

Statement of the Undersigned NGO Participants in the Regional Workshop on Internal Displacement in the South Caucasus

Tbilisi, Georgia, May 10-12, 2000

Drawing on the discussions during the workshop that have vividly demonstrated the wide scale and scope of the problems of internal displacement in our region;

Acknowledging that the problems of displaced populations in the South Caucasus increasingly have to deal with citizenship rights and seeing the problems of IDPs within the general context of vulnerability;

Also acknowledging that these issues are civil in nature, necessitating the increased involvement of civil society institutions alongside the governments of the respective countries;

Noting that international efforts have to be supported locally to be efficient and to have impact on local IDP communities;

Seeing the need to ensure further promotion and monitoring of the Guiding Principles in the region in local languages and with explicit reference to local needs;

On behalf of the undersigned NGOs participating in this workshop, we would like to approach the organizers—OSCE/ODIHR, the Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement and the Norwegian Refugee Council, the distinguished guests at the meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Dr. Francis M. Deng, and invited international organizations with a proposal to:

1. Develop a common framework for local and international agencies and organizations for advocating the "Guiding Principles" in our region;
2. Initiate a process of regional consultations among civil and government experts on IDP-related issues;
3. Create in cooperation with local NGOs country-level mechanisms for civil monitoring of the IDP situation, based on the "Guiding Principles;"
4. Support government-NGO consultations in the respective countries with the participation of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss the monitoring results and engage in a policy dialogue;
5. Guarantee the leading role of national civil society institutions assisted by international NGOs in disseminating the Guiding Principles in IDP communities and in the society at large through education, training and monitoring, and assist

in making available the materials needed for this purpose in local languages and in a format most suited to the needs of the target groups.

We express our readiness to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in preparation and implementation of these proposals.

Signed,

Jaba Devdariani, United Nations Association of Georgia

Ketevan Dadunashvieri, Humanitarian Society "Domus Mobilis," Georgia

Nino Elizbarashvili, Association of Women in Business, Georgia

Irakli Gogishvili, Charity Humanitarian Centre "Abkhazeti," Georgia

Julia Kharashvili, Association of IDP Women, Georgia

George Khutishvili, International Centre on Conflict and Negotiation, Georgia

Levon Nersisyan, Sakharov Fund, Armenia

Gevorg Pogosian, Armenian Sociological Association, Armenia

Nodar Sarjveladze, Foundation for the Development of Human Resources, Georgia