



## **Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission**

### **“The development and peace dimensions of forced displacement: Countries’ best practices in creating durable solutions”**

**Monday, 1 July 2024**

#### **Informal Summary**

The President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez Ojeda, and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Sérgio França Danese, co-chaired the annual joint meeting of ECOSOC and the PBC on 1 July 2024, addressing the development and peace dimensions of forced displacement, focusing on countries’ best practices in creating durable solutions. The meeting explored how governments have created and implemented durable solutions and complementary pathways for displaced people through concrete actions. The meeting also discussed how the United Nations (UN) could coherently support the endeavor to address forced displacement.

Representatives of Member States, UN Observers, the UN system and civil society organizations attended the meeting. The opening remarks by the ECOSOC President were followed by interventions by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mr. Filippo Grandi; UN Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, Mr. Robert Piper; Deputy Head of the UN DPPA Peacebuilding Support Office, Ms. Awa Dabo; as well as two civil society representatives whom have been forcibly displaced - Human Rights Defender and Coordinator of the Choco solidarity inter-ethnic forum, Ms. Elizabeth Moreno Barco, and the Representative of the Major Group for Children and Youth, Ms. Korotoumou Katy Ballo.

In her opening remarks, **the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez Ojeda**, recognized the timeliness of the discussion ahead of the upcoming 2024 High-level Political Forum and the Summit of the Future. She stressed the importance of adopting an integrated approach with humanitarian, development, and peace efforts working together in tackling root causes of forced displacement, instead of relying solely on temporary relief. Furthermore, she underscored the risks of forced displacement for vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls - who constitute half of the 120 million forcibly displaced. They are at higher risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and suffer from restricted access to socio-economic opportunities. Therefore, addressing the specific needs of women and girls was underlined as an essential aspect in creating durable solutions for forced displacement, including through ensuring safety and security, promoting access to education and livelihoods, and including them in the design and implementation of durable solutions. The President also highlighted the importance of adopting comprehensive strategies on long-term development solutions that foster resilience, peace and stability. She called for the international community to act urgently to tackle the root causes of forced displacement, requiring political will and concerted, coordinated efforts between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors alongside affected communities.

**UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi**, emphasized the protracted nature of forced displacement, which in turn requires a broader vision and complementary humanitarian, peace and development approaches. As conflicts remain the main reason for forced displacement, he emphasized the need to increasingly consider its peace dimensions by addressing the root causes of forced displacement. He, further, underscored the destabilizing nature of displacement in terms of peace, security and sustainable development - since two thirds of the overall refugee population flee to neighboring low- and middle-income countries where communities are already fragile in terms of resources, infrastructure, services and institutions. He noted that the traditional approach of building camps and creating special government bodies for displaced people are no longer sustainable. Therefore, he highlighted the imperative to build on the Global Compact on Refugees and promote inclusive approaches so that the displaced can become agents of development. For the High Commissioner, this requires proper documentation, access to national services, justice, conflict management, local economy, and land. He referred to a number of best practices for durable solutions in multiple contexts from which countries can learn. He also underscored the PBC's convening power and political accompaniment, as well as the Peacebuilding Fund's (PBF) catalytic role to transform support for displaced people into a more sustainable approach.

**Assistant Secretary-General for and Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, Mr. Robert Piper**, underscored that the 76 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) are the largest category of the displaced – which is twice as many as ten years ago. In the context of the escalating number of IDPs, he indicated that the UN Secretary-General (SG) had prioritized internal displacement and commissioned a high-level panel in 2019. As a result, 31 commitments were developed by the UN system under the SG's Action Agenda for Internal Displacement. While emphasizing that internal displacement has not just grown in scale, but also in complexity, he outlined that addressing internal displacement was threefold: i) to reverse the escalating numbers of new displacements; ii) to improve capacity to support and protect displaced persons when preventive actions fail; and iii) to fundamentally rethink how to resolve protracted displacement and move towards Solutions Pathways for IDPs. Therefore, strong government leadership in the countries affected by displacement, as well as international support, was seen as crucial to encompass development and peacebuilding support. As conflicts remain the main driver of long-term displacement, insecurity and socio-economic instability in post-conflict environments pose significant barriers to long-term reconstruction and development, underscoring the centrality of the peacebuilding dimension of internal displacement. Over \$5 billion is used annually in humanitarian assistance to support millions of highly vulnerable displaced persons, which cannot solely resolve the issue. He, therefore, underlined the imperative of peacebuilding and development efforts to deliver durable solutions more effectively jointly and urgently. He continued by underscoring the importance of prevention to reverse the escalating numbers of newly displaced through early-warning, mediation and conflict prevention tools. He also emphasized the need: for more financial resources to move 76 million IDPs out of displacement; to leverage existing assets more effectively, including ongoing development investments; to build a more predictable UN response for prevention and solutions, with greater clarity about divisions of labor; for more cooperative governance by Member States; and to address forced displacement in development and peacebuilding discourse rather than exclusively in humanitarian and human rights forums.

**Director and Deputy Head of the UN DPPA Peacebuilding Support Office, Ms. Awa Dabo**, underscored the complex nature of forced displacement, which requires an integrated approach for durable solutions through development, peacebuilding, human rights, climate action and disaster risk reduction

efforts. As resolving forced displacement is inextricably linked to achieving lasting peace and sustainable development by ensuring that no one is left behind, the international community was asked to support national and local authorities to create the necessary conditions for safe, inclusive and lasting solutions. To this end, she emphasized the need for the establishment of strong cooperation, a common purpose and integrated approach between development, peace, security, humanitarian and human rights actors to effectively protect and assist IDPs as well as to end their displacement. These efforts should particularly aim at supporting reconciliation efforts, socio-economic rehabilitation, reconstruction efforts, and creating more accountable governance structures and institutions. She also emphasized the need to ensure synergies of actions amongst all actors – particularly engagement with regional and international financial institutions to guarantee that investments in durable solutions are made in a collaborative and coordinated manner. Furthermore, she underscored that investing in prevention was investing in sustainable and lasting solutions and outlined good practices of the Peacebuilding Fund in supporting durable solutions for displaced and host populations in that regard. She also noted that ECOSOC and the PBC were well placed to move the agenda forward, especially in ensuring that the collaboration, coherence and complementarity between humanitarian, peace and development actors is translated into concrete actions on the ground. The 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR) as well as the implementation of A New Agenda for Peace, were also seen as opportunities to systematically integrate displacement considerations, including into national prevention and peacebuilding strategies.

**Human rights defender and coordinator of the Choco solidarity inter-ethnic forum (FISCH), Ms. Elizabeth Moreno Barco,** emphasized the importance of upholding the rights of indigenous communities, in the context of conflict and displacement. Experiences of violence and displacement can drive positive change by empowering affected individuals, particularly women, to strive for a better future. She underscored the need to break gender barriers in decision-making, as well as linking women’s empowerment with community development through education. For her, adopting a holistic approach to policymaking that encompasses the diversity of territories and people will ensure that women and youth affected by conflict and displacement have equal opportunity to participate in decision-making roles across all levels of government and society. Ensuring protection, security and equitable access to services was seen as equally instrumental. While stressing the imperative of affirmative measures, she advocated for more women’s representation in leadership roles and in integrating ethnic perspectives into education and skills development. She also underscored the necessity of breaking down barriers to empowerment and inclusive community development, and therefore, advocated for policies that ensure the protection of rights and foster a supportive environment for community development and empowerment.

**The representative from the Major Group for Children and Youth, Ms. Korotoumou Katy Ballo,** highlighted the transformative power of education in empowering young people and communities to achieve security and durable peace by reflecting on her own experience as an IDP. She stressed the imperative of engaging youth as leaders in peacebuilding efforts, ensuring that their voices are heard in decision-making processes beyond short-term conflict mitigation. She recommended investing in education as a key strategy for investing in peace. Advocating for platforms that target conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and socio-economic development simultaneously, with a focus on innovative responses that center on youth education, will be crucial. She underscored the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in support of youth-centered educational initiatives.

## **Interventions from the floor**

Member States welcomed the interventions by the members of the panel and added the following observations and recommendations:

- There were expressions of concern over the escalating number of forcibly displaced persons, particularly IDPs. The Secretary-General's Action Agenda for Internal Displacement and the Global Compact on Refugees were welcomed, and calls were made for continued support for the implementation of both agendas.
- The imperative to address the root causes of forced displacement was highlighted, including conflicts, climate change, and natural disasters. In particular, the need to overcome poverty, inequality and food insecurity was underscored, as well as the lack of socio-economic opportunities to prevent conflicts that lead to forced displacement.
- The need for lasting and durable solutions instead of short-term results was emphasized to address the root causes, while stressing the importance of creating a safe environment and socio-economic opportunities for the displaced people to integrate, return, and resettle.
- The importance of conflict prevention, including through strengthened early-warning mechanisms and prevention strategies, was stressed to prevent forced displacement.
- A comprehensive and complementary approach to prevent and address forced displacement by humanitarian, development, peace, security, and human rights actors was also emphasized.
- Building on the 2023 joint meeting of PBC and ECOSOC, calls were made to encourage the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda on the ground.
- Reference was made to the upcoming high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), the Summit of the Future and the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture as key milestones to deepen the linkages between peace and development, as well as effectively address forced displacement.
- The Summit of the Future was considered an important opportunity to explore the pathways to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and to ensure that no one is left behind, including forcibly displaced persons.
- Acknowledging the respective mandates and the vital intersectional work between ECOSOC and the PBC, emphasis was placed on concrete, collective actions and support to concerned countries to address durable solutions to forced displacement. In this regard, further deliberations and follow-up by ECOSOC and the PBC on forced displacement were suggested.
- The imperative of national ownership and leadership to prevent and address forced displacement was recognized, as well as the importance of integrating political, peacebuilding, security, and socio-economic factors into National Development Plans.
- The importance of education and healthcare as part of the human rights of displaced people was emphasized, as well as the notion of these rights to be better promoted in peaceful conditions.
- Strengthened collaboration between affected populations, national authorities, the UN, regional and international organizations, financial institutions and civil society organizations in support of durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons was advocated.
- Also underscored was the need to implement a holistic and community-driven approach ensuring broad participation and effective coordination.

- The importance of the Peacebuilding Fund's catalytic support to countries and regions was recognized and advocated for adequate and sustained financing, as well as the increased collaboration with regional and international financial institutions was encouraged.
- While recognizing the detrimental impact of forced displacement on women and girls, including SGBV, their protection, empowerment, and participation in addressing the root causes of forced displacement and durable solutions were stressed.

In his closing remarks, **the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, H.E. Mr. Sérgio França Danese**, highlighted the importance of coordinated, collective action involving humanitarian, development, human rights, political, and peacebuilding actors, to effectively respond to the diverse causes of displacement. Improved understanding of the root causes of displacement as well as on the needs, risks, intentions, capacities and available resources were seen as essential to identify a more targeted and comprehensive approach to durable solutions. Furthermore, while temporary resolutions to IDPs' socio-economic challenges may be found, the full respect of human rights and long-term safety were paramount to durable peace and sustainable development as well as in preventing secondary, repeated or cyclical displacement. He called for ECOSOC and the PBC to facilitate durable solutions for internal displacement within their respective mandates and stressed national ownership as key for preventing and addressing displacement. He also underscored the need to forge closer partnerships between the IDPs, local communities, local authorities, donors, regional and international organizations and financial institutions, as instrumental for sustainable peace and development.