

## **INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS OR MEDIATION PROCESSES AND IN PEACEBUILDING TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE PEACE**

- **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?**
  - i. Protection of IDPs- IDPS face risks of violence, including gender based violence (GBV), discrimination, exploitation and abuse. Adequate measures need to be put in place to protect IDPs from harm and ensure that they have access to basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, education and healthcare. Measures should also be put in place to ensure that adequate living standards and equality in access to services are upheld.
  - ii. Rights to property and housing- IDPs lose their homes, land and property following conflict, violence, disasters etc. Laws should guarantee the right to restitution, compensation or alternative housing for IDPs who can return to their original homes.
  - iii. Durable solutions- Given the often protracted displacement, measures should be put in place to facilitate safe and voluntary return, local integration and settlement. Sustainable re-integration measures should be put in place to enable IDPs to rebuild their lives, access livelihood opportunities and participate in decision making processes.
  - iv. Access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) amenities. Due to the limited resources in the settlement areas, the migration of IDPs into these areas worsens the strain endured by already limited resources. This has seen an outbreak of waterborne diseases limiting the quality of life. Resources should be channeled to ensure both IDPs and host communities have sufficient resources in relation to the need.
  - v. Meaningful participation and empowerment- IDPs should be involved in making decisions that affect their lives. Their active participation in making policies and implementing programs related to their displacement is crucial to ensuring their long-term well-being.
  
- **How and when should internally displaced persons participate in peace negotiations, mediation processes and in peacebuilding?**
  - i. Inclusion from the onset-IDPs should be involved from early stages of peace negotiations and mediation processes. Their perspectives and experiences should be heard and integrated into the peace processes, drawing from diverse representation including women, youth, PWDs and other marginalized groups.

- ii. Safe spaces- safe spaces should be created to enable an environment for IDPs to participate meaningfully.
- iii. Access to timely, accurate and reliable information- IDPs should have relevant information to peace negotiations and mediation processes to facilitate their engagement and ensure they are informed on opportunities for participation and developments in the processes.
- iv. Capacity strengthening- IDPs capacity should be strengthened to enable effective participation in peace processes. Trainings can be in negotiation skills, advocacy, peace building, human rights etc.

- **What specific groups or populations among internally displaced persons are underrepresented in or excluded from participation in such processes?**

- i. Women and children- they constitute a significant number of IDPs and are disproportionately affected by displacement yet often underrepresented in peace negotiations and decision making processes. Their unique perspectives should be brought on board in peace processes.
- ii. Persons with Disabilities- PWDs face specific vulnerabilities and challenges during displacement. To include them in peace processes, measure should be put in place to remove barriers (physical, attitudinal, communicative) by providing access to formats and platforms that promote their participation
- iii. Ethnic, religious and other minorities- Discrimination and marginalization faced by minorities hinder their participation in peace processes. Measures should be put in place to ensure their active participation and engagement, providing them a platform to voice their concerns, contribute to decision making and shape peace negotiations.
- iv. Youths – As most leadership positions are held by elders, there has been evidence of intergenerational conflict among the IDPs due to communication barriers and claims of prejudices against the youth. There should be special consideration to involve them in peace negotiations and conflict transformation, which would in turn see them participate as peace ambassadors instead of conflict instigators.

- **How should peace negotiations, mediation processes and peace processes attempt to address the root causes of internal displacement?**

- i. Conflict resolution and social cohesion- efforts should be made to promote use of alternative justice systems to address grievances to promote peace and prevent future displacement
- ii. Protection of human rights and rule of law- peace processes should prioritize protection of human rights, including the rights of displaced communities. Discrimination, exclusion and marginalization should be addressed through

- establishment of effective governance structures that promote accountability and address the root causes of displacement.
- iii. Socio-economic development- peace processes should include strategies for socio-economic development to address poverty, inequalities and lack of opportunities.
  - iv. Land and property rights- land and property disputes often lead to internal displacement. Peace processes should address land issues, property restitution and compensation of IDPs.
- **Do peace and/or mediation processes and peacebuilding efforts adequately address the needs of all internally displaced persons? What factors enable or inhibit this?**
    - i. Adequate inclusion and representation- meaningful inclusion of IDPS in peace processes and decision making is essential to address their needs effectively. This involves creating spaces for IDPs to participate, ensuring diversity and empowering them to actively participate.
    - ii. Understanding of specific contexts- each displacement is unique calling for a specific/ tailored approaches to adequately address the needs of IDPs.
    - iii. Coordination/partnerships- bringing together relevant actors with various capacities and expertise including the government, humanitarian actors, civil society etc to avoid duplication, gaps and inefficiencies in delivery of support/assistance.
  - **What are effective strategies to ensure peace negotiations, peacebuilding efforts, other peace mediation processes, and peace agreements prevent future internal displacement?**
    - i. Conflict prevention and early warning –there is need to invest in conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms to help identify and address tension/grievances before they escalate and result in displacement
    - ii. Reconciliation and social cohesion- promoting reconciliation, use of alternative justice systems and promoting social cohesion van help prevent future displacement.
    - iii. Inclusive peace processes- involving all stakeholders including the marginalized communities is essential in promoting sustainable peace and preventing conflict that may lead to displacement
    - iv. Addressing grievances and root causes – peace negotiations should address the grievances and root causes that contribute to internal displacement. Address issues of discrimination, land rights, access to resources, political representation and socio-economic inequalities.
    - v. Monitoring and evaluation- there should be long term monitoring and evaluation of peace processes to ensure their effective implementation. Mechanisms to address

grievances, measure progress/impact and adapt strategies should be put in place to prevent future displacement.