Call for inputs (internally displacement)

**Climate change and internal displacement**

1. **What issues related to internal displacement and climate change are most serious in terms of protecting human rights, reducing barriers, and fostering conditions for progressively achieving durable solutions that would warrant the Special Rapporteur’s attention and reporting?**

Climate change causes many serious issues especially to the vulnerable groups. When climate change affects people and areas already subjected to weak institutions, political and socio-economic marginalization, and conflict, it has profound humanitarian consequences, particularly in terms of its effect on livelihoods, health, and migration.

1. *Livelihood*. Global warming impacts on agriculture and fishing livelihoods, by causing shorter crop cycles, reduced yields, insect pest production, deteriorating coastal ecosystems, and extreme weather events that can damage life property, and live-stock.
2. *Health*. By increasing food insecurity, water stress, morbidity, mortality, and the likelihood of water- and vector borne diseases, while decreasing nutritional contents in food, climate change threatens to undermine the last fifty years of progress in public health.
3. *Migration &international labour migration*. Climate change can drive rural to-urban migration but can also trap poor people, who are not only particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate changes, but also have limited mobility and resources available to adapt. Climate change also elevates international labour migration. This is because the survivors of natural disasters will be looking for job opportunities to support their families desperately which can put them at risk of trafficking in persons. In consequent, people who are displaced by natural disasters are at high risk of exploitation and need support to resettle their lives. Thus, these vulnerable communities need attention and strategies to prevent trafficking in persons. Moreover their left behind family members of labour migrants are vulnerable to deteriorated living conditions, violence, abuse and exploitation due to lack of protection for women and children.
4. **What specific groups or populations are particularly or differentially affected by climate change and internal displacement? Is their meaningful and full participation ensured and if so, how? If not, what are the main obstacles**

The most affected groups are those group which are marginalized, institutions are weak and/or conflict that stretched people’s coping capacities to the effect of climate change.

1. *Weak governance and institutions*. Governmental and informal institutions in general play an important part in shaping climate vulnerability and coping capacity. ”Failed” governments are often unable to meet basic standards of human security for citizens and struggle to provide support or response to crises or disasters, especially for more marginalized people. Corruption also hinders effective adaptation policies and crisis response strategies. Cases from Somalia, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Haiti demonstrate examples of governments that have struggled to deal with droughts, storms, or floods, with ensuing negative humanitarian consequences. (Oppenheimer et al., 2014).

For example, on 25 August, Pakistan declared a state of emergency because of the flooding. The flooding was the world's deadliest flood since the 2020 South Asian floods. More than 10 million people were got affected and many were gone under water because most of the people were living near by the rivers because of no access to water. So, they use water directly from the rivers and for that purpose they live nearby the rivers and got badly affected by the floods. Therefore, it is important that the government make sure the public get access to the basic needs of life such as food, shelter, water and medical facilities.

1. *Marginalization.* Systematic findings highlight the particular structural challenges that make women, indigenous people, and children more vulnerable to climate change than other parts of the population, even where institutions are generally strong. Besides, people whom dependent on agricultural and fishing livelihoods face higher risks from climate change, particularly smallholder farmers that rely on rainfall.

In addition, the humanitarian consequences of climate change are expected to be most severe in poorer countries, in large part due to weaker coping capacity and structural challenges. Overall, Africa and Asia are expected to be the most vulnerable regions in terms of humanitarian consequences of climate change. The impacts on smallholder farms are more pronounced in arid and semi-arid areas, and rising sea level particularly threatens farms in the low-lying coastal plains of Southeast Asia. Moreover, Africa and southern Asia emerge as highly vulnerable regions for food insecurity. Climate-motivated migration trends of rural to urban domestic movement and overseas migration are especially pronounced in south Asia, east Africa, and Central America.

1. *Conflicts* (especially protracted conflicts) erode and challenge institution building, and states’, groups’, and individuals’ ability to handle, adapt to and plan for climate change. (Adger et al., 2014)
2. **What actions would you suggest the Special Rapporteur take to address these issues, within the purview of her mandate and complementary to the actions of her predecessors?**

* Do advocacy with the governments to create sustainable and multi-faceted, international framework across regions and countries as the effects of migration spans across countries. Moreover, these laws, policies and framework need to aid vulnerable communities even in the most remote villages in the world.
* Monetary compensations should be available for vulnerable communities, victims of climate change and migrants who lack finance to improve their livelihood. Financial aid should also be offered to organisations that help to educate, counsel and provide aid to victims in an effort to protect these vulnerable communities
* Do advocacy with international funding organizations/donors to support national and regional organizations working on trafficking in persons, labour migration, and working with displaced communities especially for labour migrant’s families, women & children and elderly people. There is urgent need to address their livelihood, health and protection issues. There is also need to pay attention to prevent trafficking in persons and inform affected communities about safe or regular migration.

Based on the research study by Boano, Zetter & Morris (2008), we recommend few comprehensive actions that Special Rapporteur can consider enforcing which are:

* + Promoting high-level dialogue in order to develop, strengthen and harmonise international understanding of concepts, knowledge-base, vocabulary and experience related to the multiple cause-effect links between environmental degradation, socio–economic impacts and environmentally-induced forced migration
  + Promoting the identification and mapping of potential environmental ‘hotspots’, ‘tipping points’ and internal displacement trends in relation to climate change
  + Enhancing knowledge of livelihood resilience, successful adaptation, preparedness and coping strategies used by local populations to mitigate the impacts of environment change
  + Commissioning research on potential governance models for areas experiencing degradation and migration pressures.
  + Fostering institutional reform and enhancing policy responses and competences by advocating the clarification of international institutional responsibilities for promoting and co-ordinating policy responses to climate change and internal displacement
  + Adopting proactive development policies to address the potential migratory impacts of climate change which stress coping capacities, adaptation and sustainability and which strengthen the incorporation of resilience strategies in programmes and projects
  + Promoting the integration of environmental policies and responses in relief, recovery and development programmes in situations of conflict and forced displacement
  + Urging developing countries to integrate the impacts and responses to climate change into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and conflict reduction strategies, developing principles and practices for ‘environment proofing’ development strategies programmes and projects and requiring donors and development agencies urgently to adopt them.

1. **What are the main elements of effective preventive strategies for internal displacement driven by climate change, including adaptation measures and planned relocation policies?**

There are number of effective preventive strategies. Essentially, knowledge is the first step to action. Therefore, the stakeholders should focus on educating the public especially, the vulnerable communities as it is the most important factor in the success of any program, policy, framework, law and organisation. People from communities that are poor, illiterate, unable to access basic needs and live in remote locations need to understand that they have rights and those rights are protected by the law; that justice and aid is provided to victims of climate change and that can be their last option.

There is urgent need to invest in the waring systems to inform people about expected floods and earthquakes. There should be resources available for advanced level of research to enhance capacity of relevant government departments to issue flood, cyclone/typhons, and earthquake warnings to public. Governments need to have support systems in place to help people in relocating quickly when there is risk of any natural disaster.

Following that, ensuring a continuous funding and educating is crucial to ensure the sustainability of actions taken by the stakeholders. The public needs to be reminded constantly of the negative effect of climate change. Fines and penalties need to be imposed by local governing bodies to ensure negative behaviour that cause climate change does not reoccur. Education on the effects of climate change and various ways to combat it needs to be taught to children in schools and all educational institutions to ensure people understand the impacts of climate change, Therefore, empowering them with skills, knowledge, attitudes and values that will act as proxies of change in the long run.

There is need to conduct a research on the preventable measures which can reduce the climate disaster for example help developing countries to build more dames which probably can reduce the events of floods.

**Internal displacement due to generalized violence**

1. **What kind of situations or issues fall under the umbrella of “generalized violence” as a cause for internal displacement in your countries or contexts?**

In Malaysia, internal displacement cases due to generalized violence is very less in number but more people had displaced due to disasters like flood, landslide and etc. , According to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources, internally displaced persons, new displacement associated with disasters (number of cases) in Malaysia was reported at 129000 in 2021

1. **What issues related to generalized violence and internal displacement are most serious in terms of protecting human rights, reducing barriers, and fostering conditions for progressively achieving durable solutions that are insufficiently considered by other stakeholders that would warrant the Special Rapporteur’s attention and reporting?**

Government of the country failed to protect their people and moreover cause suffering to them. For example, in August 2017, hundreds of thousands of terrified Rohingya refugees began flooding onto the beaches and paddy fields of southern Bangladesh. As the refugees, almost 60 per cent of whom were children that poured across the border from Myanmar into Bangladesh, they brought with them accounts of the unspeakable violence and brutality that had forced them to flee. Those fleeing attacks and violence in the 2017 exodus joined around 300,000 people already in Bangladesh from previous waves of displacement, effectively forming the world’s largest refugee camp. These people were denied of citizenship and identity in their own country.

Therefore, we suggest special rapporteur to take prompt action by calling the concerned governments to take initiatives to bring back the internally displaced Rohingya refugees and give them the life that they deserve to live like the other nationals. Due to number of reasons, the refugees in Bangladesh camp is facing plight again. Thus, immediate action has to be taken.

1. **What drivers of generalized violence are most serious in terms of their human rights implications? Which of them are insufficiently considered by other stakeholders that would warrant the Special Rapporteur’s attention?**

There are number of factors contribute to generalized violence which are poverty, inequality, food (in) security. First and foremost, poverty is one relatively well-established factor that makes it more likely that individuals join rebel groups (Busby, 2018). As climate negatively impacts income through decreased agricultural production or as a result of a disaster, it may lower opportunity costs of a rebellion and could increase grievances (Berman, 2011). Whether poverty is a dominant motivation for participation in organized violence varies across individuals and contexts.

Food insecurities is also a driver of generalized violence. This is because food (in) security linked to spikes in food prices. Evidence shows that dry conditions increase food prices, which are in turn linked to more violence.(Raleigh & Kniveton, 2015) . This is not to say that food insecurity is a main driver of violence. Indeed, overall social protest and rebellion seem to result more as reactions to policies, corruption, repression, or market failure, than as a result of food price changes (Buhaug, 2015).

1. **What disproportionate impact does such violence have on specific groups? How are specific groups particularly or differentially affected by generalized violence and internal displacement?**

According to the UNHCR Refugee Data Finder IDPs, internally displaced people (IDP) account for 60 per cent of all people displaced in the world. The data revealed that at the end of 2021, Syria, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, Ethiopia and Afghanistan continued to host the largest IDP populations globally…

1. **What are the main elements of effective preventive strategies to mitigate internal displacement driven by generalized violence?**

According to Dirikgil (2023), in the context of IDP protection, ‘prevention of internal displacement’ may refer to two fundamental steps that the stakeholders can take to exercise their responsibility with regard to internal displacement. The first step is the prevention of the root causes of forced internal displacement or the prevention of people from getting exposed to situations that can be considered as causing a risk of displacement, and where some kind of violations of rights or harm to civilians is not already happening. The second step is about when displacement is unavoidable, and that is aiming at taking steps in advance to mitigate its harmful effects. Thus, the prevention of acts that lead to displacement is not only focused on measures to distil what must be done before displacement occurs but also minimise forced displacement and mitigate its adverse effects when displacement becomes the only option.

1. **What actions would you suggest the Special Rapporteur take to address these issues, within the purview of her mandate and complementary to the actions of her predecessors?**

We would suggest Special Rapporteur to take few actions as stated below:

* Generalized violence is a serious issue that cripples the peace of earth and people in it. Therefore, the most effective action should be taken promptly to curb this issue. For this, the governments of the involved countries should bring together for peace negotiation.
* Formulate rehabilitation policies on humanitarian grounds which aimed at reducing inequality of opportunity among these internally displaced people or group by integrating them into local social services and allowing them to access jobs, education, and healthcare opportunities; otherwise new conflicts might break out (Das et al., 2016)

1. **What can different stakeholders do to address the root causes of generalized violence?**

**Internally displaced persons in peace negotiations or mediation processes and in peacebuilding to achieve sustainable peace**

1. **What issues related to the human rights of internally displaced persons are most serious and/or least considered in such processes that would warrant the Special Rapporteur’s attention and reporting?**
   1. Physical safety and security of internally displaced people
   2. Legal protection before the law, such as absence of discrimination against formerly displaced persons for reasons related to their displacement, full and non-discriminatory access to national and local protection mechanisms, including police and courts, access to personal documentation and access to property restitution or compensation mechanisms, regardless of whether they return or (re)settle
   3. Economic, social, and cultural reintegration possibilities, such as access to adequate standards of living, including shelter, food, water, and other means of survival; family reunification; and the ability to exercise political rights, including the right to participate fully and equally in the public affairs.
2. **How and when should internally displaced persons participate in peace negotiations, mediation processes and in peacebuilding?**

The process of peacebuilding requires the establishment of a functioning legitimate government, which usually involves setting up a transitional administration, referenda on a constitution, elections, and activities to ensure that the context in which elections take place is conducive to full participation of the IDP population. In post-conflict situations, political participation can effectively contribute to peace, recovery, and long-term development. Thus, taking seriously political rights, including the right to vote and take part in elections and referenda, is highly relevant to societies trying to emerge from conflict and build a more stable and prosperous future. (O’Neill, 2009)

1. **What specific groups or populations among internally displaced persons are underrepresented in or excluded from participation in such processes?**
2. **What actions would you suggest the Special Rapporteur take to address these issues, within the purview of her mandate and complementary to the actions of her predecessors?**
3. **How should peace negotiations, mediation processes and peace processes attempt to address the root causes of internal displacement?**

Finding durable solutions for the displaced is a necessary element of effective peacebuilding. The process of peacebuilding is multi-faceted and usually involves (O’Neill, 2009):

* Re-establishing security, demilitarizing armed groups, and re-establishing law and order
* Reconstruction and economic rehabilitation, including property restitution or compensation for lost property
* Reconciliation and social rehabilitation, including measures to address impunity and transitional justice initiatives; and
* Political transition and creating more accountable governance structure and institutions, which may include redefining how the "new" society is to function, namely in terms of ensuring more equitable access to resources, services, and positions, as well as redefining how the various sectors of society can become stakeholders

1. **Do peace and/or mediation processes and peacebuilding efforts adequately address the needs of all internally displaced persons? What factors enable or inhibit this?**
2. **What are effective strategies to ensure peace negotiations, peacebuilding efforts, other peace mediation processes, and peace agreements prevent future internal displacement?**

**(Re)integration of internally displaced persons**

1. **What issues related to integration or reintegration of internally displaced persons are most serious in terms of protecting human rights, reducing barriers and fostering conditions for progressively achieving durable solutions that would warrant the Special Rapporteur’s attention and reporting?**

According to the article by O’Neil (2009), there are few serious issues related to integration or reintegration of internally displaced person which are:

*(i) Security.* Creating or maintaining an environment that is safe enough for displaced persons to return to their homes and places of origin is important matter. Therefore, the presence of armed groups, whether belonging to regular forces or militias, may create a serious obstacle to return and may be considered as a threat by potential returnees due to their past behaviour, ethnic origin, or lack of discipline. This is especially true where these forces have caused the displacement suffered by returnees. In such cases, it is necessary to either disarm such groups or to integrate them into the post-conflict armed forces of the country concerned. (O’Neill, 2009).

*(ii) Property.* Tensions usually develop between local communities and displaced persons and returnees which may be couched in ethnic, religious, or political terms but are often related to disputes over resources and property. Population movements usually create conflicts over land and dwellings. Lack of reconstruction of destroyed houses or non-return of property left behind which are taken over by either the local population or persons who themselves have been displaced - create serious obstacles to return. The judiciary may be overburdened or otherwise unable to solve property disputes. Female heads of household may face additional problems. They often lack property titles in their own names, have lost access to their pre-displacement property due to divorce or because their husband have abandoned them, or cannot inherit their deceased husbands' property. These factors can prevent them from submitting claims for both repossession and reconstruction of their houses. (O’Neill, 2009).

(iii) *Reconciliation and transitional justice.* In certain situations, displaced persons cannot return to their places of origin and homes or their return is not sustainable because they are not welcomed by local communities and encounter discrimination or even acts of violence. Inter- and intracommunal tensions over access to land and water may further exacerbate IDPs' and returnees' fear for their physical safety and lead to out breaks of violent clashes. In all these situations, robust steps aimed at reconciling communities and restoring justice should be considered. Mechanisms of reconciliation and transitional justice should be without prejudice to displaced persons' rights to restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, reparation, and guarantees of non-repetition. (O’Neill, 2009).

1. **What specific groups or populations among internally displaced persons face particular challenges in integrating or reintegrating, and what are these challenges? Which challenges are faced by host communities and how to address them?**

One of the challenge faces by host communities is getting back their property. This affect more to the certain minorities or indigenous peoples,, especially when they were holding traditional but informal titles not recognized by the authorities. Specific problems also arise where persons cannot return to their original lands, such as those who have been displaced for two or more generations and are no longer considered entitled to particular areas of land, or where land has become unusable due to landmines or ongoing occupation by militias.

1. **What factors enable or impede the sustainability of integration or reintegration of internally displaced persons? Please refer to social cohesion, mental and psychological health, identity, cultural and spiritual factors.**
2. **What actions would you suggest that the Special Rapporteur take to address these issues within the purview of her mandate and complementary to the actions of her predecessors?**

Peace agreement alone is not enough. Therefore, we suggest Special Rapporteaur to call the concerned governments to take action on the issues mentioned below based on the article by Kälin (2008):

* 1. *Ensuring voluntariness of return.* Return should take place voluntarily based on an informed decision by the persons concerned without coercion of any kind. IDPs are usually citizens of their country and enjoy like all other citizens the rights to liberty of movement and to choose their residence, and thus are entitled to choose whether they want to return to the place of origin, integrate locally where they were displaced, or resettle in another part of the country.
  2. *Ensuring the safety of returnees.* Returnees must not suffer from attacks, harassment, intimidation and persecution or any other form of punitive action upon return to their home communities, or from the dangers of landmines and UXOs.
  3. *Returning property to the displaced and reconstruction of their houses*. At a minimum returnees must have access to mechanisms for property restitution or compensation.
  4. *Creating an environment that sustains return, including through appropriate funding mechanisms.* Returnees must have access without discrimination to basic public services, documentation and employment and income-generating opportunities.

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