

High-Level Dialogue

Durable Solutions to Displacement: Scaling National Solutions, Strengthening Regional and Global Partnerships, and Shaping the Next Phase of Action

Event Summary

24 September, 10:00-11:30 am – Conference Room 7, UNHQ New York

Convened by the **African Union under the leadership of H.E. President Évariste Ndayishimiye of Burundi**, the High-Level Dialogue brought together Member States, United Nations leaders, international financial institutions and other partners to discuss how nationally led solutions to internal displacement can be expanded and sustained.

Building on the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the Dialogue focused on moving beyond predominantly short-term humanitarian responses towards approaches that combine protection, development, peacebuilding and recovery. Discussions examined national and local leadership, financing, meaningful participation of internally displaced people (IDPs), prevention of repeated displacement, and the role of international cooperation in strengthening national and local capacities.

The Dialogue provided an opportunity to take stock of progress and identify priorities for the next phase of action on internal displacement. Discussions reinforced the importance of government-led and locally grounded solutions, with international partnerships, financing and UN support aligned behind nationally defined priorities.

Key Messages and Priorities for the Next Phase of Action

- **Strengthen national and local leadership**
Provide greater institutional and technical support to national and local authorities responsible for implementing solutions.
- **Integrate durable solutions into development planning and financing**
Embed solutions in national budgets and strengthen engagement with international financial institutions and multilateral development banks.
- **Ensure meaningful participation of IDPs**
Involve internally displaced people in the design, implementation and monitoring of solutions.
- **Measure progress through outcomes**
Focus on whether people can exercise their rights and rebuild their lives sustainably, safely and with dignity.

- **Invest in prevention and resilience**
Strengthen measures to reduce displacement risks and prevent repeated displacement.
 - **Strengthen cooperation and knowledge exchange**
Facilitate learning and collaboration among governments, UN entities, development and financial actors, and other partners.
 - **Sustain political momentum and follow-up**
Use existing regional and global platforms to keep displacement on relevant agendas, identify remaining gaps and emerging priorities, support cross-learning and inform future international cooperation.
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Opening

H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of Burundi and Chair of the African Union, opened the Dialogue by framing displacement as both a national responsibility and a test of international solidarity and multilateral cooperation. Reflecting on the current global context, he linked solutions to broader objectives of peace, development and human dignity, emphasizing the need for an integrated approach across humanitarian action, development and peace. Highlighting the multiple drivers of displacement, including conflict and climate-related pressures, he stressed the importance of supporting host communities and strengthening their capacity to respond. Referring to the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, he underscored the importance of nationally led solutions and called for international support that responds to nationally identified priorities. Noting that progress remains uneven, he emphasized the need for stronger collaboration in the next phase of action to achieve concrete and lasting results, expressing hope that the exchange would contribute to lasting commitments for IDPs, refugees and host communities.

Alexander De Croo, Administrator of UNDP, Annual Convenor of the Global Solutions Champions Group, recalled the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement (2022) and highlighted the shift from primarily humanitarian responses towards supporting governments to implement nationally led solutions as a development priority. Drawing on examples from Syria, Somalia, Burundi and Iraq, he stressed that national strategies must translate into concrete, locally implemented and budgeted action. Looking to the next phase, he identified three shifts: financing, connecting government priorities with national and international financing; coherence, using UN80 to strengthen UN system coherence and align support behind government priorities; and development from day one, integrating recovery and development from the outset of crises. He underscored that return is not the endpoint, with sustainable solutions requiring housing, services, livelihoods and stronger local institutions, and reaffirmed UNDP's and the Global Solutions Champions Group commitment to supporting Member State-led solutions.

Scaling Nationally Led Solutions

Barham Salih, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Global Solutions Champion, opened the session by stressing that solutions to internal displacement require the restoration of state protection and the effective enjoyment of rights without discrimination, alongside development and governance stability over the longer term. He emphasized that national and local leadership, coordinated international support, engagement by development, peace and financial actors, and sustainable financing are all essential to achieving durable solutions. While legal frameworks and strategies provide an important foundation, progress should ultimately be measured by whether barriers are removed and people's lives improve. He also underscored the importance of genuine participation by internally displaced people and stressed that local authorities require sufficient capacity and resources to implement solutions effectively. In closing, he pointed to encouraging progress in several contexts, demonstrating that durable solutions to displacement are possible.

H.E. Mr. Mohieldin Salim, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of the Sudan, highlighted the importance of restoring state authority and strengthening coordination around voluntary return and reintegration. He noted ongoing work to update the national strategy on durable solutions and emphasized the need to ensure sustainable outcomes for returnees, including through rebuilding infrastructure and investing in the agricultural and industrial sectors to create opportunities. He stressed that local authorities require sufficient capacity and resources to implement solutions and called for stronger coordination among government, civil society and international partners, including through the UN Resident Coordinator's role in bringing the UN together and aligning support with strengthened government coordination mechanisms. He also called for closer coordination with national and local actors and for scaling up successful partnerships.

H.E. Mr. Raed Alsaleh, Minister of Emergency and Disaster Management, Syrian Arab Republic, opened by noting that displacement is not a theoretical issue for him but one grounded in personal experience. He emphasized the importance of rallying behind one national plan and avoiding parallel approaches, noting that durable solutions require the conditions for people to rebuild their lives, including safety, housing, land, mine clearance, water, education, healthcare and livelihoods. He referred to ongoing work to update the national strategy on durable solutions and reintegration and highlighted a "zero tents" vision, in which camps are no longer necessary. He also emphasized learning from experiences in Africa and strengthening regional cooperation and exchange of experience.

H.E. Dr. Afrah Abdulaziz Al-Zouba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Republic of Yemen, highlighted the challenges posed by repeated and prolonged displacement, including immense disruption to basic services and livelihoods, pressure on host communities in a context shaped by violence, climate-related risks and broader migration movements. She emphasized the importance of civilian protection, resilience and early-warning mechanisms, alongside efforts to support durable solutions. Drawing on the long-term nature of displacement and record levels of displacement in the region, she stressed the need to strengthen local communities, national capacity and basic service delivery while highlighting the importance of learning from experience to inform more effective approaches.

H. E. Mr. Åsmund Aukrust, Minister of Development, Norway, emphasized that durable solutions are not yet being delivered at the scale and pace required and called for a shift from commitments to concrete action. He stressed that national leadership must be systematic, including through national planning and budgeting, with governments taking the lead in developing their own plans and international partners providing support. He highlighted the need for long-term investments beyond humanitarian funding, while ensuring continued access to humanitarian and basic services during transitions to longer-term development. He also stressed the importance of stronger cooperation and coherence among UN entities and partners.

Financing and Partnerships

Ms. Amy Pope, Director-General of IOM and Global Solutions Champion, emphasized that financing must translate **nationally** led solutions into tangible improvements for displaced people and host communities. She stressed the importance of clear, costed national priorities, reliable data and the meaningful participation of displaced people in shaping solutions. She called for sustained investment beyond humanitarian funding, including through national budgets, development banks, businesses and predictable financing, and emphasized the need for the UN and partners to align their support around national priorities and turn plans into funded action.

H.E. Ambassador Johan Borgstam, European Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, stressed the importance of inclusion – not only a matter of values and principles but also of efficiency and effectiveness, noting that experience shows that top-down approaches are less effective than inclusive, bottom-up planning and implementation that brings diverse voices, including displaced people, into decision-making. He highlighted the need to better connect humanitarian, development and stabilization efforts in fragile contexts, and outlined EU support through both dedicated investments in solutions to displacement and broader investments where displacement is a cross-cutting priority. He also emphasized the importance of including displacement responses in national budgets as an expression of national ownership, alongside international cooperation to mobilize additional resources and the potential contribution of the private sector.

Dr. Abdul Kamara, Vice President, Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery, African Development Bank, emphasized the role of international financial institutions in supporting durable solutions, highlighting the importance of infrastructure investment and job creation as part of longer-term approaches. He outlined the AfDB's Second Ten-Year Strategy (2024–2033) as a framework for its engagement on solutions to displacement and stressed the need for governments to integrate displacement into national planning and budgeting, including sector strategies. He highlighted the importance of overcoming fragmentation, referring to the Abidjan Consensus, and noted that scaling solutions requires development finance that better mobilizes national resources and manages risks to unlock private investment. Citing Ethiopia as an example, he noted how broader infrastructure and economic development investments can

create opportunities for displacement-affected communities when AfDB support to government priorities is combined with successful partnerships, including with UNHCR.

Open Floor: Member State and Partner Interventions

Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, provided some reflections before opening the floor for contributions by highlighting four priorities: strengthening local leadership and local integration as a solution alongside return; measuring durable solutions by the progressive enjoyment of rights, including safety, dignity and non-discrimination, rather than numbers alone; ensuring that IDPs are active partners in shaping solutions and have a meaningful seat at the table from the outset; and addressing the risk of repeated displacement by ensuring that return, relocation or local integration are accompanied by the conditions needed for a safe and dignified life.

H.E. Ambassador Frank Grütter, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN, stressed that national strategies must translate into practical action and bring tangible change to people's lives, with national priorities, systems and policies connected to implementation. He called for a shift from commitments to action, supported by aligned financing, and highlighted the importance of stronger UN coherence and Resident Coordinator leadership in aligning international support behind national priorities.

H.E. Ambassador Obaida Eldandarawy, Ambassador of Egypt to Ethiopia & Permanent Representative to the African Union, highlighted the humanitarian and economic pressures of displacement and refugee situations on host communities and stressed the importance of supporting them alongside displaced populations. He emphasized the role of national policies and legal frameworks, stronger international partnerships, and increased and predictable financing, particularly for peacebuilding, reconstruction and prevention, and highlighted that there are also many success stories to learn from.

H.E. Ambassador Florian Laudi, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, highlighted the long-term impacts of displacement on individuals, social cohesion and security. He stressed the need to further reduce fragmentation and strengthen UN coordination, move from joint commitment to action with catalytic and transformative financing – including through the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund - and collective action to mobilize additional resources.

H.E. Ambassador Maria Zabolotskaya, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN, echoed the importance addressing displacement as part of development efforts. She specifically highlighted Russia's continued support and sharing of Russian expertise with African countries and referred to the upcoming Third Russia-Africa Summit in October 2026.

Ms. Helena Fraser, Chief, Programme and Policy Branch, Development Coordination Office, highlighted the UN's approach to internal displacement as reform in practice and pointed at the importance of the Resident Coordinator System and of UNDP, UNHCR and IOM including through the inter-agency Global Solutions Hub and the Global Champions Group on Solutions

to Internal Displacement for a coordinated UN response. Moving forward, she called upon Member States to sustain political and financial support for nationally led solutions and bring the issues to the boards of IFI's and UN bodies.

Ms. Sheema Sen Gupta, Director, Child Protection and Migration, UNICEF, emphasized UNICEF's active engagement in UN coordination on displacement solutions, including through the Global and country-level Solutions Working Groups. Looking ahead, she called for greater attention to the needs of displaced children and child-sensitive approaches that ensure access to essential services while securing future opportunities.

Closing

H.E. Dr. Alain Ndikumana, Minister of Finance, Budget, and Digital Economy of Burundi, closing the Dialogue, called for political commitments to translate into government-led solutions embedded in national planning, budgets and institutional capacities, supported by aligned international assistance. He emphasized that finding solutions for displacement-affected communities is central to Burundi's vision and called for displacement to remain on the agendas of regional and global platforms, including the African Union, ECOSOC, the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission. He also highlighted the potential role of the Global Solutions Hub and Global Solutions Champions in supporting regular follow-up, sustaining momentum and drawing attention to remaining gaps and emerging priorities.