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ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

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Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons

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PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL UPDATE

Ms. Paula GAVIRIA BETANCUR, Special Rapporteur (SR) on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Every time since taking up her mandate, the SR has stood before the UNHRC to report a new global record in the number of IDPs. Sadly, this year is no exception. **Over 83 million people** are living in internal displacement worldwide. **Conflict and violence** remain the primary cause of displacement. Their consequences are increasingly severe as we witness a global decline in support for the international norms and standards foundational to human rights and the rule of law.

Displacement is no longer just a consequence of conflict. It is increasingly its **deliberate objective**. In regions like Sudan, Palestine, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we witness conflict parties and occupying powers systematically uprooting communities to alter the demographic landscape. IDPs and their settlements are no longer spared. They are being treated as though they were **military targets**. Humanitarian access, which remains a legal obligation, is now a bargaining chip for political and financial gain.



It is not just conflict. The adverse effects of climate change and disasters are also displacing people at record levels. At the end of 2024, **10 million people were displaced by disasters**. This crisis knows no borders. While low-income countries and small island states are often hardest hit, the United States recorded the most disaster displacement last year. These are not just numbers. They are lives disrupted, futures derailed, and rights denied. But they are also stories of resilience of individuals, families, communities, nations striving to rebuild, to reclaim dignity, and restore hope for them and for humanity. We must not let these stories be buried under statistics. We must act.

PRESENTATION OF THE THEMATIC REPORT

The SR introduces her new thematic report on **internal displacement in the context of organized criminal activity**. The latter is an increasingly prevalent driver of displacement and violations of the rights of IDPs across the world. In 2024, at least 1.2 million people were displaced by **climate-related violence**, more than double the figures of 2023. Violence leading to displacement in such contexts may rise from criminal actors seeking to control territory, populations, illicit economies, or from disputes between criminal groups.

State responses are often weak or complicit. Militarised state security operations worsen the situation in many cases, punishing victims and fuelling further displacement. This is especially true where states derogate from their human rights obligations during declared states of emergency. While the state has the primary responsibility to prevent and address criminal activity and internal displacement, the emergence of significant organised criminal activity can indicate the inability or the unwillingness of the state to effectively enforce the rule of law and seek accountability.

IDPs in this context face **grave violations of human rights**, including murder, violent assault, kidnapping, forced labour, child recruitment, sexual exploitation. They also risk becoming **collateral damage in armed confrontations** between criminal actors. Robbery, extortion, land expropriation, stifle commercial activity, and imperil the livelihoods of those affected. These dynamics also restrict access to essential services, including health, education, and hinder development. This crisis thrives in impunity and erodes the legitimacy of the states. The atmosphere of fear and suspicion that prevails degrades the social fabric as communities fracture and turn against each other, with some IDPs facing distinct vulnerabilities and intersecting forms of discrimination. These dynamics, coupled with the persistent insecurity generated by criminal activity, frustrate the search for durable solutions.

The SR recognises that effectively addressing **organised criminal activity** is a complex process cutting across humanitarian, human rights, and criminal law. The actors involved are diverse in motivation and structure, requiring nuanced responses. The SR urges states to tackle root causes such as poverty, corruption, and weak rule of law. States should also adopt **protection-centred strategies** in responses to criminal violence and displacement, and invest in accountability, access to justice, and durable solutions. Measures to ensure the disarmament reintegration of armed groups and criminal actors and foster social cohesion are also crucial to rebuild the social contract in these settings.



Reaching the end of her first term, the SR stresses that one thing is clear. The **rise in global displacement is the result of systemic failure**, the failure of states and the international community to tackle its root causes. In **conflict zones**, we have seen blatant violations of international humanitarian and human rights law over the past years. Yet the perpetrators have enjoyed effective impunity and continue to expand their campaigns of aggression.

On **climate change**, states have underinvested in disaster risk reduction and have failed to sufficiently reduce their emissions, curtail the use of fossil fuels, and fallen short on mitigation and adaptation. As global displacement reaches record levels, funding for protection and durable solutions is collapsing, even from states that have historically led with solidarity during global crisis. The SR has witnessed the devastating consequences of these cuts firsthand.

The SR urges member states to sustain and increase support, enabling the UN, national, international NGOs, and organisations working with IDPs to uphold human rights for all. Enough is enough. The tools to prevent this crisis already exist. What is missing is the political will. It is not the time to retreat into narrow interests or abandon our commitment to solidarity. IDPs need us more than ever. In closing, the SR calls on states to act decisively, end complacency, end complicity. The time to stand with IDPs is now.

PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTRY VISIT REPORT

Presenting the report on her visit to the **Marshall Islands** carried out in October 2024, the SR is grateful to the government for their cooperation. The Marshall Islands faces a **triple displacement crisis**, from nuclear testing, military use of land, and the adverse effects of climate change.

From 1947 until 1986, under US administration as part of the UN Strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific, **US nuclear tests** displaced Indigenous communities without free, prior, and informed consent required under international law. Those relocated faced starvation, disasters, loss of livelihood, identity, and culture. Communities were also displaced from Kwajalein Atoll for a US military base that remains active today. To date, neither the US nor the UN has issued a formal apology to the Marshallese.

The Marshall Islands faces **existential climate threats**, despite contributing minimally to global emissions. It suffers increasing displacements from storms, floods, droughts, and rising sea levels could render much of the countries uninhabitable by the end of the century. The SR commend them for their pursuit for justice for nuclear victims and its climate leadership.

The Marshall Islands was the first nation to submit an ambitious nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement and has developed a **national climate strategy and adaptation plan** through inclusive and participatory processes. The SR encourages them to continue progress through a rights-based approach to displacement, stronger disaster response, and a land reform. But the Marshall Islands also needs strong international support through emission cuts as well as funding and technical assistance to implement its climate strategy.

The **United States holds a particular responsibility** to declassify relevant records, reconsider and resolve claims, and ensure future agreements meet the standard of free, prior, and informed consent. Once again, we are seeing now communities being displaced under the pretext of



nuclear threats, no longer a past concern, but a present and urgent driver of forced displacement. States must ensure safety and humanitarian access.

REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

The SR explains that there is a need for **more binding legal frameworks** at the national and regional level that are **in line with the guiding principles** and strengthen implementation on what already exists. The guiding principles have inspired the Kampala Convention as well as laws, policies, and strategies in many countries, but the prospect of a binding regional framework outside Africa remains elusive. The legal regime addressing internal displacement is not fully consolidated yet. The number of states with comprehensive legislation in line with the guiding principles is limited, and we still lack some practical policies in force. The **lack of implementation** is primarily due to weak governance, leadership and accountability, and institutional deficiencies.

The SR is gravely concerned by the **cutting of funding that provides a lifeline for millions of IDPs** around the world. Increased food insecurity and malnutrition, limited access to health, water, housing, education, psychosocial support, legal assistance, higher protection risks, especially for women and children. This is accompanied by additional detrimental effects such as the erosion of community trust in aid actors, the reversal of development and recovery gains, and the growing competition for increasingly scarce resources. The **humanitarian reset** offers an opportunity to work differently, but IDPs need to be included in decision-making processes at all levels, notably in the review of the reprioritization of services that will definitely affect their lives. What is also needed is more support and capacity-strengthening is needed for IDP-led organisations and national budget integration of IDP needs in health, education and protection.

Turning to the **increase in organised crime and displacement**, there is an increasing awareness of the phenomenon, but also organised crime is filling power vacuums left by weak governments. Military operations are failing to distinguish between perpetrators and civilians. There is an increase of displacement rather than a decrease caused by these military interventions, and no safe recourse for victims because of impunity or inaccessible or ineffective justice systems.

Against this backdrop, the SR suggests a **protection-centred and rights-based strategy** encompassing community-based protection, early warning systems, tackle the root causes, poverty, corruption, exclusion, weak governance, ensuring protection, and giving IDPs a voice in justice, in recovery and in reintegration. The way forward is adopting a **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Approach** to ensure these actors and their efforts are aligned - addressing the root causes, namely poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunity for communities; investing in local governance; empowering local community and local mediation.

It is also crucial to **strengthen the rule of law and accountability**, work with international partners on serious crimes, and ensure protection in all activities and programming processes. Responses must prioritise protection over criminalisation, integrated prevention and durable solutions. The need to enhance regional cooperation and data sharing is very important as much as to respond to the risk of smuggling affecting IDPs. There are **good examples of early warnings** in Mexico, in Colombia, and in other contexts, with working together with human rights institutions.



With regard to **participation**, there is a need to protect and respect the wish of IDPs who want to remain anonymous in this context, because the state's main obligation is to protect their safety and privacy and avoid re-traumatization. Meaningful participation can be made establishing or strengthening IDP committees or community councils that represent the diversity of these groups. Institutionalising participation in frameworks and throughout the responses, including IDPs since the start and in the early warning mechanisms, needs assessment and response, and assuring that they have their legal documentation, using technology to leverage their participation. The **role of local authorities** is also key. They have a privileged role in delivering timely, inclusive, and context-sensitive responses, maintaining access to affected populations, and strengthening community resilience.

The SR is engaging with the **follow-up mechanism** following the end of the UNSG Special Advisor's mandate in three ways. First, the SR is part of the **solutions champion**, and she is invested in high-level advocacy. The SR is also working with the **solutions hub**, supporting UN resident coordinators and country teams, and has permanent discussions with the solution advisors and supports specific country operations. The SR further has a permanent conversation and relationship with the **IDP Advisory Group**, composed of nine IDP leaders, now led by the UNHCR, working together to promote the recommendations on solutions they came up with.

The SR continues to monitor and report, as mandated by the UNHRC, on **the situation of the IDPs in Gaza**, which amount to 90% of the population. 1.9 people in Gaza have been displaced, many of them as much as 10 times. The SR advocates for the implementation of the ICJ's provisional measures to prevent genocidal acts and preserve evidence of crimes. Evacuation orders have not ensured safety as they should. Over 90% of the population is displaced, and more than 80% of civilians' infrastructures are destroyed, and this shows that this is not military necessity but mass civilian devastation.

In Gaza, **denial of aid** and attacks on those seeking it point to a campaign of forcibly transfer, which appears to be part of a **larger campaign of illegal annexation and impunity** that shows the failure of the international community. In her capacity, the SR requests that everyone - state actors and individuals alike - prioritise respect for international human rights and humanitarian law without discrimination and double standards. The spiral of destruction must end. The SR calls for the immediate provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance and movement from words to action to protect, assist, and secure durable solutions and peace for the people of Palestine.

On **improving data collection**, what is needed is disaggregated data, including criminal activity, among other causes, while ensuring the protection and confidentiality of IDPs as they are exposed to high risks.

Looking ahead, the SR's next report to the UNGA will be focussing on the **reintegration of IDPs in urban settings**. The SR intends to update the progress on durable solutions achieved during the mandate of the UNSG Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, and further wishes to complement and advance the work already done on solutions and protection. To conclude, the SR takes note of the specific concerns and comments raised on the human rights impacts of IDPs and she will continue to monitor relevant mechanisms.



VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AS CONCERNED COUNTRY

The delegation of the **Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)** expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the SR for her visit and the report that she has presented, which offers a lot to consider when dealing with challenges that the RMI face with internal displacement. The RMI also extends its continued support for the SR's mandate, whose importance cannot be overstated.

As the report adequately reflects, the **nuclear legacy and the climate crisis** that the RMI face are the drivers of internal displacement in the Marshall Islands, with rising sea levels threatening to intensify an already difficult situation. The islands have been inhabited for thousands of years. As a nation of traditional seafarers and voyagers, the RMI was handed down through generations the art of reading the ocean swells with a stick chart. However, man-made rising poisonous tides have left some of their communities adrift, wondering when they will be able to return to their home islands.

During the **nuclear weapons testing** period in the Marshall Islands between 1946 and 1958, the human rights of the Marshallese people were violated, and **transgenerational impacts** persist to this day, as evident from the SR's report where internal displacement is concerned. As a result of **67 known nuclear weapon tests**, the health of the Marshallese people and their environment have been devastated. To this day, there are atolls and islands that remain **uninhabitable due to radioactive contamination**. In 1946, people from Bikini were forcibly removed from their ancestral atolls, being promised that this displacement would be temporary. For almost 80 years now, they have been unable to go home.

After the islands endured 12 years of tests of the most devastating weapons men created, the Marshallese nation is now facing the **destructive effects of the climate crisis**, once again created by mankind. With climate change-induced sea level rise, the threat of internally displaced has amplified. While recognising the need for to adapt, more importantly, the international community must recognise the effects that global greenhouse gas emissions are having on human rights, and accordingly, unreservedly commit to mitigation efforts and greater ambition to address the climate crisis.

The RMI acknowledges and welcomes the recommendations contained in the SR's report. As the report highlights, **national responses to displacement**, both in the context of the nuclear legacy and in the context of disasters and climate change, must be strengthened and the RMI will seek support for the further implementation of these recommendations.

The RMI wishes to further recall the **Pacific regional frameworks** that remain central to the Marshallese position, namely the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility and the 2023 Forum Leaders Declaration on the Continuity of Statehood and the Protection of Persons in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea Level Rise. These milestone regional frameworks underscore the importance to the Pacific region of protecting civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, including cultural heritage and identity, while addressing essential needs through international cooperation. The RMI stands in solidarity with its fellow Pacific Island Forum member states to advance these frameworks and will continue to do so in its national capacity, including as a member of the UNHRC.



INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Afghanistan remains one of the most affected countries globally when it comes to internal displacement, with over 3 million people internally displaced by the end of 2023, according to the UNHCR. The crisis stems from a complex interplay between long-standing conflict, instability, long-standing humanitarian crisis and recurring climate disasters, all of which have displaced millions across Afghanistan. Since late 2023, over a million refugees from Afghanistan have been forcibly returned from Pakistan, most of whom arrived without access to basic needs, social protection systems or economic opportunities, making effective reintegration nearly impossible. The structure of violence against women under the Taliban has left female IDPs with severely restricted access to education, healthcare and employment, exposing them to heightened risks of violence, exploitation and abuse. The international community must act now as a collective and strengthen their commitment to humanitarian aid and taking concrete steps to safeguard the rights of internally displaced people in Afghanistan.

Algeria shares the SR's analysis of the phenomenon that requires structural, preventive and legal response. Algeria shares a long border with the largest producer of cannabis, and is therefore particularly exposed to criminal flows. For this reason, Algeria needs a robust approach supported by high-performance, uniformed services. Algeria wants to fight criminal networks, but this cannot be done without tackling the root causes. Algeria has adopted a developmental approach, starting with education, integration of the informal economy, shoring up the rule of law, social justice and equality and other aspects. Palestine is nowadays one of the worlds most urgent crises, with 1.7 million people displaced. 80% of the population have been forced to leave their homes since October 2023. This human drama calls for an urgent structured response from the international community. Algeria warmly encourages the SR to include in the report a specific analysis on the Palestinian case, focussing on the nexus between foreign occupation, the absence of international protection and political inaction and the consequences.

Armenia remains deeply concerned about the growing crisis of internal displacement worldwide, driven by conflict, persecution, and generalised violence. These forced movements leave communities vulnerable to human rights violations, disrupt lives, and challenge national and international institutions alike. Armenia's own experience has been marked by the forced displacement of thousands of ethnic Armenians due to existential threats and targeted violence. Beyond its borders, Armenia stands in solidarity with all displaced populations enduring human rights abuses in conflict zones. Armenia calls upon the international community to strengthen protection mechanisms, uphold the principles of humanitarian assistance, and ensure accountability for actions that lead to forced displacement. Armenia is committed to working within the UNHRC advance durable solutions, promote dialogue, and advocate for the fundamental rights of displaced persons globally. It is imperative to act decisively to address the root causes of forced displacement and safeguard the dignity of affected populations.

Austria on behalf of the core group on the resolution of IDPs also including Honduras, and Uganda, thanks the SR for her timely and important report on internal displacement caused by generalised violence and organised crime. Her analysis underlines the increasingly complex



nature of displacement and the urgent need to strengthen protection, particularly in the context where state capacity is challenged and where victims face heightened risks of human rights violations. The core group is alarmed by the rising global number of IDPs, which now exceeds 65.8 million. This year, the UNHRC will consider renewing the SR's mandate. In these difficult and volatile times, the core group reaffirms its unwavering support for this vital mandate, and urges all states to support its renewal during the current session.

Azerbaijan thanks the SR for her report on internal displacement in the context of organised criminal activity. Azerbaijan has faced one of the most protracted internal displacement situations globally, stemming from the occupation of nearly one fifth of Azerbaijan's sovereign territory in the early 1990s. As a result, nearly one million Azerbaijanis were forcibly displaced from their homes. While the primary cause of displacement in this case was military aggression and occupation, the destabilising effects of the occupation have created environments where criminal activity, including illegal arms trafficking, smuggling, and illicit resources extraction have thrived. Following the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, the government has launched extensive efforts towards safe, voluntary, and dignified return of IDPs. Azerbaijan is simultaneously re-establishing full governance, working to strengthen the rule of law, and ensure the security and human rights of returnees in the liberated territories. Combating residual security threats, including the risk posed by unexploded ordnance and landmines, is an essential part of this process. Azerbaijan supports human rights-based responses to displacement, especially where criminal elements are involved, and remains committed to strengthening protection, ensuring justice, and rebuilding secure communities for IDPs and returnees.

Bangladesh concurs with the SR that IDPs face the risk of being subjected to forced labour and recruitment, sexual exploitation, and child labour in the context of organised criminal activity. Climate disasters worsen the situation of IDPs and make them more vulnerable to organised criminal groups, triggering further displacement risk. More than 200,000 Rohingyas have been displaced as a direct consequence of the ongoing conflict between the Myanmar military and Arakan army in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. Moreover, apart from the 1.2 million Rohingyas temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh, an additional 118,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh from the Rakhine state since November 2023. With a view to solving the crisis of the displacement of the Rohingyas, both internal and cross-border, Myanmar must make genuine efforts to address the situation in the Rakhine state by creating conditions conducive to voluntary, safe, and dignified repatriation in a sustainable manner. Besides, Myanmar needs to dismantle the IDP camps in Rakhine state with a clear timeline, ensuring that the return or relocation of the IDPs is carried out in accordance with international standards and best practises, including those set forth in the Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement.

Brazil takes notes of the SR's report and recommendations, and appreciates the references to the 2014 Brazil Plan of Action under the Cartagena Process of Latin American and Caribbean States, recognised in the report as one of the first multilateral frameworks to address internal displacement. The 2014 Brazil Plan of Action recognises the potential impact of the topic of the present report on highly vulnerable groups such as women, accomplished and unaccomplished children and those separated from their families and LGBTI persons which are subject to threats, harassment, extortion, forced recruitment, sexual abuse and gender-based violence. Brazil reaffirms its commitment to advancing regional and international cooperation on this topic.



Burkina Faso commends the SR on the quality of her report and recalls that the terrorist attacks that Burkina Faso has experienced since 2015 have led, by 31 March 2023, to 2,062,534 IDPs. In light of the situation, Burkina Faso, with support from its partners, has set up a mechanism to coordinate and respond to the needs of the affected communities by adopting a national recovery strategy for IDPs and host communities for 2023-2027. In the same vein, a standard to support vulnerable IDPs in host communities has been drawn up. The aim is to make a contribution to enhancing the management of the humanitarian crisis by providing quality services to IDPs. These combined efforts have enabled the return of 1,010,136 IDPs dated 31 December 2024. Burkina Faso endorses the recommendation to set up mechanisms and humanitarian intervention protocols and to guarantee continuity and access to basic services in times of crisis. To conclude, Burkina Faso calls on the international community for greater support and care for the vulnerability of IDPs.

Chile worryingly notes that women and girls in all of their diversity face vulnerabilities which are even more pressing, facing greater risks of being victims of sexual exploitation, trafficking, being used as weapons of war through sexual violence on the part of criminal groups. Similarly, there is difficulty in having access to sexually productive health care, increasing the risk of mortality and morbidity. To tackle the imperatives of protection, accountability, and lasting solutions, Chile restates the importance of the triple nexus approach, namely humanitarian coordination, development, and peace. This link is vital, notably when it comes to the current UN reform and the humanitarian reset.

China notes the SR's concern about the impact of organised crimes and the freezing of funds for IDPs by the US administration. At present, incessant regional conflicts coupled with climate crisis have created a historically high number of IDPs. The relevant figures are rising for several consecutive years. The large-scale freezing of aid funds by the US administration has disrupted the work of numerous humanitarian organisations. As a result, millions of displaced persons, particularly women and children, are subjected to denial of access to assistance, violation of their human rights, and hunger and displacement, which is distressing. The international community should take this matter seriously and work collectively within the framework of multilateralism. Developed countries must assume their historic responsibilities, honour their commitments by providing greater financial, technical, and capacity-building support. As a responsible major country, China has long provided financial, material, and humanitarian support to displaced families and vulnerable groups around the world, especially women and children, offering them vital assistance. China is ready to continue working with the international community to promote and safeguard all human rights.

Colombia appreciates the SR's commitment to shedding light on the challenges of IDPs in context of organised crime and is grateful for the positive reference to its public policies, as Colombia is amongst the main countries having IDPs. Colombia is committed to strategies and lasting solutions which aim to transform territories and contexts in IDPs and ensuring the return of these IDPs to benefit the host communities. It recognises that IDPs is a phenomenon which requires specific issues such as land planning, inclusive infrastructure, the provision of public services and support to local governments. Colombia highlights a 2024 ruling issued by its Constitutional Court as an historic decision which strengthens the protection of IDPs because of disasters consolidating a comprehensive preventive approach based on human rights. Colombia



restates its backing to the SR's mandate and highlights the work undertaken with the various stakeholders in the system which has allowed us to place the IDP at the core of the multilateral agenda, at a time of budgetary cuts which particularly affects the humanitarian sector and the proliferation of speeches and discourse which run counter to human rights. Colombia calls on the international community to provide lasting solutions which place people at their heart. Lastly, it hopes for an active participation in the high-level panel on lasting solutions to IDPs which will take place in Colombia from 2 to 12 September 2025.

Cuba notes that the high figures of IDPs internationally are worrying, which continue to increase expeditiously because of the armed conflicts, various forms of violence and discrimination, systematic violations of human rights, terrorism, climate change, and natural disasters, amongst other factors. In Cuba, the recorded IDP figures are due to natural disasters such as hurricanes and tropical storms. Cuba has a state plan to grapple with climate change and measures to tackle cyclones. Cuba has early warning systems, risk reduction of disasters, and various infrastructures that take part in the various phases. In the face of hurricanes or tropical storms, the defence infrastructure coordinates and implements with the consent of persons involved. They transfer them to safe places as an exceptional measure to guarantee the protection of the right to life. The status of IDPs is temporary. This is confirmed by the feasibility of their return to their homes. When the seriousness of natural disasters relates to the destruction of their homes, in this case, Cuba subsidises those who have been affected in their return process. Cuba urges the UN to continue to strengthen initiatives and cooperation with local governments.

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** shares the opinion of the SR, according to which groups involved in criminal activities have reached a consensus and to maintain and impose their control over civilians and illegal economies. This viewpoint reflects the situation of the DRC, where displaced persons within the country face death threats, violent attacks, sexual violence, abduction, as well as other threats to their lives, dignity, and their safety and security. Furthermore, the DRC, with over 7.3 million IDPs, primarily in the east part of the country, is experiencing a complex situation of IDPs with a varied set of factors and impacts. To conclude, to resolve the issue of IDPs in the DRC it is required to do away with causes which have created one of the most protracted crises that mankind has faced.

Egypt concurs with the SR on the increasing waves of displacement because of organised crime. This is the responsibility of countries and it is important to distinguish between the context of international humanitarian law and organised criminal crimes. What is happening in Gaza is one of the most Syrian humanitarian crises linked to international displacement in modern history. The ongoing Israeli aggression caused unprecedented forced internal displacement. Egypt reiterates its full and firm rejection at all times of the attempts to impose a new demographic situation by imposing internal displacement under any pretext and asks the international community to shoulder its legal and ethical responsibility to end this aggression and to stop targeting civilians. In closing, Egypt reiterates the importance of durable solutions for refugees and the importance of international cooperation.

Ethiopia commends the SR's report and its emphasis on rights-based preventive and durable solutions. Ethiopia continues to place the protection and dignity of IDPs at the centre of its national policy. Despite challenges, including climate-related displacement, Ethiopia has made



positive strides in responding to internal displacement through institutional reforms, the adoption of national IDP policy framework and the strengthening of early warning and rapid response systems. Supporting the call for holistic response to displacement once that addresses root causes such as poverty, marginalisation and unemployment, Ethiopia believes in community-based solutions and has prioritised investment in local development, peacebuilding and social cohesion. Ethiopia continues to engage in regional cooperation through African Union and IGAD to address cross-border displacement dynamics and promote peace. In conclusion, Ethiopia reiterates its commitment to the protection of all IDPs and supports the SR's recommendations, particularly those that promote prevention, durable solutions and meaningful participation of displaced persons in shaping their futures.

Georgia once again brings to the Council's attention the plight of the hundreds of thousands of IDPs and refugees who were forcibly expelled from the Russian-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia as a result of several waves of ethnic cleansing. The latest relevant report published in May stresses that no major changes were observed during the reporting period with regard to IDPs and refugees exercising their right to return. In this regard, Georgia recall the 2021 judgement of the ECtHR on the case of Georgia versus Russia, which concluded that Russian Federation as an authority exercising effective control over the regions bears responsibility for the violation of the right of IDPs and bears obligation to enable the safe and dignified return of the IDPs and refugees to their respective homes in both occupied regions of Georgia. Until IDPs and refugees return, the government of Georgia will remain committed to improving their socioeconomic integration and providing decent living conditions. Over 2,000 IDP families were provided with housing last year, while construction of 7,000 additional housing units is underway, and the state has allocated nearly \$370 million to expand these programmes.

Germany welcomes the report's focus on displacement in the context of organised criminal activity on a growing and deeply concerning phenomenon. In her report, the SR notes the sharp increase in the number of displaced by organised crime, with numbers doubling from 2023 to 2024. These IDPs face heightened vulnerabilities and suffer disproportionately from violence, sexual assault and a lack of access to basic necessities such as shelter, food and healthcare. Women and children as well as marginalised communities are particularly at risk. But just as everyone, these IDPs are entitled to full protection under human rights law. As the second largest bilateral donor for UNHCR and IOM, Germany is proud to support life-saving assistance and protection for IDPs worldwide, including those displaced by organised crime. Organised crime retreats where the rule of law and respect for human rights is strengthened. Germany fully supports the SR's call for a whole-of-society approach that combines protection, prevention and accountability to find durable solutions.

Ghana on behalf of the African group welcomes the report's focus on the African experience, including the cross-regional forum in Dakar. Africa continues to bear a disproportionate burden of internal displacement, with millions uprooted by the intersecting forces of organised crime, armed conflict, climate change, and development pressures. Ghana is gratefully concerned by the unprecedented funding cuts to agencies providing life-saving protection and assistance to IDPs, as detailed in the report. This has forced organisations to cut programmes, threatening the very survival of millions of IDPs in Africa at a time when needs are rising and humanitarian assistance is increasingly challenged by criminal actors. The African Union's Kampala



Convention provides a robust nominative framework for IDPs protection. However, implementation remains uneven, leaving many without effective protection access to justice or durable solutions. In the light of these challenges, the African group calls for an urgent restoration and scaling up of international humanitarian funding; strengthened international cooperation and solidarity, including technical support, capacity-building, and sharing of best practises to address the root causes and humanitarian consequences of displacement linked to organised crimes; and enhanced data collection and analysis on crime-induced displacement to inform evidence-based responses and policy developments.

Honduras highlights the progress made in my country, including the law for the prevention, support, and protection of IDPs. This recognises the rights and establishes national institutions, or institutional mechanisms, rather, to guarantee the protection of IDPs because of violence, and also the meaningful reduction by 21% of homicides at the national level. Bearing in mind the importance of strengthening legal frameworks and also addressing the structural causes of this phenomenon, Honduras asks how to link the legal framework of international law, regulating trade and smuggling, including illicit smuggling of arms, by addressing the impact of transnational organised crime in the context of widespread violence, and how to integrate this with a link to regional and global policies focused on prevention and protection of IDPs and human rights. As a member of the core group leading the IDP mandate, Honduras restates its commitment to the SR's work and calls on all states to continue upholding the renewal of the mandate and constructively cooperate to strengthen protection of IDPs.

Indonesia particularly supports the report's recommendation that states' responses should focus on addressing the underlying drivers of such displacement. Indonesia views that two key efforts are essential, promoting equitable national development to enhance quality of life and strengthening effective and accountable law enforcement institutions. These two priorities are, in fact, integral components of Indonesia's national development plans. Indonesia further notes the SR's observation that militarised approaches are ineffective in addressing organised criminal activity and that any use of force must remain proportionate. While sharing this perspective, Indonesia also acknowledge the complex realities faced by security personnel on the ground. Many organised criminal groups today possess military-grade capabilities and technologies, yet operate without the discipline of a formal military structure. As a result, they can carry out indiscriminate attacks and even exert control over certain territories. In this regard, Indonesia welcomes further inputs from the SR, particularly on whether a dedicated instrument is needed to comprehensively address displacement in this context.

Iraq stresses that internal displacement is a global humanitarian challenge and paves the way for the emergence of organised crime, human trafficking, especially in cases of vulnerability and instability in this case. In this context, Iraq appreciate the SR's efforts and reiterates its commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of displaced persons. Their number was reduced from 6 million IDPs to less than 1 million through comprehensive national policies that promoted stability, reconstruction, rule of law in areas of displacement. Most of the IDPs in Iraq live in urban settings, not in displacement camps, in order to secure a dignified life. Iraq reiterates its commitment to share its successful experience with other countries. Furthermore, Iraq draws the Council's attention to the forced displacement and systemic destruction by the occupying power on the Palestinian people, qualifying it as a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.



Kuwait expresses its deep concern regarding the increasing trends of organised crime and reiterates its steadfast commitment enshrined in its national constitution and laws to effective international cooperation and implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Transnational Organised Crime. Kuwait has signed many bilateral and multilateral agreements aiming at promoting international judicial cooperation in criminal cases, namely mutual judicial assistance, extradition of criminals and transfer of sentenced persons to serve their sentences in their countries. Kuwait cannot ignore the link between international organised crime and financing terrorism which requires international cooperation. Kuwait established three operational entities, namely the Kuwait Financial Investigations Unit, the National Committee to Combat Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing and the National Committee to Implement Security Council Resolutions on Combating Terrorism Financing. Finally, Kuwait reiterates its call to the international community, particularly to the UNSC, to shoulder its legal and humanitarian responsibilities to end the occupying powers' ongoing systemic aggression against Gaza to allow unrestricted and unconditional humanitarian access, especially that foreign occupation is one of the main drivers of internal displacement.

Luxembourg notes with alarm that criminal activities by organised crimes have led to 1.2 million IDPs just in 2024, amidst a global context with historic levels of refugees and IDPs. It can be feared that the prospects for 2025 are equally dark. Luxembourg invites all states to find a broader, more competitive approach protecting the most vulnerable women, girls, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and Indigenous peoples. In a context marked by the reduction of financing and overhauling priorities, the protection of minorities remains a major priority for Luxembourg. The country continues to support them with firm, constant commitment, notably through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Beyond shoring up the legal framework and existing protections, Luxembourg encourages states to invest in development, justice and promoting trans-border cooperation in order to effectively respond to the trans-boundary aspect of IDPs.

Malawi commends the SR's focus on the chain of displacement driven by organised crime, a critical yet often overlooked dimension of forced displacement. While not having experienced large-scale displacement due to criminal violence, Malawi is deeply concerned by its destabilising effects in other regions, particularly the targeting of women and children in marginalised communities. The report highlights the need for victim-centred approaches that prioritises protection, justice, and durable solutions. As a country committed to human rights and the rule of law, Malawi emphasises the importance of regional and international cooperation in combating transnational criminal networks. Strengthening legal networks, enhancing law enforcement capacities, and ensuring access to justice for displaced persons must remain key priorities. Malawi stands ready to support global efforts to protect IDPs and address the complex drivers of displacement.

Mali is a country where the outbreak of the armed conflict in 2012 has led to the displacement of several persons both within and outside the country's borders. Most individuals live in precarious conditions and are subject to a number of exploitations by criminal groups who call themselves jihadists. Regrettably, conflict and crime are mutually reinforcing. They contribute to worsening instability and the scaling up of criminal activities, which make cohesion and peace amongst communities difficult and the return of displaced persons to their towns. It has also been pointed out that the key source of income of these groups involved in criminal activities in complicity with



several stakeholders in the north of the country is illegal extraction, including minerals, without any safeguard measures to prevent environmental degradation. Mali believes that promotional use of early warning systems for displacement linked to organised criminal activities can help civilians affected.

Niger commends the SR on drafting her report on IDPs and believes that protection, safety, security and the rights of IDPs must guide the search for solutions in all its aspects. Niger, over the past 10 years, which has experienced forced movements of populations within the country because of the consequences of climate change and the conflict in the Sahel, believes that the prevention, preparation and taking into account of causes can contribute to lasting solutions to the phenomenon. That is why Niger, in 2018, had a law on the protection and assistance to IDPs by implementing the Kampala Convention adopted by the European Union. It is therefore the first African country to domesticate that convention. Thus, the government of Niger pursues the implementation of its voluntary return policy of IDPs to their places of origin by strengthening safety in these areas concerned so as to ensure that they fully enjoy all of their rights recognised by the citizens of Niger through the constitution, national laws and rights guaranteed by international human rights instruments.

Norway on behalf of the Nordic-Baltic countries thank the SR for her report and for outlining concrete recommendations on the unique threats posed by organized crime to a broad range of human rights for IDPs. As with other drivers of displacement, generalised violence exacerbates existing inequalities for those already facing discrimination. Internally displaced persons face severe human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence. Women and the most vulnerable children, persons with disabilities and minority groups bear the heaviest burden. Women and girls face distinct vulnerabilities during internal displacement caused by organised violence. We must therefore, to the best of our ability, ring-fence women's rights and gender equality. In closing, the Nordic Baltic countries express strong support for the SR's mandate and stand ready to assist in its implementation.

Panama thanks the SR for her report on IDPs within the context of organised criminal activities. Crime, in particular organised crime, is a complex phenomenon threatening peace and security, the rule of law, sustainable development, and human rights. It is an increasingly frequent cause of forced displacement across the world, including in Central America. Panama is concerned that these criminal networks take advantage of countries' vulnerabilities. These are countries at conflict or who are unstable, as well as disasters and adverse effects of climate change, which disproportionately affect women, children, young persons, indigenous peoples, and Afro-descendants. Panama agrees with the SR on the need to adopt a comprehensive approach based on human rights, prevention, protection, and lasting solutions and accountability. There must be community protection and cross-border cooperation to tackle displacement within the context of organised crime and associated violence. In addition, we must look at intersectionality with other international instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty.

Poland on behalf of the Lublin Triangle countries (also comprising Lithuania and Ukraine) thanks the SR for her comprehensive report highlighting an often under-addressed context of organised crime that is persisting in the complex impact of organised violence. The Lublin Triangle shares the SR's concern that existing conflict-focused frameworks may fall short in capturing the



full scope of such a dynamic. In some situations, organised violence emerges when state institutions are weak. In others, it is actively orchestrated by state actors themselves. We see this clearly in Warsaw's war of aggression against Ukraine. The Lublin Triangle remains gravely concerned by the ongoing internal displacement of millions of Ukrainians. Many remain unable to return to their homes, which have been destroyed or rendered inhabitable by recessive action.

Rwanda, while not being affected by cases of internal displacement driven by organised crime, hosts over 100,000 refugees, men of whom were once internally displaced in their countries due to violence. This reflects the regional consequences of internal instability and criminality. Rwanda concurs with the report's central finding that organised criminal activity flourishes where the rule of law is weak or absent, often with the state's passive or active complicity. Rwanda therefore asks what tailored support can the SR provide to states seeking to address these governance and institutional gaps which are critical to breaking the cycle of displacement. Rwanda reaffirms its commitment to the Kampala Convention under which it upholds a rights-based approach to prevention and response. While not having IDP camps in disaster-prone areas, Rwanda sets in place temporary dignified evacuation sites. In closing, Rwanda emphasizes that the SR's mandate must remain impartial and depoliticised, focused solely on the protection and dignity of displaced persons.

Samoa offers its support for the renewal of the mandate and acknowledges the SR's report of her visit to the Marshall Islands. Samoa remains committed to a safe and nuclear-free Pacific, further solidified by a ratification of the Treaty of Rarotonga that was born out of the Pacific lived experience with nuclear weapons testing. Samoa commends the Marshall Islands and their continued efforts towards a fair and just resolution to their nuclear legacy. As the report refers, in addition to health issues, loss of identity, food insecurity, environment degradation and displacement caused by nuclear testings, the Marshall Islands are also facing the slow and sudden onset adverse effects of climate change and disasters, including sea level rise. This small island developing state in the Pacific contributes to no more than 0.00001% of global emissions. This is an injustice. Samoa supports the recommendations in the report and calls on the international community and the UN to come together to address the impacts of past actions by making sure that the future of the peoples of the Marshall Islands, the Pacific and other communities throughout the world are prosperous and dignified. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to act.

South Sudan continues to face a complex humanitarian crisis with an estimate of over 2.2 million of its citizens internally displaced and nearly 2.3 million refugees in neighbouring countries due to various factors including successive conflict, inter-communal violence caused by proliferation of arms and weapons, and climate change. This situation is further compounded by the return of a significant number of South Sudanese from Sudan. South Sudan underscores and shares the SR's great concern over the elimination of funding that provides a lifeline for millions of IDPs around the world, including in South Sudan, and pleads with the international community, donors in particular, to continue providing the needed funds to enable the key agencies to meet IDPs' humanitarian needs. International advocacy for IDPs is needed now more than ever.

The **State of Palestine** recalls that the rights of IDPs are enriched in international law, but this is violated in Palestine alongside all other human rights. Since 1948, Palestinians have endured



systematic and ongoing forcible displacement. The speaker comes from a family that was forcibly uprooted and internally displaced in 1948 and again in 1967. Today, this cycle continues. Over 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza, more than 85% of the population, have been displaced, many multiple times under inhumane conditions. Forcibly displaced from north to south while suffering from lack of food, water, medicine and shelter. This is collective punishment and constitutes war crimes. In the West Bank, settler violence, home demolitions and the expansion of illegal settlements have intensified. Entire communities such as Khan al-Ahmar are under threat of demolition and forcible transfer. More than 50,000 Palestinians have been forcibly displaced from the north of the West Bank and refugee camps like Nur Shams are destroyed. All of that is part of a systematic state policy amounting to ethnic cleansing. Displacement in Palestine is not a natural disaster. It is a man-made injustice rooted in illegal occupation and apartheid. Palestine urges the SR to address the plight of IDPs under foreign occupation, ensure that Palestinians receive international protection and criminals held accountable. Finally, Palestine calls on the international community to protect UNRWA.

Sudan thanks the SR for her report and welcomes the recommendations contained therein. The war in Sudan, initiated by the Rapid Action Force against civilians, this full-scale war has been at the source of multiple waves of forced displacement. Sudan had to redouble its efforts again and again through the police, through the legal system and courts, again and again to fight blossoming organised crime in order to ensure the dignity and safety of IDPs. While having received some contributions, the level of assistance is far below Sudan's needs. Sudan notes recommendations for fighting crime and violence and those which call for broader international cooperation of fighting radical networks.

Switzerland highly appreciates the work done since the beginning of the mandate. This focus on a human rights-based approach in various discussions on the prevention, responses and sustainable solutions in the context of IDPs is very important and highly appreciated. Praising the SR's commitment and voice in favour of those who most need it, Switzerland stresses that her work is essential to move forward protection and human rights without discrimination, above all in today's world with a growing number of conflicts, systemic reforms within the UN and an unprecedented financial crisis. The SR's participation in various fora within the framework of a new architecture for coordinating IDPs is important and also highly appreciated. Switzerland would like to know from SR how to guarantee that the voices of IDPs are heard in the processes for preventing internal displacement, responding and finding sustainable solutions, notably in regions affected by criminal groups, and which best practises could be followed for working better with local authorities in these contexts.

Togo notes the alarming figures for 2024 alone indicating that organised crime displaced over 1.2 million people across the world, including women and children. Togo goes along with this finding, particularly with respect to the insecurity linked to terrorist attacks in the north of the country. To grapple with this, the Togolese government has taken measures to respond to and secure affected areas. So as to decrease the population displacement, the government is working through various strategies to curb violent extremism, combined with the setting up of a resilience programme in the savannahs, which aims to strengthen basic social services, healthcare, education, land administration and security. Furthermore, the social integration of persons



already displaced is also taken into account through national solidarity measures, and this combined with the sense of hospitality of families and host communities.

Uganda thanks the SR and supports the renewal of her mandate as one of the core group sponsors. IDPs account for 70% of the over 120 million forcibly displaced persons in the world today, and it's estimated to hit 130 million by 2027. Why so? Increasing conflict, war crime and climate change. Uganda appreciates the SR's focus on organised crime as one of the causes of internal displacement and the urgent need to address it. As a state party to the Kampala Convention, the government of Uganda remains committed to fulfilling its responsibilities and obligations there under and seek the cooperation of international organisations and humanitarian agencies to support national systems, especially in early warning mechanisms to intervene and manage internal displacement.

Venezuela takes a positive view of the recommendations made by the SR, which can be very useful for countries with internally displaced persons for various reasons. Venezuela believes that support to internally displaced persons must be seen as a responsibility of all governmental actors, from the highest levels of political leadership down to the regional local authorities. Lastly, Venezuela appreciates the SR's mandate, particularly within the current context marked by challenges affecting promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights of millions of people. Venezuela calls for strengthened cooperation and joint actions multilaterally, with the aim of advancing towards lasting, comprehensive and sustainable solutions for IDPs.

Zimbabwe takes note of the SR's call for a comprehensive rights-based approach to prevention, protection, accountability and durable solutions. Zimbabwe recognises the need to invest in the development of community-based protection, access to justice and cross-border cooperation to address the transnational nature of criminal violence and displacement. The Bureau of Rights of the Constitution provides a strong foundation for protecting displaced populations and upholding their dignity. Zimbabwe is taking deliberate steps to enhance national preparedness, response and resilience to displacement caused by both natural disasters and socioeconomic shocks. The country continues to implement policy frameworks which integrate displacement-sensitive approaches in disaster response planning and early recovery. To address displacement caused by climate-induced events, the government is strengthening coordination with other stakeholders to ensure that IDPs receive timely and appropriate assistance. Zimbabwe reaffirms its commitment to working closely with the SR to ensure the rights of IDPs are protected and fulfilled.

Views Expressed by Intergovernmental Organizations and UN Entities

The **European Union** thanks the SR for her insightful report which addresses the increasingly urgent issue of IDPs within the context of organised crime. The EU is concerned by the growing number of internally displaced persons who are forced to flee due to armed conflict or natural disasters, but also due to pervasive violence by criminal groups and the erosion of rule of law. The EU urges states to fully implement the guiding principles on internal displacement and to ensure that responses to displacement caused by organised crime uphold human rights and prioritise protection, access to justice and accountability, and the provision of durable solutions.



The **Sovereign Order of Malta** thanks the SR for her report and acknowledges that armed conflict and crime are two increasingly prevalent global drivers of violence and violations of the rights of IDPs. The denial of access to basic needs such as health care, education and shelter represents a profound failure of the international community. In the face of these challenges, the Order of Malta and its global relief agency, Malteser International, are first-hand witnesses to the devastating impact of displacement. The Order of Malta is committed to alleviating the suffering of the affected, in particular IDPs, through its presence in displacement camps, providing health care, psychological support and community rebuilding mechanisms. The Sovereign Order of Malta echoes the SR's recommendations and emphasises the need of a community-based and holistic approach. Faith-based actors, often deeply rooted in the social fabric within remote communities, may serve as key agents through mediation, trust-building and supporting the reintegration of displaced persons. The Order of Malta encourages greater recognition and inclusion of these actors in local, national and international displacement strategies.

UNICEF welcomes the SR's report and appreciates its attention to children. By the end of 2024, 34.4 million children were living in internal displacement, 9 out of 10 displaced by conflict and violence. This number has more than doubled in the last decade. Internal displacement carries numerous risks and consequences for children with long-lasting impacts on the realisation of their rights, their opportunities, and life ahead. Family separation, trafficking, forced recruitment, exploitation, child labour, violence, mental health impacts, lack of access to essential services, and disruptions to education. These risks are multiplied in protracted displacement. UNICEF applauds the concrete steps states have taken to place internally displaced children and their families on pathways to solutions and calls on all states for their support. Solutions pathways include strengthening systems to be resilient, inclusive, and shock-responsive, creating a protective environment that ensures children's physical, psychosocial, legal, and material safety, and allows them to grow and build successful futures. UNICEF welcomes system-wide efforts to realise the UNSG Agenda for Action, underlining the importance of government-led solutions with UN support. In alignment with the Solutions Hub, UNICEF and partners leverage the checklist on child-sensitive durable solutions to support governments. Local and national solution strategies that take into account internally displaced children's priorities, rights, and needs will be sustainable. UNICEF stands ready to support these efforts.

Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions

The **Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman)** is grateful for the SR's analytical and advisory work and for defending the rights of displaced persons in international political discourse. Due to Russia's armed aggression, there are 4.6 million IDPs registered in Ukraine. More than half of the total number are children, pensioners and people with disabilities. Many of them have been forced to leave their homes for the second or third time. However, IDPs are not only those who need help. They are citizens who want to be involved and rebuild their country. The state is working on their integration into communities. However, despite the government's efforts, ensuring the needs of IDPs remains a major challenge due to limited resources and decreasing international support. Therefore, Ukraine needs long-term international support to launch compensation mechanisms. The Ombudsman further calls on partners to support the creation of a social housing fund, which will provide sustainable solutions for IDPs, including by allocating frozen Russian assets for these purposes.



The **Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission** has the mandate to monitor the human rights situation in Zimbabwe in terms of section 243 of the constitution. As such, it has noted with encouragement the ratification by the Zimbabwe government in 2017 of the African Union Convention on Internally Displaced Persons called the Kampala Convention. The Commission also notes that Zimbabwe, while not having specific legislation on IDPs, has constitutional provisions such as section 71 that guarantees everyone freedom from being evicted from their residence without a court order, as well as section 24 of the Constitution that that is the national objective to ensure that there is shelter. The Commission notes that IDPs in Zimbabwe have emanated from firstly climate disasters such as Cyclone Idai in 2019, as well as the expansion of urban areas and economic activities such as mining and farm expansions, as well as construction of dams. The Commission therefore recommends that the government of Zimbabwe domesticates the Kampala Convention and enacts legislation that specifically provides a human rights-based approach and better humanitarian efforts and mitigation for IDPs.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

Peace Brigades International (PBI) explains that in Mexico, the high levels of violence in states such as Michoacan, Chihuahua and Chiapas have led to the forced displacement of thousands of people. Land disputes and impact of the climate are the key causes of displacement. The Observatory for IDPs believes that there are about 400,000 people who have displaced in Mexico up until 2024. Following the visit in 2022, the SR urged the law to adopt a law on IDPs, and although there were several legislative proposals made over the past government, none was approved. Regretting that Mexico has rejected other recommendations related to this issue at the last UPR, PBI urges the Mexican state to urgently adopt a law to prevent, address and provide reparation for IDPs. In Honduras, the escalation of violence in the Bajo Aguán region has caused the displacement of at least 150 campesino families. There have been accusations and charges against 15 people involved allegedly in criminal groups, which according to the agrarian platform are linked to the agro-exporting company. It is vital that Honduras sets up a tripartite commission to investigate into human rights violations as part of the agricultural dispute, and calls for the assassination of Juan Lopez not to go unpunished.

Elizka Relief Foundation while international humanitarian funding has played a key role to meet the vital needs of displaced persons across the continent, the decisions taken by the US administration on 20 January 2025 to suspend the international aid programme and reduce the funding of humanitarian organisations directly threatens the lives of people displaced within the countries in Africa. Freezing humanitarian and food aid programmes by America in 14 countries have exacerbated the food crisis, in particular in Sudan, where 300 charitable restaurants providing food aid have closed down following the wake of a famine. These decisions have had an impact on the health services for Africans, in particular displaced persons, leading to a reduction in access to medicines against AIDS for 20 million patients across the world, the majority of whom are in Africa. Furthermore, dozens of maternal and child health establishments in Sudan have shut down because of budgetary reductions or cancellations. In this context, the Foundation calls on international donors to intervene to prevent the collapse of international humanitarian aid systems for the most vulnerable countries in Africa.



Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association laments that the decision by the US administration in January 2025 to suspend and cancel humanitarian aid have had serious repercussions for IDPs. For example, in Somalia, which relies almost entirely on US foreign aid to support 3,262,000 internally displaced persons, essential services have ceased. The Hussein camp, which includes eight sites housing nearly 8,000 Somali displaced families, lacks all form of care, including financial support and medical consultations for women facing gender-based violence. In Yemen, the halt of dozens of projects funded by the US Agency for International Development has led to increased levels of food insecurity, with 42% of the population now suffering from severe food deprivation. Finally, Maat hopes that this special repertoire will call on the United States to re-evaluate its decision to cancel humanitarian aid. Maat also urges the SR to consider making its next thematic report about the role of the private sector and unconventional donors in supporting IDPs.

The **BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights** states that the direct and indirect forced displacement of the Palestinian people is a main pillar of the Israeli colonial apartheid regime. A central policy to this pillar is coloniser violence. Backed and armed by the Israeli regime, colonisers systematically attack Palestinian communities, destroy farmland, steal livestock, and seize homes, contributing to the coercive environment. Since October 2023, over 1,000 Palestinians have been forcibly displaced due to coloniser violence and demolitions, while 52,000 dunams of Palestinian land have been confiscated for colony expansion. Coloniser violence has reached the highest daily rate since 2006, with an average of more than three attacks per day. These attacks are not isolated or spontaneous. They are coordinated, politically sanctioned, and militarily protected with the intent to forcibly displace. Sanctioning individuals who incite or perpetrate these attacks is not enough. While Gaza faces genocide, the West Bank is being ethnically cleansed. Forcible transfer is a grave breach of international law, regardless of whether it is carried out by direct force or the creation of a coercive environment. States must move beyond symbolic gestures and impose full sanctions, including arms embargoes, on the Israeli regime.

Iuventum commends the report on the visit to the Marshall Islands. It highlights the diverse human rights challenges, including the radiation health threats that the IDPs are facing. Iuventum hopes that all the recommendations will be implemented. Nuclear contamination is an environmental hit and run with impunity. No apology, no remedy, and no accountability. No precautionary principle or politicised principle. Former Special Rapporteur Ms. Cecilia Jiménez-Damari reported how the Fukushima IDPs are treated. Iuventum ask the SR to share her thoughts on the issues of environmental displacement caused by radioactive contamination. Premature repopulation can cause unnecessary secondary exposure due to insufficient decontamination. Alternative housing for the evacuees should not be terminated. Long-term impacts are both physical and mental. Proper medical treatments must be guaranteed. Fukushima Prefecture has more suicide cases than the neighbouring prefectures after the nuclear disaster. With the increasing possibilities of military and civilian nuclear disasters in the world, we should pay more attention to nuclear risks.

Earthjustice thanks the SR for her country visit report on the Marshall Islands, addressing a situation marked by *‘the international community’s neglect and failure to protect the small islands developing states from forces beyond its control’* such as the military ambitions of a



nuclear superpower and the impact of climate change. Earthjustice joins the SR's call to the international community to take accountability for the displacement of the Marshallese during the trusteeship given to the United States by the United Nations just after World War II, and now for climate change threatening the country's existence despite its minimal emissions. Earthjustice reiterates its call to the government of the United States to formulate an apology similar to the one given to its own citizens subjected to radiation experimentation. Earthjustice looks forward to the continuation of the dialogue within the UNHRC following resolutions 51/35 and 57/25 and the report 57-/7 on the technical assistance to the Marshall Islands. Praising the SR's rich list of recommendations, Earthjustice notes in particular the one requesting to create an institutional home for all matters relating to internal displacement grounded on a comprehensive right-based framework.

Defence for Children International (DCI) jointly with the NGO Panel on Children Deprived of Liberty explains that children who are internally displaced are at heightened risk of being deprived of their liberty in contexts marked by organised criminal activity. Displacement often strips families of the protective structures and resources essential for safeguarding children, leaving them exposed to exploitation and coercion. To effectively address these risks, it is essential to establish robust protective environments that actively reduce children's exposure to organised criminal networks and the associated danger of deprivation of liberty. This requires the development and implementation of comprehensive public policies that guarantee continuous care and protection for displaced children, safe and uninterrupted access to education, and timely and culturally appropriate psychological support. Recognising the well-documented and detrimental impact of detention on children, as highlighted by the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, it is imperative to prioritise alternative solutions that fully uphold children's rights. The launch of the new Roadmap for Action 2025-2030 underscores the commitment to advancing these alternatives, which not only mitigate the harm inflicted on children, but also demonstrate cost-effectiveness and long-term efficacy. DCI urges states to ensure effective coordination between social and child protection systems, invest in capacity-building for frontline workers to deliver trauma-informed and rights-based care, and involve effective communities in designing and monitoring protective measures, ensuring that interventions are culturally relevant and sustainable. By advancing these measures, as outlined in the Roadmap for Action on Children Deprived of Liberty, we can safeguard the rights of internally displaced children and uphold the commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Global Study on children Deprived of Liberty.

Vivat International strongly condemns the gruesome massacre of occupants at the IDP camp run by Catholic Mission in Yelwata, Benue State, Nigeria, on June 13 and 14, 2025. This brutal attack, which claimed the lives of at least 200 innocent individuals and left survivors with horrific injuries, represents an egregious violation of human rights. The camp, once a place of refuge, was reduced to a gory scene of charred bodies and unalterable sorrow, a community that has been repeatedly targeted by extremist groups. Vivat's thoughts are one with that of Pope Leo, who is saddened by the fact that these rural Christian communities of Benue State, Nigeria, have been relentless victims of violence. Vivat clearly affirms that such barbarism has no place in our interconnected world. Vivat International and co-signing NGOs hereby call on the SR to mobilise and demand accountability from Nigerian authorities on this perennial bloodletting in IDP camps



in Nigeria; demand that the Nigerian government take urgent and concrete measures to protect vulnerable communities in IDP camps across the country; and ensure that perpetrators of these atrocities are held accountable and that such violence never reoccurs.

Plan International jointly with Chile's Youth Advocates speak for millions of girls whose voices are too often silenced, especially those living through conflicts and displacement, the women and girls of Gaza, of Lebanon, of Ukraine, of Sudan. In many active conflict zones, a lot of people have been forced to flee their homes, resulting in widespread internal displacement in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly Gaza. Over nearly 75% of the population has been internally displaced in recent months. Among them, girls are very affected. They face interrupted education, limited access to hygiene, heightened risk of exploitation, and long-term trauma. In conflict zones, post-conflict societies, and refugee camps, women and girls face horrific violence, forced marriage, rape as weapons of war, trafficking, and systemic oppression. Survivors face stigma, poverty, and denial of justice, while the working system fails them. Plan International calls on states to emphasise education and mental health services for displaced girls, and fund girls' GVV prevention, safe spaces, and survival support; hold perpetrators accountable; and employ girls and young women's voices in peace-building, recovery, and humanitarian programme design. Whether in war or peace, women and girls' safety is non-negotiable. Action is demanded. Resilience alone is not protection.

Human Rights Now appreciates the SR's continuing concern for the Fukushima nuclear victims since 2011. 27,000 people are still officially recognised as IDPs affected by the disaster. Official housing support for IDPs was terminated eight years ago. Fukushima Prefecture has filed 40 court cases to demand evictions, despite the residents struggling with mental illness, terminal cancer, disability, and poverty. The court judgments also ignore international human rights law and the guiding principles on internal displacement. Japan's gender gap has made the situation of female IDPs even worse, leading to poverty for many women and single mothers. The Act on Protection and Support for the Victims of the Nuclear Disaster was established in 2012. It was designed to provide livelihood support for the Fukushima nuclear victims, especially children. However, the Act still has not been implemented yet. Human Rights Now urges local authorities to withdraw all of the lawsuits against and evicting IDPs, and the government to give equal support to mandatory and voluntary evacuees to stop their suffering mentally, physically, and financially.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

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