

**Intersessional seminar  
on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for  
Internally Displaced Persons 2018–2020 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding  
Principles on Internal Displacement**

**Thursday 29 October 2020, 9.30 – 12.00 / 14.00 – 16.00 (GVA time)**

**Opening Statement by**

**Cecilia Jimenez-Damary  
UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons  
(moderator)**

As the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, it is my immense privilege to thank the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the Human Rights Council and the Co-Chair of the High Level Panel on Internal Displacement established by the UN Secretary-General for their introductory remarks.

This Intersessional Seminar is based on the mandate provided by the UN Human Rights Council, in its resolution 41/15 of 19 July 2019, which requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to organise an intersessional seminar to follow up on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons 2018-2020, more popularly called the “GP20 Plan of Action”. The resolution invited Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations Secretariat and relevant bodies, representatives of subregional and regional organizations, international human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, to participate in the seminar.

What is the GP20 Plan of Action? In its 2017 resolution on internally displaced persons, the UN General Assembly called on States, UN entities, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to mark in 2018 the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. After a meeting I convened in 2017, the Plan of Action – with a call to “Prevent – Protect - Resolve”, was launched by Austria, Honduras and Uganda, in collaboration with my mandate, during the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement on April 17, the day the Guiding Principles were adopted by the UN in 1998.

The Plan of Action aims to galvanize and reinforce multi-stakeholder engagement towards reducing and resolving internal displacement through prevention, protection and solutions for internally displaced persons, in line with the Guiding Principles. The GP20 Plan of Action centres around four priority areas for strategic, coordinated and collaborative with a particular focus on national implementation of the Guiding Principles. These are:

- Participation of internally displaced persons in decisions affecting them;
- National laws and policies addressing internal displacement;
- Enhancing data and analysis for the protection of internally displaced persons; and

- Addressing protracted displacement and facilitating durable solutions

Over-all, in the past three years, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Guiding Principles and the related GP20 Plan of Action have sparked more collaborative action on internal displacement than ever before at national, regional and global levels. This Intersessional Seminar will hopefully highlight these.

I thank once more our high-level speakers in the introductory session, who have pointed out the situation of internally displaced persons and how we are addressing the situation and, as well, emphasised that we all look ahead based our gains in the GP20 Plan of Action and beyond into 2021 on a strengthened basis.