1. What are the challenges encountered byinternally displaced persons to participate in elections as voters, candidates and other means in your country or in the countries where you work?

In the Republic of Croatia the Voter Register Act (Official Gazette No. 144/12, 105/15 and 98/19) is in force, which prescribes inter alia, that voters are entered in the voter register according to their place of residence. For certain elections and referendums, there have been prescribed the institutes that enable voting outside the place of residence, voting at polling stations abroad and voting for Croatian citizens with voting rights who are not entered in the concluded excerpt from the voter list. These institutes are available to all Croatian citizens under legal conditions and deadlines.

Generally, voters vote at polling stations determined by their place of residence, and in the case of certain elections and referendums, they are allowed to vote outside their place of residence under the conditions and deadlines prescribed by the Voters Register Act (Official Gazette No.144/12, 105/15 and 98/19). In local elections, the members of representative bodies of local and regional self-government units, the executive body and deputies from the ranks of members of national minorities, as well as Croatian people, are elected in accordance with the Local Elections Act (Official Gazette No.144/12, 121/16, 98/19, 42/20, 144/20 and 37/21).

In the context of the 2021 local elections, in the earthquake-affected areas, in order to find alternative locations for polling stations, the State Election Commission in cooperation with the competent election commissions and the Ministry of Interior - Directorate of Civil Protection, organized the installation of 25 tents as polling stations. By setting up alternative locations, the voters from that areas were allowed to vote, including voters who left their residence due to the earthquake and were housed in temporary housing units.

1. Whatare the particular challenges encountered by internally displaced women and young persons, internally displaced persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons belonging to minority or indigenous groupsor other groups?

The answers to the questions 1 and 3 are also relevant to this question.

1. What measures have been adopted by States to ensure the participation of internally displaced persons in elections without discrimination on the basis of their displacement? Please give examples ofspecific laws, policies, administrative measures and institutional frameworks adopted.

In accordance with the Voter Register Act (Official Gazette No. 144/12, 105/15 and 98/19), the Republic of Croatia allows voters residing in the Republic of Croatia to temporarily register in the voter register outside their place of residence or in the place where they will be found, on the day of the parliamentary elections, presidential elections, elections for members of the European Parliament and state referendum. The voters are also allowed to pre-register to vote at polling stations abroad, as well as to issue a certificate of voting outside their place of residence by which voters can vote at polling stations in the Republic of Croatia or at polling stations abroad. Also, when parliamentary elections, presidential elections, elections for members of the European Parliament and state referendums are held, the Croatian voters who do not reside in the Republic of Croatia are allowed to vote at polling stations at diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Croatia in the state in which they reside.

4. How has the participation ofinternally displaced persons in elections, or the lack thereof, had an impact on the prospects of durable solutions to internal displacement in your country or in the countries where you work?

/

5. How can humanitarian, development, peace and human ri ghts actors promote and support efforts for the participation of internally displaced persons in elections?

Please share specific examples if available.

/

6. Are there any other issues related to the topic that you would like to bring to the attention of the Special Rapporteur?

/