overnight; it is merely recommendations that would need to be

419 addressed in the long term. Therefore, patience, acceptance, and accountability of  
420 operations will need to be utilized in the interim.