

Announcement Plenary

Remarks

*UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of Internally Displaced Persons
Chaloka Beyani*

23 May 2016, Istanbul

18:00 hours, venue: ICC- Harbiye Auditorium.

Thank you madam Chairperson.

As Special Rapporteur on the human rights of Internally Displaced Persons, I represent the voice of 40 million people displaced within States, by far the highest category of displacement, with acute humanitarian and protection needs. My presence at the WHS is a significant expression of their voice, concerns, and need for durable solutions. I thank the world on their behalf.

I support the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity and its call to leave no one behind, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

First, I have set the support to Governments and regional Organizations to develop and implement laws and policies on internal displacement, as a first priority. In that regard, I have worked closely with the African Union and its members to ratify and implement the Kampala Convention on internal displacement. I have also worked closely with the Organisation of American States to elaborate framework on IDPs, and a number of Member States to develop national laws, policies and strategies on internal displacement.

Second, I have set durable solutions as a priority for my mandate and have witnessed first-hand the challenges of supporting solutions to the millions of IDPs living in protracted situations for years, sometimes decades. Although return is sometimes the solution mostly insisted upon, the presumptive evidence points to local integration as the most viable option for IDPs. The experience from my mandate is that supporting solutions requires national leadership, strong political will and commitment, and for international actors – both humanitarian and development – to working together with local and national authorities and civil society organizations, and first and foremost, the consultation and participation of IDPs themselves. It requires prioritizing solutions that improve self-reliance, by integrating them into national safety nets, education programs, labor markets and development plans, building on local capacity and knowledge. Simply closing an IDP camp does not equal durable solutions.

Like my predecessors, I have worked closely with Governments and international partners to foster the development of durable solutions strategies, and stand ready to continue my work in that regard. A specific initiative I am spearheading with the Joint IDP Profiling Service is the development of a system to measure progress towards durable solutions.

In my work, I have benefitted from the close cooperation with Governments, UN agencies, in particular OHCHR, UNHCR, OCHA, UNDP, as well as IOM and NGO partners, to support the development and implementation of laws and policies on internal displacement, and to support durable solutions to internal displacement. I am grateful for their continued support, and I remain grateful to the thousands of IDPs who have shared their insights and experiences of displacement.