

AGENDA

Regional Seminar on Internal Displacement in the Americas

*Mexico City, Mexico
February 18-20, 2004*

Hosted by the Government of Mexico and co-sponsored by the Office of the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons and The Brookings Institution-Johns Hopkins SAIS Project on Internal Displacement.

Wednesday, February 18

8:30 AM REGISTRATION

9:00 AM WELCOMING STATEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION

Thierry Lemaesquier, Resident Representative/Resident Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mexico

Francis Deng, Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons and Co-Director, The Brookings Institution-Johns Hopkins SAIS Project on Internal Displacement

Luis Ernesto Derbez Bautista, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Government of Mexico

9:25 AM Break

9:30 AM INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW

The number of internally displaced persons worldwide has grown dramatically over the last decade, to a current estimate of 25 million persons. An estimated 3 million internally displaced persons can be found in the Americas region. In 1992, at the request of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary-General appointed a Representative on Internally Displaced Persons. The Representative has undertaken two official visits to Colombia and has also visited El Salvador, Mexico and Peru. He has presented findings and recommendations to the UN Secretary-General, the UN Commission on Human Rights, the UN General Assembly and the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Dr. Deng will provide a global overview of internal displacement with a particular emphasis on the Americas.

Moderator: Merida Morales O'Donnell, Regional Representative, UNHCR
Presentation

Francis M. Deng, Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons

Discussion

10:15 AM **Coffee Break**

10:45 AM **INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN THE AMERICAS: THE CURRENT CHALLENGES**

This session seeks to identify the current trends in internal displacement in the region; the causes of displacement, how the numbers are calculated, the priority issues confronting the displaced and when displacement can be said to end.

Moderator: *Guillermo Bettocchi, Senior IDP Advisor, OCHA IDP Unit*

Presentations

Greta Zeender, Senior Information Officer and Trainer, Global IDP Project, Norwegian Refugee Council

Jorge Rojas, President, Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement (CODHES)

Reynaldo German Martinez Velasco, Colegio de la Frontera Sur

Rosa Lia Chauca, National Coordinator, Mesa sobre Desplazamiento y Afectados por Violencia Politica (MENADES)

Discussion

12:30 PM **Luncheon**

2:00 PM **THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT: THEIR APPLICATION IN THE AMERICAS**

In 1998, the first international standards for internally displaced persons, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, were presented to the UN Commission on Human Rights. The Principles have been widely promoted in the Americas. The first part of this session reviews how the Principles are being applied worldwide. The second part of the session will focus on specific efforts to implement the Guiding Principles in the Americas.

Moderator: *Robert Goldman, Professor of Law, Washington College of Law of American University, and former Chair, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OAS*

Presentations

Roberta Cohen, Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution and Co-Director, The Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement

Catherine Bouley, Colombian Commission of Jurists

Juan Gonzalez Esponda, Comisionado para la Paz y Reconciliacion de los Pueblos Indigenas, Gobierno de Chiapas

Discussion

3:00 PM PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE DISPLACED: THE PARTICULAR CONCERNS OF ETHNIC GROUPS

Internally displaced persons often do not receive adequate material assistance and often suffer from serious protection problems. Indigenous persons and those of African descent in particular suffer from discrimination and loss of livelihood and are especially vulnerable to human rights abuse. This session will seek to identify practical solutions to the assistance and security concerns of the displaced, in particular those belonging to minority ethnic groups.

Moderator: *Jorge Rojas, President, Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement (CODHES)*

Presentations

Xochitl Galvez, Comisionada Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indigenas

Rodolfo Stavenhagen, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People

Marino Cordoba, Founder and Director of International Affairs, Association for Internally Displaced Afro-Colombians (AFRODES)

Discussion

3:45 PM Coffee Break

4:15 PM EMPOWERING IDP WOMEN

Women face additional protection and assistance challenges when they become internally displaced. IDP women often become the sole heads of household and serve as the main breadwinners for their families. This session will address their particular concerns, among these, gender based violence, lack of documentation and discrimination when seeking assistance and employment. It will seek to identify the most effective strategies for integrating their specific concerns into IDP policies and programs.

Moderator: *Patricia Luna Paredes, Director, Program for Internally Displaced Persons, Social Solidarity Network, Government of Colombia*

Presentations

Rosa Lia Chauca, National Coordinator, Mesa sobre Desplazamiento y Afectados por Violencia Política (MENADES)

Paloma Bonfil, National Commission for Development of Indigenous Communities

Pilar Rueda, Gender Specialist, Colombia

Discussion

5:30 PM OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Also in need of special consideration are children and older internally displaced persons. This session seeks to identify their particular concerns, the extent to which these are being addressed and further steps needed to improve their situation.

Moderator: *Nils Kastberg, Regional Director, UNICEF (Panama)*

Presentations

Jorge Rojas, President, Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement (CODHES)

Diana Avila, Executive Director, Project Counselling Service, Peru

Discussion

6:30 PM Close of Session

7:30 PM Buffet Dinner- Hotel Fiesta Americana (Salon Stelaris, 25th Floor)

Thursday, February 19

9:00 AM DURABLE SOLUTIONS: RETURN, RESETTLEMENT AND REINTEGRATION

Finding durable solutions, the ultimate goal for internally displaced persons, may be achieved when internally displaced persons are able to resume stable, secure lives by returning to their places of origin or resettling in another location in their country. This session will focus on conditions for safe and voluntary return, including the protection of returnees and questions of property restitution and compensation, and will look at alternatives to return.

Moderator: *Juan Gonzalez Esponda, Comisionado para la Paz y Reconciliacion de los Pueblos Indigenas, Gobierno de Chiapas*

Presentations

Fernando Masaya, Coordinator for Peace and Multiculturalism, UNDP, Guatemala

Isabel Corral, Representative, Programa Nacional de Apoyo a La Repoblacion (PAR), Government of Peru

Mario Torres Torres, IDP Leader from Chiapas, Mexico

Elana Correa, Senior Social Scientist, The World Bank

Discussion

10:30 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM RESPONSE BY NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Since the protection and assistance needs of the internally displaced rests first and foremost with the national and local authorities, this session aims to identify the means through which national and local governments in the Americas respond to situations of internal displacement. It will examine the policies, laws and institutions developed at the national level to address the needs of the displaced and further steps that might be taken.

Moderator: *Victor Montejo, Secretario de la Paz, Oficina de la Presidencia, Guatemala*

Presentations

Patricia Luna Paredes, Director, Program for Internally Displaced Persons, Social Solidarity Network, Government of Colombia

Representative Emilio Zebadúa, Coordinador del Área de Política Interna y Reforma del Estado del Grupo Parlamentario del Partido de la Revolución Democrática en la Cámara de Diputados, Mexico

Ezequiel Zuniga Galeana, Coordinador de Enlace con Organizaciones Sociales, Guerrero, Mexico

Congressman Walter Alejos Calderon, Peru

Discussion

12:30 PM Luncheon

2:00 PM ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

National human rights institutions have begun to address internal displacement in the Americas. This session will take a look at the role that National Human Rights Institutions are playing with regard to internally displaced persons and will also examine what further steps they can take to integrate displacement and the Guiding Principles into their work.

Moderator: *Congressman Walter Alejos Calderon, Peru*

Presentations

Maria Camila Moreno Munera, Coordinadora, Atencion al Desplazado Forzado, Defensoria del Pueblo, Colombia

Eliana Revollar, Programa de Proteccion de Afectados por Violencia, Defensoria del Pueblo, Peru

Discussion

3:00 PM Coffee Break

3:30 PM RESPONSE BY REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DONORS

The Organization of American States (OAS) was the first regional organization to create a position exclusively devoted to the problem of internal displacement. In 1996, its Inter-American Commission on Human Rights appointed a special rapporteur for internally displaced persons. The first part of this session will examine the efforts made by the Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to address the situation of internal displacement and identify further steps that might be taken.

The second part of this session examines the roles of international organizations and donors in reinforcing national and local efforts to assist internally displaced persons. Particular attention will be paid to the protection of the internally displaced and further steps to be taken to strengthen these efforts.

Moderator: *Alfredo Witschi-Cestari, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme, Colombia*

Presentation

Robert Goldman, former Chair, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and former Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced Persons, OAS

Discussion I

Presentations

Guillermo Bettocchi, Senior IDP Advisor, OCHA IDP Unit

Francisco Galindo, Representative, UNHCR, Colombia

Ariane Tombet Caushaj, Deputy Director, International Committee of the Red Cross, Mexico

Discussion II

5:00 PM **Break**

5:15 PM **RESPONSE BY CIVIL SOCIETY, LOCAL
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
AND IDP ASSOCIATIONS**

In the Americas, local NGOs and civil society are active on behalf of the internally displaced and the internally displaced have also organized themselves. This session examines the roles of local NGOs and IDP associations and their collaboration with national and local authorities and the international community.

Moderator: *Merardo Herrera, Advicora (IDP Association), Colombia*

Presentations

Juan Manuel Bustillo, Coordinator, Program to Support IDP Organizations, MENCOLDES

Ana Isabel Suasnabar Huaroc, Coordinadora, Desplazados y Comunidades en Construcción (CONDECOREP), Peru

Demetrio Elegio Us Alvarez, Secretary, National Council for the Displaced in Guatemala (CONDEG)

Marcos Arana, Red de Defensoria del Derecho a la Salud, Mexico

Discussion

6:30 PM **Close of Session**

7:30 PM **Buffet Dinner- Hotel Fiesta Americana (Salon Stelaris, 25th
Floor)**

Friday, February 20

9:00 AM SAFE ACCESS TO THE DISPLACED AND PROTECTION OF THOSE WORKING ON THEIR BEHALF

Security concerns present a serious challenge to those who work on behalf of the displaced and frequently hamper their access to internally displaced persons. Leaders of displaced persons organizations, NGOs, academics and also governmental officials have been threatened, targeted and in some instances killed in trying to help internally displaced persons. In this session the security concerns will be discussed as well as government responsibility for providing security; strategies will be identified for ensuring that those who work on behalf of the displaced are properly protected from harm.

Moderator: *Anders Kompass, Director, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Mexico*

Presentations

Helen Mack, Myrna Mack Foundation and sister of anthropologist Myrna Mack, Guatemala

Catherine Bouley, Colombian Commission of Jurists

Patricia Luna Paredes, Director, Program for Internally Displaced Persons, Social Solidarity Network, Government of Colombia

Discussion

10:00 AM Coffee Break

10:30 AM PRESENTATION OF GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

This session will bring together the major conclusions and recommendations reached during the seminar on the protection, assistance, reintegration and development needs of internally displaced persons in the Americas and how these can best be met at the national, regional and international level.

Moderator: *Roberta Cohen, Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution and Co-Director, The Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement*

Report of the Rapporteurs presented by the Report Coordinator: Erin Mooney, Deputy Director, The Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement

Discussion

Concluding Remarks

Patricia Olamendi-Torres, Under-Secretary for Global Affairs, Government of Mexico

Francis Deng, Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons

12:00 PM CLOSURE OF MEETING AND LUNCH

7:30 PM Buffet Dinner- Hotel Fiesta Americana (Salon Jalisco, 3rd Floor)