

**UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs
27 – 29 JUNE 2018**

International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Session title: ***Promoting national responsibility for prevention, responses and solutions to internal displacement: the value of laws and policies***

Date: Friday 29 June

Time/Room: 10h30 – 12h30 – Room 3

Background:

In the context of the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles, the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations will aim to bring renewed attention and focus to the plight of the internally displaced persons (IDPs), “[e]nsuring that... decisions directed towards them (IDPs) must be at the heart of responses by national Governments, local authorities and all humanitarian, development and other relevant actors”.

National authorities are responsible for the protection and assistance of IDPs, and for preventing, responding to, and helping solve displacement. National laws, policies and strategies on internal displacement can provide important guidance to national authorities and other relevant parties, as well as serving as an important tool for safeguarding IDPs’ rights. The fulfilment of this responsibility is a challenge, however, particularly in the context of limited institutional capacities and funding. Consequently, a number of regional bodies have urged their member states to develop national laws and policies in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and in Africa, the 2006 Great Lakes Protocol and the 2009 Kampala Convention make it mandatory for member states that ratified those instruments to develop national legal frameworks. Civil society organizations play a crucial role in following up with states on the development and further implementation of their international commitments.

A number of countries have adopted national laws, policies and strategies on internal displacement in line with the Guiding Principles and the Kampala

Convention. When implemented adequately, these national laws, policies and strategies can contribute to prevent and respond to internal displacement as well as emphasize durable solutions for IDPs. To achieve these goals, cooperation between member States, UN Agencies and civil society is crucial to enable displaced persons to claim and enjoy their rights and entitlements.

Objectives of the session:

The objectives of the session will be to discuss the challenges and best practices around the two following questions:

- 1) What role can Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play in the improvement or development of Law and/or Policy on internal displacement?
- 2) How can NGOs contribute to the implementation of Law and/or Policy related to internal displacement?

Desired outcome of the session:

The audience will learn about current existing tools available to practitioners, and the session will allow the sharing of best practices and concrete examples from a global and local perspective on law and policy on internal displacement.

The follow-up actions will be the dissemination of the information (including best practices and narratives) presented and gathered during the thematic session. We will also circulate a list for the audience to sign up for the emails from the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Law and Policy.

Methodology:

The thematic session will be a panel discussion followed by a Q&A session with the audience. We expect to include one pigeonhole question at the end of the thematic session to get the feedback from the audience on the relevance the best practices presented could have in their work.