

Commitments in Motion  
*Africa's Progress since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cross-Regional Forum on  
Implementing Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement in Africa*  
October 2025

## SUMMARY

In 2024, UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the IDP Protection Expert Group convened thirteen African country delegations in Dakar for the [2<sup>nd</sup> Cross-Regional Forum on Implementing Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement](#).

Participating countries were Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia and South Sudan. The Forum provided a platform for peer-to-peer exchange on the domestication and implementation of the Kampala Convention, showcasing successes, challenges, and innovative practices across the continent.

One year later, this follow-up meeting on 18 September 2025 reconnected eleven participating governments to share progress and reflect on challenges encountered on law and policy on internal displacement since the Dakar event. The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs moderated the event and UNHCR, Norway and Switzerland provided opening remarks. This note summarizes the discussion.

### Country Updates on IDP Law and Policy Progress

Representatives from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Chad, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Burundi, DRC, Somalia, South Sudan, and Mali provided detailed updates on their legislative and policy advancements, challenges, and ongoing initiatives related to the domestication and implementation of the Kampala Convention and national IDP frameworks.

- **Burundi's Ratification Process:** Burundi's Kampala Convention ratification was approved by the Council of Ministers and is awaiting parliamentary action. This has been delayed by the electoral period. The delegation who attended the 2024 Cross-Regional Forum in Dakar presented the Forum report to the Prime Minister. Subsequently, the Ministry of National Solidarity was contacted, which was to ratify the Kampala Convention. In February 2025, the ratification approval was transmitted to parliament, where the process will continue to advance.
- **Cameroon's National Durable Solutions Strategy Development:** Cameroon has adopted a two-phase approach to address internal displacement and establish conditions for durable solutions for IDPs. The first phase involved a strategic framework with twelve priority guidelines aligned with national macroeconomic strategy. The second phase is focusing on developing a national durable solutions strategy based on updated data from three priority regions. This process is supported by international

partners including IOM, UNHCR, OCHA, and UNDP, and overseen by the National Committee on Migratory Flows within the Prime Minister's office. In December 2024, Cameroon adopted the Law 2024/015 governing civil protection in Cameroon, which incorporates some aspects of provisions in the Kampala Convention, including coordination of humanitarian interventions.

- **Chad's Legal Framework and Humanitarian Response:** In 2023, Chad adopted a national law on IDP protection, assistance and rights. UNHCR is the lead partner supporting the government in implementing this law. In the context of ongoing humanitarian pressures, particularly those stemming from regional crises such as Boko Haram-related violence—which has displaced over 300,000 people—Chad is developing a national strategy for durable solutions. Participants from Chad extended an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs to visit the country and support efforts to operationalize the new law and strategy.
- **DRC's Legislative and Operational Efforts:** The DRC has accelerated efforts to adopt legislation on IDP protection and assistance as well as allocate resources for displaced populations. Key developments include the signing of interministerial decree No.008 CAB.MIN/AFF.SOC.A.H.S.N/2024 on the management of internal displacement in the DRC, the organization of high-level meetings to revive the adoption of the IDP law by the government's law commission, and the implementation of Law No. 22/065 on protection of and reparations to victims of conflict-related sexual violence and crimes against peace and security. However, the reorientation of priorities due to the deterioration of the security situation in the provinces of North and South Kivu and Ituri is hindering progress.
- **Ethiopia's Legislative Progress:** Ethiopia finalized its draft IDP law, developed in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Peace, and submitted it to the Council of Ministers for approval. The National Council enacted a directive for coordinated implementation of national laws in 2025, including efforts on prevention, root cause analysis, and durable solutions. Proclamations No. 1178/2020 and No. 1187/2020 provide the legal foundation for IDP protection and assign the Ministry of Peace as the lead coordinating body.
- **Mozambique's Multi-Sectoral Action Plan:** Mozambique launched a multi-sectoral Action Plan in April 2025, aimed at operationalizing its national IDP policy and strategy. Coordinated by the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD), implementation of the plan is overseen by a multi-sectoral working group. This initiative follows a 2023 workshop co-hosted by the government and UNHCR on the domestication of the Kampala Convention, which recommended a comprehensive review of Mozambique's legal and policy framework to align with international standards. The existence of both the policy and action plan has provided a valuable entry point for discussion and integrating IDPs into national data systems.
- **Niger's Legislative and Policy Developments:** Niger domesticated the Kampala Convention through a 2018 law and established a National Coordination Committee under the Ministry of National Solidarity to oversee IDP protection and assistance. A draft decree to operationalize a national fund for IDP protection and assistance is being validated before submission to the government for adoption, alongside a draft law on risk management (Law No. 2022-61). The government is also preparing a report on their

implementation of the Kampala Convention and advancing a national strategy for durable solutions, while assistance to IDPs in four humanitarian regions is ongoing.

- **Nigeria's Legislative and State-Level Advances:** After extensive deliberations in 2023, Nigeria's IDP bill was passed by both chambers of the National Assembly in July 2025 and is now awaiting presidential assent. Ongoing advocacy efforts are targeting the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General to ensure that the necessary advice is provided to the President. Benue state launched its IDP action plan in January 2025 and the state government endorsed its IDP Policy in September 2025.
- **Somalia's Legislation Under Approval:** The Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons Act was passed in 2025 by the Federal Parliament and is now pending upper house approval anticipated in October 2025. This law would establish a comprehensive legal framework and coordination mechanisms with budgetary provisions.
- **South Sudan's Durable Solutions Rollout:** South Sudan is advancing its bill on internal displacement and is implementing the Durable Solutions for Action initiative across 10 states, with support from UNHCR, IOM, and UNDP. Thus far, it has repatriated and provided shelter to over 389,000 returnees, IDPs and refugees, aiming to provide opportunities through housing with international assistance. The government is seeking further support from UNHCR to help table the bill in parliament. A nationwide survey is underway to ensure comprehensive data collection for policy making.
- **Mali's Legislative and Operational Achievements:** Mali's law on internal displacement is pending final validation and adoption, while the National Strategy on Durable Solutions is under implementation after being signed by the Minister of Health and Social Development in March 2025. A national coordination structure oversees management of IDP sites and biometric registration. Mali's 'Villages of Hope' are urban extensions designed specifically for IDPs with infrastructure and services. These establish the conditions for durable solutions and enable urban planners to reimagine and expand city layouts in inclusive ways.

### Challenges and Solutions in IDP Policy Implementation

Participants from multiple countries, including Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, DRC, and South Sudan, discussed common challenges such as funding shortages, coordination difficulties, legislative bottlenecks, and security issues, and shared strategies to address these obstacles, including advocacy, interministerial coordination, and international support.

- **Funding Constraints:** Mozambique, Ethiopia, Niger, South Sudan highlighted significant funding gaps as a major barrier to implementing action plans and durable solutions, with appeals for increased international and multilateral development bank support.
- **Coordination Mechanisms:** Ethiopia and Nigeria described the establishment of national councils, interministerial committees, and steering groups to streamline policy implementation and legislative processes, aiming to overcome bureaucratic delays.
- **Security and Access Issues:** DRC and Chad reported that ongoing conflict and insecurity in certain regions hinder government intervention and the delivery of assistance to IDPs, requiring continued humanitarian engagement and advocacy.

- **Advocacy and Awareness:** Nigeria and other countries emphasized the need for high-level advocacy to expedite legislative approval, raise awareness among policymakers, and mobilize resources for effective policy implementation.

### **International Support and Peer Exchange**

The UN Special Rapporteur, UNHCR's Director of the Division of International Protection and representatives of Norway and Switzerland emphasized the importance of government leadership, international collaboration, ongoing dialogue and multilateral cooperation. Acknowledging the current global funding crisis, they highlighted the need for sustainable approaches, and the importance of locally anchored, inclusive strategies that involve displaced persons in decision-making. They reiterated their commitment to supporting national efforts, facilitating peer learning, and providing technical and financial assistance.

### **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

UNHCR and the Special Rapporteur concluded the meeting by recognizing the significant progress made across countries with a diversity of approaches, reiterating the importance of continued collaboration, and encouraging participants to maintain momentum to advance the rights and solutions for IDPs. The Special Rapporteur encouraged participants to continue working as a network, offering support for advocacy and technical needs, and emphasized the ongoing nature of the dialogue and the collective responsibility to advance IDP rights.

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