**RE: CALL FOR INPUTS FROM THE SPECIAL RAPPOTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS.**

**QUESTIONS:**

**1. The challenges encountered by the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) toparticipate in election are as follows:**

**i. Voters:** the IDPs are face with the challenge of voting for the candidatesof their choice since their displacement from their homes may have takensome of them out of their constituency and as a result, their votes willnot count except they vote electronically. Secondly, they are yet toestablish polling units within the camps, so eligible voters have to locate theclosest registration centers and polling centers to the camps.

**ii. Candidates:** although they have the right to be elected into position ofauthority, it is difficult for IDPs to contest in election in Nigeria becausethe electronic voting system is yet to be adopted, thus making itpractically impossible for the IDPs to contest in election in theirconstituency from the camps. Secondly, contesting in an election inNigeria is capital intensive and requires support from sponsors, whichmay not be an opportunity that can be accessible to an IDP. Thirdly, tightsecurity is required for a candidate in election and someone in an IDPcamp may not have the means to meet such need. Also, it is difficult foran IDP to belong to the political party since he/she since he or she mustbe a member of a political party in his/her constituency.

**2. The particular challenges encountered by Internally Displaced Persons:**

**i. Women:** May not have the level of privacy they enjoyed before they

moved into the camps, may be overwhelmed with worries as those withtheir families have to take care of their families, the pregnant womenand nursing mothers have special health and dietary needs that is veryexpensive, their inability to regulate their activities etc.

**ii. Young persons:** most of them may be unhappy as they have left their job,schools, families, friends and social lives behind due to insurgencies.

**iii. Persons with disabilities:** lack of mobility aids for the physically

challenged, lack of information format for the deaf and dumb, lack of theaids to assist them.

**iv. Persons belonging to minority groups:** this group of person may feel

insecured and it may be relatively difficult for those that do not

understand English Language to communicate with officials in the absenceof interpreters.

**v. Other persons:** Illiteracy and lack of awareness may make this group to be withdrawn in electoral matters.

**3. Measures adopted by States to ensure the participation of InternallyDisplaced Persons in election without discrimination on their displacement:**

The establishment of legal frame work, specific laws, policies,administrative framework and institutional frame work to ensure that theIDPs are not discriminated in election.

**i. Specific laws:** (a) The Regulations for Voting by Internally Displaced

Persons (IDPS) 2018 (b) The Provisions of the Kampala Convention on the

voting Rights of IDPs (c) The Provisions of the 1999 Constitution (as

amended) on the Voting Rights of Eligible Nigerians (d) Provisions of the

Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) that provide for the Voting Rights of

Eligible Nigerians

**ii. Policies:**National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria,2012.

**iii. Administrative:** The Establishment of Special Polling Unit by INEC for

victims of Insurgency in North East Nigeria and its subsequent

Establishment of the INEC Task force in the general elections of 2015

iv. Institutional Framework: National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, NationalEmergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Human Rights

Commission, National Security Agency, National Agency for the

Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), National Directorate for

Employment, National Planning Commission, National Population

Commission etc.

**4. How Participation of Internally Displaced Persons in elections had an impacton the prospects in durable solutions to Internally Displaced Persons inNigeria:**

The Participation of IDPs in election has positive impact on theprospects in durable solutions as this would make them have sense of belonging and restore their self-esteem as legitimate citizens of the country. The National Policy on IDPS is toachieve durable solutions to the problems of the IDPs irrespective of theirparticipation in electoral process or not. Their participation in election is anopportunity for eligible IDPs to exercise their franchise and for them tohave a sense of involvement in electing leaders into positions of authority.Though there is no punishment for those that

fail to participate in election but it is important for eligible citizens of Nigeria,irrespective of their status to actively participate in elections as every votecounts.

**5. How the humanitarian, development, peace and human rights actors canpromote and support efforts for the participation Internally DisplacedPersons in elections:**

The actors in partnership with relevant government institutions shouldsensitize the IDPs on their rights to participate in the electoral process. The human right actors should work towards registering and empowering the IDPs to contest in elections. Theyshould device means of disseminating information to the IDPs, they shouldassist the IDPs in getting the necessary documents needed to contest inelection and support the government to meet the durable solution of theproblems of the IDPs.

**Specific example:** The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) is working out modalities in collaboration with Independence National Electoral Commission to carry out sensitization in the IDP Camps on the IMPORTANCE OF VOTERS CARD AND THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE.

IjeomaUduak

**AD (IDPs)**

For, Honourable Federal Commissioner

NCFRMI.