

Group of Friends on Burden and Responsibility Sharing

High Level Dialogue on Operationalising Burden and Responsibility Sharing

9 December 2021 at 15:00

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished colleagues,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to participate in this important and timely discussion.

Since the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF), convened in December 2019, forced displacement has continued to increase, reaching a level not seen since the immediate aftermath of World War II. According to UNHCR, 82.4 million are forcibly displaced. In view of the seriousness of the challenge, the principle of burden and responsibility sharing and the need to ease the burden on refugee hosting countries remains critical.

The PBC has not held any dedicated meetings on displacement issues but has focused on this topic as part of its country- and region-specific meetings. During recent PBC engagements in support of peacebuilding priorities in West Africa and the Sahel as well as Lake Chad Basin, the Commission has expressed concern about the fact that the Sahel continues to face inter-communal violence, farmers' and herders' conflict and forced displacement, and committed to supporting efforts that aim to address these challenges. Such engagements have proved important in tackling the trans-boundary aspects of forced displacement through designing a regional approach.

Throughout its engagements, the Commission has recognized the relevance of PBF contributions, which are focusing on better addressing internal displacement, underscoring the importance of a broader and more holistic peacebuilding approach that addresses root causes of forced displacement.

Increased displacement patterns are a result of modern conflict dynamics which increasingly impact civilians and urban settings, resulting in forced population movements seeking a place of safety. In addition, the adverse effects of climate change have already become a reality for millions of people worldwide, with some 13.7 million people expected to be displaced annually due to natural disasters and are anticipated to have an increasingly severe impact on societies, including on forced displacement. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees that the U.N. General Assembly set in motion in 2016, the PBC

supports efforts to help ensure more predictable and equitable worldwide responsibility-sharing.

As pointed out in several PBC meetings, finding durable solutions for the displaced is a necessary element of effective peacebuilding. The following issues are particularly relevant for displaced persons and returnees in the context of peacebuilding and sustaining peace:

1. Providing security through demobilization, de-mining, re-establishing the rule of law, and combating impunity;
2. Solving property-related problems including reconstruction and restitution of property, resolution of property related disputes and reparations when restitution is not possible;
3. Furthering reconciliation between local/host communities and returnees;
4. Transitional justice;
5. Undertaking post-conflict reconstruction (i.e., re-establishing basic infrastructure and services as well as ensuring access to services, resources and livelihoods);
6. Ensuring inclusive and nationally owned political transition in which the various sectors of society, including IDPs and returnees, can become stakeholders.

Mr. Chair,

Finding durable solutions requires coherent approaches across sectors that span development, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts. I would like to reiterate the commitment of the PBC to help address, as appropriate within its mandate and through its country and regional engagements, root causes of displacement beyond immediate violence or threat of violence, with a focus on mistrust and unresolved grievances among communities, impeded or restricted access to basic services, and livelihood opportunities.

In conclusion, the Peacebuilding Commission will continue to offer its platform to concerned Member States and sub-regional Organizations who wish to share their experiences and seek further support in addressing challenges related to forced displacement.