**CALL FOR INPUTS AND COMMENTS ON IDPS**

1. There are countless issues related to internal displacement and climate change that warrant attention and reporting by the Special Rapporteur. One of the most serious issues is the lack of legal protection for internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are forced to flee their homes due to climate change-related disasters. Many countries do not have laws that specifically address the needs and rights of IDPs, which can leave them vulnerable to further harm and displacement. Another serious issue is the consequences of climate change on the availability of resources such as water and food, which can make conflict and displacement worst. Climate change can also intensify job losses and economic instability, which can affect communities negatively. In addition, there is a need to address the root causes of climate change and mitigate its effects through global cooperation and action. This includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable development, and providing support and assistance to vulnerable communities. Ultimately, the protection of human rights and the achievement of durable solutions requires a focus on addressing the complex and interconnected challenges posed by internal displacement and climate change.
2. A lot of communities/ groups in Nigeria especially in the North Central are largely affected by climate change which further exacerbate the issue of farmer/herder clash in the region. Lack of access to water and pastureland by pastoralists due to changing weather patterns led to constant violent attacks between the two groups which has negatively affected the countries flow of agricultural produce and food security.
* Urban Poor; people who live at urban slums are often at a high risk of flooding and other natural disasters caused by extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall which causes displacement whenever such disasters occur.
* Women; gender inequality makes women vulnerable to climate change and displacement in Nigeria. Women often have restricted access to land, resources and decision making. Climate change worsens these inequalities and women may experience violence, forced displacement and loss of livelihoods
* Children; Climate Change can impact negatively on the life of children by restricting their access to education, access to good health care and also the overall wellbeing of the children.
* Lack of access to information or meaningful participation of these groups in climate change adaptation and disaster risk programs is not guaranteed. Some of the obstacles to their participation include lack of access to information, lack of formal representation, inadequate funding for community based organizations working on disaster and climate related issues.
1. Actions that the special rapporteur can take to address the issue of climate change and internal displacement in Nigeria include but not limited to the following
* Ensuring the adequate participation of affected communities in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management programs in collaboration with NGOs and other relevant stakeholders.
* Visiting areas/communities largely affected by climate change and assessing and identifying ways the state can proffer solutions.
* Meet with the representatives of the Nigerian government to proffer solutions on the impact of climate change and internal displacement on affected communities.
* Call on the international community to support efforts in addressing the impacts of Climate change and internal displacement in Nigeria and also to provide funding on relevant programs that can help in addressing the issue.
* Collaborate with Nigerian civil society groups to amplify the voices of affected communities in Nigeria.
1. Effective preventive strategies for internal displacement driven by climate change should include the following elements
* Early warning system
* Climate resilient infrastructure
* Environmental and risk assessment
* Adaptation measures
* Planned relocation
1. The term “generalized violence” may refer to a range of situations and issues that may cause internal displacement in Nigerian contexts. These include but not limited to;
* Inter religious/ ethnic conflicts: over the years, inter religious and ethnic conflicts in Nigeria has caused the displacement of a lot of people in the country. Issues like
* Criminal violence: violence perpetuated by armed gangs such as kidnappers, terrorists and bandits has caused a lot displacement in the North Central and North West in Nigeria.
* Communal clashes: inter communal clashes over land, natural resources such as water, grazing land has also led to a lot displacement over the years in the country.
* Political violence: election related violence, protests can also lead to displacement of populations in affected areas.
1. Special issues related to generalized violence and internal displacement warrants the attention and reporting of the Special Rapporteur. These included:
* Protection of human rights: one of the most critical issues related to those displaced is the protection of their rights. Examples of such rights include the right to life, the right to security, the right to shelter, and also the right to health.
* Barriers to access: IDPs have a lot of challenges accessing the services of humanitarian actors. Such barriers include difficulties in obtaining identification documents, limited access to healthcare services, and restrictions of movements in camps and communities.
* Durable solutions: The focus on internal displacement in Nigeria is mainly to provide immediate relief or provision of shelter, humanitarian aid or psychosocial support but no longer long term durable solutions. Support structures such as emergency response government aid, policies on returning or reintegrating IDPs who have been displaced need to be examined.
* Marginalized and at risks populations: there is a need to for a focus on marginalized groups that are at a higher risk of displacements or having difficulty accessing humanitarian aid
1. Some of the most serious drivers of generalized violence in Nigeria that will need the attention of the Special Rapporteur include political violence, religious extremism, ethnic tensions and socio economic inequalities. These issues have significant human rights implications.
2. Certain groups, such as ethnic minorities, women and children, and people living in poverty, may be disproportionately impacted by violence and displacement. For example, women and children are often at increased risk of sexual violence during conflicts and displacement, while people living in poverty may lack the resources to cope with the loss of their homes and livelihoods. It's important to consider the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different groups when addressing human rights abuses and humanitarian crises.
3. Effective preventive strategies to help mitigate internal displacement driven by generalized violence may include early warning systems, conflict resolution mechanisms, improving right to Justice, promoting respect for human rights, ensuring access to basic amenities. It is also important for government and relevant stake holders partner together and come up with ways to mitigate internal displacement caused by generalized violence.
4. There are special actions the special rapporteur could take to address these issues. Creating awareness about the plight of those affected, creating dialogue between the relevant stakeholders i.e. government organizations, civil society groups to understand the root cause and dynamics of the issue at hand. Overall, the special rapporteur can play a critical role in mobilizing action and resources to address these complex human rights issues.
5. There are a number of actions that different stakeholders can take to address the root causes of generalized violence. Some examples include creating more access to education and economic opportunities, strengthening rule of law and human rights, investing in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts, and supporting community-based initiatives that work to address the underlying drivers of violence. It is also important to engage with affected communities and ensure that their voices and are heard and taken into account in any efforts to address violence.
6. Several issues related to the human rights of internally displaced persons(IDPs) in Nigeria deserves the attention of the Special Rapporteur and some of these issues include:
* Lack of access to basic needs: IDPs lack basic necessities like food, shelter, and water which is critical to their well-being and survival.
* Insufficient healthcare: IDPs often lack access to adequate healthcare facilities which can affect their general well-being
* Security risks: IDPs are vulnerable to physical, mental and sexual abuse which can result to injuries, disease and even death.
* Lack of protection: because of their vulnerability, IDPs face a lot of protection issues
* Trauma and psychological issues: as a result of witnessing violence from war torn states and being displaced from their homes and communities, IDPs face a lot of psychological issues
1. IDPs should have the opportunity to participate in peace negotiations, mediation processes and peace building efforts that concern them. The following are ways some of the IDPs can participate and contribute
* Consultation: IDPs should be involved in any peace negotiations or mediation processes to hear their opinion regarding the conflict, displacement, and their protection and assistance needs.
* Representation: IDPs should be given the opportunity to be present in peace talks/negotiations.
1. There are several specific groups or populations among IDPs who are underrepresented or excluded from participating in peace negotiation processes and they include:

Women and girls: women and girls are often misrepresented in decision making processes in-spite of making up the larger population in IDP camps.

Children: children are excluded in peace negotiations or mediation processes despite being one of the most vulnerable groups among IDPs.

Elderly persons: Elderly persons are also neglected or not involved in decision making processes in IDP camps.

Ethnic minorities: in Nigeria for example, ethnic minorities face a lot of discrimination and are often misrepresented when it comes to peace negotiations or mediation processes in IDP camps.

1. The actions the Special Rapporteur could take to address the issues of under representation and exclusion of specific groups of IDPs under the purview of her mandate include but not limited to:
* Conducting research and analysis: through this means, the Special Rapporteur can identify the challenges faced by underrepresented IDPs in camps and also the factors that contribute to their lack of decision making in camps.
* Engaging with relevant stakeholders: the government and civil society groups can come together and create awareness on why these specific groups face discrimination in negotiations and decision making processes in IDP camps.
* Providing recommendation: The Special Rapporteur could provide recommendations to the Nigerian Government and other stakeholders on how to address the issues of misrepresentation and exclusion of specific groups of IDPs. These recommendations could highlight measures that can be taken to promote the involvement of misrepresented IDPS in decision making processes.
* Minoring and reporting: the Special Rapporteur could monitor and report on the implementation of her recommendations and the progress made in addressing the issues of underrepresentation and discrimination of specific groups of IDPs in Nigeria.
* Collaborating with other UN bodies.
1. Addressing the root causes of internal displacement is crucial in achieving any sustainable peace process. Peace negotiations, mediation processes, and peace building initiatives can contribute to this by adopting various strategies.
* Identifying the root causes: peace negotiations and peace building initiatives can only be successful if the root causes of displacement is identified.
* Addressing environmental factors: peace building negotiations should include environmental factors that may contribute to displacement such as climate change, natural disasters, fight for resource control etc.
* Boost humanitarian assistance:
* Create an action plan:
1. Peace and/or mediation processes and peacebuilding efforts are not always able to adequately address the needs of all internally displaced persons equally. Some of the factors that inhibit addressing the needs of all IDPs include:
* Political will: the political will of the parties involved like government, civil society groups and relevant stake holders will determine the outcome of any peace/medication processes and peace building efforts. If all relevant stakeholders are involved in the process of resolving the issues, then there is a greater likelihood that their needs will be addressed.
* Resource Availability: the availability of resources will determine the extent to which the needs of IDPs can be addressed. If resources are limited, that can hinder the ability to resolve the needs of IDPs.
* Inclusive participation: the extent to which IDPs are allowed to participate in the peace building and mediation processes can also impact whether their needs are addressed. If IDPs are excluded from participating in decision making processes, then their needs many not be adequately addressed.
* Security concerns: this can make it difficult to have access to IDPs. Hence, it can impact the extent to which their needs can be addressed.
1. Effective strategies to prevent future internal displacement include:
* Addressing root causes: The underlying causes of conflicts should be addressed to avoid future internal displacement.
* Decentralization efforts
* Inclusivity
* Dedication of resources
* Building resilience of displaced population
1. Several issues related to the integration or reintegration of IDPs are concerning and warrant the attention and reporting of the Special Rapporteur. And they include:
* Access to basic services: IDPs may lack access to basic services such as housing, education, health etc. that are integral to their integration and reintegration into societies. These issues mainly arises when they settle in other communities away from their families.
* Security and protection concerns: IDPs face hostility or discrimination from their host communities which can endanger their lives and protection.
* Culture and inter communal clashes: communal or cultural clashes can limit the integration/reintegration of IDPs into communities
* Marginalization and vulnerability: IDPs may face lingering vulnerability and may be marginalized from picking up the pieces of their lives when they come back or reside in their host communities
* Political participation: they may be likely discriminated from participating in any form of political activity by their host communities.
1. There are specific groups or populations among internally displaced persons that face particular challenges in integrating or reintegrating and they include;

Women and children; as a result of their vulnerability, women and children face a lot of challenges while integrating or reintegrating in communities; and Disabled IDPs.