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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 24 June 2024, at 10 a.m.

Co-Chair: Mr. Ladeb (Vice-President) (Tunisia)
Co-Chair: Mr. Šimonović (Vice-President) (Croatia)

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In the absence of Ms. Narváez Ojeda (Chile), Mr. Ladeb (Tunisia), Vice-President, and Mr. Šimonović (Croatia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (continued)

(e) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (continued) (E/2024/7)

(f) African countries emerging from conflict

(g) Sustainable development in the Sahel

1. **Mr. Ladeb** (Co-Chair) said that the meeting was being held under the overarching theme “Transition from relief to development: transformative actions to build resilience, promote sustainable solutions and address challenges and gaps for the most vulnerable in crisis contexts”.

2. The world was facing unprecedented levels of internal displacement, which had doubled in the last 10 years and was largely the result of conflict and climate change. As displacement was increasingly protracted, solutions would be required to assist those people in need and help them to transition from relief to development.

3. Exactly two years earlier, the Secretary-General had launched his Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, which built on the report of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and had three overarching goals: to help internally displaced persons find a solution to their displacement; to better prevent future displacement crises from emerging; and to ensure that those currently facing displacement received effective protection and assistance. Achieving those goals would not be easy and would require increased efforts from across the United Nations system, in close collaboration with Member States, civil society and other actors. For the United Nations system, the Action Agenda set out a series of commitments, all of which were closely tied to Our Common Agenda and to the Secretary-General’s call to action for human rights.

4. Such efforts must be taken forward to help to address the root causes of displacement and to support the countries and peoples facing recurring disasters and protracted conflicts with a view to moving away from relief towards sustainable, resilient and climate-smart development. While humanitarian interventions were inevitable to save lives in the short term, the overarching goal should be to lay a firm foundation for sustainable development.

5. Partners present at the current meeting, including United Nations agencies, development and humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations, could help to make that vision a reality. The present discussion would look at actions to advance and enhance closer collaboration and complementarity across humanitarian, development and peace efforts in order to make a real difference in peoples’ lives and livelihoods, and to make progress towards sustainable development. The Council’s deliberations would also showcase examples of joint action by development, peacebuilding and humanitarian actors with the shared aim of reducing need, vulnerability and risk. Coordination between Governments, local communities and humanitarian, development and other stakeholders would be critical to success. Business as usual could not continue without the risk of leaving millions of people behind in protected crises and acute suffering.

6. **Mr. Šimonović** (Co-Chair) said that the meeting was an opportunity not only to identify how to work together to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to those most in need, but also look at medium- and long-term solutions including through innovation and partnerships. It was particularly concerning that the meeting was taking place against the backdrop of an increase in the intensity, complexity and duration of humanitarian crises.

7. Protracted crises, fuelled especially by armed conflict, violence, the climate crisis and inequality, continued to rob too many people of their lives and dignity. Too many countries had had their progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals erased by conflicts. Millions had been pushed into extreme poverty and unimaginable suffering. Therefore, efforts to promote resilience and sustainable solutions must be redoubled.

8. Internally displaced persons presented a challenge both for Governments and for the social fabric of a society. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, there had been 75.9 million internally displaced persons at the end of 2023, an unfortunate new record.

9. The present discussion would help to explain how displacement could be both a cause and an effect of conflicts, which compounded and exacerbated risks and vulnerability. It was necessary to explore ways to prevent such displacement and develop durable solutions that benefited displaced people, their communities and their countries. To do so meant focusing on how to adapt humanitarian, development and peace efforts to better address challenges. Actions and investments that helped to promote better

prevention, sustainable solutions and early recovery should also be considered. Moreover, more must be done to increase resilience, including through proactive measures to reduce human loss and diminish social tensions as much as possible. It was only through such actions that sustainable development could be advanced and development gains preserved in the countries and communities affected by humanitarian crises, which were too often those left the furthest behind.

10. **Mr. Rattray** (Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General), delivering the keynote address, said that every human being, irrespective of their circumstances, should be able to live with dignity and security. However, conflict, climate change, economic shocks and human rights abuses were pushing tens of millions of people further away from the achievement of the Social Development Goals and the attainment of social progress, better living standards and the human rights enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Forced displacement was one of the gravest threats to sustainable development and a phenomenon that too often stretched the humanitarian system beyond its limits.

11. The number of persons displaced within their own countries by conflicts, violence and disasters was currently higher than it had ever been. Internally displaced persons, the majority of whom were women and children, were left without assets, cut off from their social networks and livelihoods and struggled to access secure housing and basic services. Millions remained trapped in displacement for years, some even for decades. They faced high levels of food insecurity and experienced social exclusion and discrimination. Globally, one child in five had either lived in or fled a conflict zone. In such situations, millions of children lost access to education and the protective environments of schools for prolonged periods of time. Millions of women and children also lost access to health care and suffered from increased risks from diseases.

12. Displacement exposed people, particularly the most vulnerable, to extreme protection risks, including sexual violence and exploitation, which often forced them to rely on harmful coping mechanisms. Displacement could also have a severe impact on local communities, straining local services and accelerating unplanned urbanization. Although internally displaced persons had been identified in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as one of the groups most at risk of being left behind, their issues were often insufficiently considered in the formulation and implementation of national and local development plans as well as in development financing efforts. Moreover, financing to address the root causes and the impact of

displacement often arrived too late. When financing did arrive, it was typically insufficient, unpredictable and inaccurately targeted.

13. In view of those challenges, in 2022 the Secretary-General had launched his Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, which set out the commitment of the United Nations to work in close partnership with a broad range of stakeholders to prevent new displacement crises, improve protection and assistance for internally displaced persons and help them to find durable solutions. For the past two years Governments, United Nations agencies and partners had worked together to advance government-led development solutions and to attract greater levels of investment. Such efforts would help to lay the groundwork for the application of solutions from the very start of a displacement crisis, thereby facilitating the transition from relief to development.

14. The present meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of the situation and discuss critical areas that would require collective attention moving forward. Key elements in that regard included addressing the root causes of internal displacement, advancing solutions through government-led solutions and strengthening the prevention, protection and humanitarian response for those whose lives had been uprooted. Adopting such an approach would go a long way towards contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the fulfilment of its promise to leave no one behind.

Panel discussion: "Durable solutions for internal displacement"

15. **Ms. Tobón Yagarí** (Director, Victims' Unit of Colombia), panellist, speaking via video link, said that her Victims' Unit was working tirelessly in Colombia to develop and implement public policies that guaranteed the rights of victims, including through the promotion of institutional measures to address the rights of victims in a comprehensive manner and through the work of the constitutional court. The Government of Colombia was also searching for durable solutions to issues of forced displacement through its national development plan, given that 80 per cent of the displaced population lived in poverty. In that context, durable solutions for internal displacement were a welcome intervention strategy that sought to enable victims of forced displacement to integrate, return or relocate in a sustainable manner.

16. **Mr. Popowski** (Director-General, Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission), panellist, said that internal displacement was a humanitarian and development challenge that posed a

threat to peace and stability. Displacement had a huge impact on both individuals and communities. When people were displaced in situations of heightened risk and vulnerability, they needed protection as well as access to basic social services. A more holistic approach was therefore necessary in which the humanitarian-development-security nexus came into play. For that reason, the European Commission continued to support the work of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and wished to advance the goals of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.

17. While the European Union was a leading donor in situations of forced displacement, including internal displacement, the majority of its humanitarian budget was still focused on traditional sectors, such as shelter, protection, food, education and health care. There was thus a need for better complementarity with the work of development and peace actors. The common challenge for all was to make the nexus approach systemic at the United Nations level and beyond.

18. **Mr. Piper** (Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement), panellist, said that a much more coherent approach was needed to manage the challenge of internal displacement effectively. However, two years into the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, significant progress had been made in the way in which the world was responding to the displacement challenge.

19. The most important progress made unquestionably involved government ownership and leadership on solutions for internally displaced persons. Political leadership had begun to emerge: a dozen Governments had developed a new generation of national solutions strategies that directly addressed how to move internally displaced persons out of displacement, harnessing the development assets of the State. For example, the Governments of Nigeria, Iraq, Somalia, Colombia, Ethiopia and Libya had committed to place over 8.5 million internally displaced people and recent returnees onto solutions pathways over the coming three to four years and the 10 million target was within reach. Those Governments had also made financial commitments. The most significant progress on the Action Agenda had therefore been delivered by Governments themselves.

20. Beyond critical humanitarian assistance, the Action Agenda committed the United Nations to enlist the development and peacebuilding assets of the United Nations. Important progress in that regard included the establishment of a new Internal Displacement Solutions Fund, which would provide flexible financing for

United Nations country teams to build government capacities at the national and local levels, strengthen data and test new approaches. With initial funding from Switzerland, Norway and Germany, the Fund had already disbursed \$15 million to 10 countries and the results were now visible. With support from Norway, the European Union, France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, a new Solutions Advisors Facility was placing solutions advisors in the offices of resident coordinators to support them in their new leadership roles.

21. Nevertheless, more progress would clearly still be needed not only in the quest to prevent new displacements but also in addressing outstanding governance challenges. For example, the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement had been clear that an approach anchored almost exclusively in humanitarian and human rights sectors was too narrow. While resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators, as the heads of United Nations country teams, could try to pull all the moving parts together to some extent, the task was much harder if Member States were rowing in a different direction at the global level. The Secretary-General had therefore proposed, in his Action Agenda, that a forum be established for ongoing dialogue on internal displacement at the regional and global levels, where Governments could share their successes and challenges and articulate their needs and expectations, and where the United Nations system and international financial institutions could collectively report on progress and setbacks. The Group of Friends of the Platform on Disaster Displacement could become the nucleus of a future such forum, but to date progress in establishing the forum had been elusive.

22. Lastly, the most important remaining challenge was related to financing. Better investments in areas such as livelihoods, education and documentation would bring forward solutions earlier and easier. To get to scale, however, it would be necessary to find a way of raising additional grant development finance. Spending 10 per cent of the equivalent of humanitarian spending on development finance for solutions would be a good target.

23. **Mr. Rajasingham** (Director, Coordination Division, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), panellist, said that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) had commissioned an independent review to assess the humanitarian response to internal displacement and had offered recommendations on how that response could be made more effective, including with respect to laying the groundwork for durable solutions. The review, which had been finalized in March 2024, highlighted the need to do more and better,

and found that the United Nations should be faster, less disjointed and more sensitive to the priorities and specific needs of internally displaced persons. It should also do more to help internally displaced persons on their pathway back towards self-sufficiency rather than fuelling dependency on humanitarian assistance.

24. Some of the shortcomings identified in the review reflected flaws in humanitarian responses, in particular the tendency to be too supply driven rather than prioritizing the actual needs of affected populations. To address wider shortcomings in humanitarian responses, two reform efforts had been launched in 2023: under the first, four countries – the Niger, the Philippines, South Sudan and Colombia – were experimenting with new coordination and response models that were rooted in community engagement and oriented towards the priorities of affected populations; the second was an effort to lighten and simplify burdensome processes associated with the humanitarian programme cycle. Building on those initiatives, the IASC review offered an important opportunity to improve the lives of displaced people.

25. Following up on its review, IASC had agreed to pursue five objectives: (a) to build in more systematic attention by the IASC system to displacement situations; (b) to take systematic steps to place internally displaced persons, alongside other affected populations, firmly at the centre of the design and implementation of humanitarian responses; (c) to pursue durable solutions to displacement from the early stages of humanitarian responses, including by prioritizing interventions that contributed to the self-sufficiency of internally displaced persons and laid the groundwork for development-led solutions, such as multipurpose cash programming or access to civil documentation; (d) to ensure that humanitarian responses were more sensitive to the specific needs of internally displaced persons, not least when it came to the protection risks to which they were particularly vulnerable; and (e) to strengthen the leadership, authority and capacity of resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators in order to address issues related to internally displaced persons.

26. IASC was in the process of finalizing a management response to the review, with a wide range of concrete action points to realize the objectives. However, as with wider humanitarian issues, IASC agreed that the humanitarian community could only be one part of the solution. An effective and sustainable response needed the Governments of affected countries to own the drive for solutions; development actors to be less risk averse and to step in earlier; and donors to adopt reforms that facilitated collaboration between humanitarian and development actors, rather than

creating incentives that drove them apart. The international community owed it to the more than 75 million internally displaced persons around the world to turn the findings of the IASC review into action.

27. **Ms. Bechdol** (Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), panellist, speaking via video link, said that she wished to share some priority actions that could create real change. First, a greater commitment was needed by all to improve coordination across the United Nations system. It was time to dispense with the old competitive models. Operational partners, financial institutions and national Governments must work together to deliver better results for internally displaced persons. Second, agriculture was the bridge in the traditional humanitarian and development response as the entry point that connected short-term foundational actions to longer term development solutions. While humanitarian agencies met the immediate needs of many internally displaced persons, to break the cycle of dependency internally displaced persons would need opportunities to rebuild their livelihoods and move towards self-reliance as early as possible, including in protracted situations.

28. It was striking that many internally displaced persons were in fact farmers themselves, but they could not afford to feed themselves or their families. Rather than providing internally displaced persons with traditional humanitarian aid, it was often more cost-effective to provide them with high-quality localized seed, animal vaccines and animal feed, and fishing equipment. The same principle held true even in the world's largest internal displacement crisis in the Sudan, especially during the planting season.

29. Internally displaced persons wanted longer-term solutions that allowed them to rebuild dignified lives. Doing so would entail investing in community resilience efforts that contributed to bridging the gap between basic needs and broader development plans.

30. **Ms. Daniels** (Deputy Director-General for Operations, International Organization for Migration (IOM)), panellist, said that the record rise in the number of internally displaced persons had been accompanied by a series of global reform efforts, frameworks and standard-setting initiatives, resulting in the significant insight that the displacement crisis could not be sustainably resolved through humanitarian assistance alone.

31. The broad range of services and assistance needed to achieve durable solutions had also been highlighted in a recent IOM report, which had found that internally displaced persons with adequate shelter or housing were

twice as likely to have a stable income, and that those displaced by drought were twenty times less likely to return home. The report had made clear that safe and lasting solutions required broad collaboration with local stakeholders. Any approach must therefore place the populations impacted by displacement at the centre of efforts.

32. However, despite the growing consensus on the correct approach, its principles had not yet been sufficiently translated into practice. Unfortunately, the humanitarian sector-driven approach often failed to capture and respond effectively to how people expressed their needs and goals. New models were needed that, *inter alia*: prioritized localization, agency and integrated responses across sectors; placed affected populations at the centre of the response; emphasized the connection between local and broader strategies; and built consensus across the humanitarian-development divide.

33. IOM community-based planning was an example of a methodology that emphasized community involvement in planning and decision-making processes. That methodology had proven to be effective in coordinating activities and localizing responses, and in integrating humanitarian, recovery and development activities in a community-centred approach. For example, significant progress had been made in South Sudan, Iraq, Somalia, Ethiopia and Ukraine, where community-based planning had successfully brought together diverse sectors. By enabling communities to make their own decisions, self-organize and advocate for their needs, community-based planning addressed issues holistically rather than in isolated sectors.

34. Three key points learned from the community-based planning approach could help to enhance responses and increase impacts. First, investments were needed in creating and nurturing long-term networks within communities. That involved addressing deep-seated mistrust and ensuring that engagement was consistent and reliable, not just when a crisis was at the forefront of the international agenda. Trust-building required long-term commitment and continuous dialogue. Second, assistance that was structured around area-based, community-driven plans that were holistic and not strictly sector-based could capture communities' unfiltered priorities. Third, it was necessary to rethink the traditional parameters of the State system and acknowledge that operations often took place in communities where geographical distance from national capitals was compounded by ethnic, religious, economic and political differences. In such scenarios, alternative approaches such as partnering with local actors, authorities at the smallest administrative units, grass-roots groups and community members became essential.

Those localized efforts were vital for rebuilding the social contract with displaced communities.

35. **Ms. Betancur** (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons), panellist, said that she wished to put forward three recommendations that could help to further establish the conditions for durable solutions to internal displacement.

36. First, addressing the root causes of displacement contributed to the achievement of durable solutions and the prevention of new or further displacement. Doing so would require a multi-faceted approach in which the State played a key role, as it was the primary responsibility of national authorities to protect internally displaced persons as citizens. In general, more work was needed on conflict prevention and on building and sustaining peace and reducing violence.

37. Second, durable solutions to internal displacement should include restoring the rights of internally displaced persons. However, access to rights needed to be monitored and accountability guaranteed. When consulted effectively, internally displaced persons could help to improve and refine laws, policy frameworks and operational programming.

38. Third, it was important to bear in mind that internally displaced persons and displacement-affected communities could accrue other benefits through participation, such as greater community trust, reduced intra-community tensions and ownership over processes and results.

39. Fourth, a multi-stakeholder forum on internal displacement could be established to further dialogue and cooperation on implementing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Such a forum should be open to States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental and regional organizations, national human rights institutions, academics and experts on internal displacement, non-governmental organizations and internally displaced persons.

40. In conclusion, concrete action was needed to translate the Sustainable Development Goal commitment to not leave internally displaced persons behind into tangible outcomes. By prioritizing human rights and fostering collaboration, communities would not only survive but thrive amidst the challenges posed by conflict, violence, disasters, climate change and other drivers of displacement.

41. **Mr. Mazou** (Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)), panellist, said that over the past two years tremendous achievements

had been made in ensuring that internal displacement was seen not only as a humanitarian issue but also as crisis that could and must be resolved through development approaches. Moving forward, it would be important to mobilize more development resources, strengthen coherent leadership, improve data collection and use, and increase the participation of internally displaced persons in the development of programmes for their benefit.

42. UNHCR had developed a 5-year plan which consisted of actions that were government-owned, protection-driven and led by the actions of internally displaced persons themselves for sustainable solutions. Important features of the plan included an integrated, multisectoral approach, which required strong coordination and collaboration, and the collection, analysis and use of comprehensive socioeconomic data to underpin joint work on solutions.

43. Internally displaced persons must be integrated into national and local development plans and funding from donors and development partners should be aligned with those plans. Collaboration with international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, bilateral donors and the private sector was also essential to advance the inclusion of internally displaced persons and accelerate durable solutions, and community participation and empowerment were at the heart of those solutions. Legal, policy and institutional reforms were often needed to ensure that the specific needs of internally displaced persons were adequately addressed by the competent authorities. Supporting authorities in developing and implementing adequate frameworks advanced the rights of internally displaced persons.

44. There was a collective need to build on what worked on the ground and to adapt and amplify local successes, led by local and national authorities and with the engagement of fully committed peace, development and humanitarian actors working in tandem with community actors. Success was not just measured in numbers but in sustainable solutions that addressed protection concerns and allowed former internally displaced persons to participate in all aspects of life on par with other citizens and build resilient futures. While some progress had been made in that regard, much remained to be done.

45. **Ms. Donli** (Director, Gender Equality, Peace and Development Centre, Nigeria), panellist, said that the crisis occasioned by the Boko Haram insurgency had led to the internal displacement of over 2.4 million people in Nigeria. In an initial attempt to find durable solutions, the governments of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States,

where there were still 2.1 million internally displaced persons, had unfortunately failed to incorporate the lessons learned from the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa and the national policy of the Government of Nigeria. For example, some internally displaced persons in the three States had been allowed to return to "garrison towns", with perimeters beyond which they were not allowed to travel. Such restrictions, combined with a lack of basic services and infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, had deprived them of any hope of living dignified lives. Many had therefore decided to leave those communities and return to non-official camps and host communities.

46. Following the failure of that policy, the governments of the three States had launched strategies more closely aligned with durable solutions. However, each strategy was projected to cost billions of dollars to implement and there would unfortunately therefore be a large shortfall in funding. On behalf of the Government of Nigeria, she called for multilateral, bilateral and other development partners to come forward to support the proposed strategies financially.

47. Lastly, national policymakers and financial decision-makers must incorporate the views of local communities in the formulation of policies and financial decisions, as the communities themselves had the expertise that could help to find solutions and because community involvement increased the legitimacy of any decisions taken. For that reason, the importance of community participation programmes could not be overemphasized.

48. **Ms. Noda** (Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Bureau, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), panellist, said that in transitioning from relief to development, the ultimate goal was to resume longer-term sustainable development. However, achieving that goal had been sadly lacking in policies that sought to address internal displacement. Internally displaced persons should be supported as displaced citizens, not merely as beneficiaries of aid. It was a breakdown of the social contract between States and citizens that left internally displaced persons behind. They often went years without basic social services, social protection or decent work and were unable to exercise their rights as equal citizens or as agents of progress within their communities. Durable and viable solutions would only be attained for internally displaced persons by treating them as citizens.

49. It was unsustainable to treat the displacement of persons as a humanitarian crisis when development was the only true solution. Accordingly, the root causes driving people to leave everything behind must be addressed and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus must be transformed from theory into practice. To that end, short-term humanitarian relief must be combined with long-term development and peace efforts. UNDP welcomed the calls for a resounding shift towards government-led and development-anchored solutions. Among other initiatives, UNDP was working with Governments, local authorities and other partners to develop durable solutions; it aimed to mainstream internal displacement responses into national and local development plans; and it was supporting Government in establishing integrated national financing frameworks.

50. UNDP called for a renewed focus on addressing internal displacement as a key development challenge, particularly in the context of accelerated actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and reach those left the furthest behind, including internally displaced persons.

51. **Mr. Widmer** (Observer for Switzerland) said the international community must combine humanitarian, development and peace instruments on the basis of a coherent. In so doing, it could move towards sustainable solutions that restored fundamental rights and avoid protracted situations of displacement where displaced populations remained dependent on humanitarian aid for years. However, potential solutions to internal displacement varied, depending on such factors as a person's age, gender or whether they had a disability, which also needed to be taken into account through specific measures. Preventing internal displacement and finding solutions was a long-term task that required the attention of all stakeholders, from the global to the local level.

52. **Mr. Løvold** (Observer for Norway) said that it was more important than ever to find durable solutions to the many situations of internal displacement around the world. National ownership and political leadership were key in that regard because Governments had the responsibility to protect their peoples, provide services and ensure inclusive development. However, as most situations of internal displacement took place in complex and challenging contexts, support from the international community remained necessary. Resident coordinators and United Nations country teams played a crucial role in facilitating that support in many countries. The United Nations must work as one through a joined-up response in partnership with other relevant actors.

53. While a humanitarian response to internal displacement might lay the groundwork for solutions, in the long run development actors must step up their efforts through accelerated and enhanced engagement. Finding solutions to protracted situations of internal displacement often required scaled up and long-term development support. Building resilient communities and infrastructure was the key to avoiding situations where people were forced to flee from their homes in the first place. More needed to be done in that respect.

54. There was a long way to go to reverse the growing number of persons displaced internally by conflict, human rights violations, natural disasters and climate change. In view of the scale of such challenges, Norway had contributed to the Internal Displacement Solution Fund.

55. The High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement had created a positive momentum, which must continue. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons also continued to play a crucial role. Across emergencies, several United Nations agencies were making an important operational effort in support of internally displaced persons. For positive results to be achieved, however, the United Nations must have an enhanced system-wide and integrated approach to internal displacement that included strengthened engagement from the development actors.

56. **Ms. Wong** (United States of America) said that her country remained committed to meeting the needs of internally displaced persons, from finding solutions to protracted displacement to preventing new displacement and improving assistance and protection for those who were newly or repeatedly displaced by conflicts or disasters. It was necessary to accelerate a more coherent approach in which humanitarian, development and peace actors worked together alongside national and local governments, multilateral development banks, the private sector and, first and foremost, internally displaced persons themselves. Such a comprehensive approach was a key element in implementing two important national policies – the Global Fragility Act and the United States Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability – and a necessary step for putting the voices of internally displaced persons and their self-identified needs at the centre of work in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

57. The United States Agency for International Development was working on transitioning from humanitarian aid to economic development in two

specific geographical areas with a high presence of internally displaced persons. Such internal reforms were important, but it was coherence among donors, governments and other partners across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus that would drive durable solutions forward.

58. The absence of durable solutions often left internally displaced persons reliant on humanitarian assistance, which alone was not the answer. Taking collective steps to bring together resources from across the humanitarian-development-peace spectrum could help to empower internally displaced persons to achieve solutions and to live with dignity and resilience. She asked the panellists how local communities and the private sector could be included in such efforts.

59. **Ms. O'Malley** (United Kingdom) said that in order to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and reach the most vulnerable, including internally displaced persons, humanitarian needs over time would need to fall rather than increase. That would require an urgent shift away from managing and reacting to crises towards anticipating and reducing their impact, and where possible preventing them altogether. Such a shift was thankfully already under way and the United Kingdom was making its own contribution in three main areas.

60. First, the United Kingdom was encouraging partnerships across humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and climate actors to increase the impact of investments and reduce the duplication of limited resources, including by supporting empowered United Nations resident coordinators. The Building Forward Better guidance, launched at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, set out the direction for programmes and investments that were linked, layered and sequenced to mutually reinforce each other and be informed by the drivers of conflict and climate risks.

61. Second, the United Kingdom was using its position as a donor and board member of international financial institutions and the Green Climate Fund to unlock access to climate finance, including in fragile and conflict-affected States with high levels of internally displaced persons. The recent announcement by the Green Climate Fund of an accelerated plan of investment for Somalia, anticipated at \$100 million in 2024, represented important progress and the same approach should be rolled out for other fragile and conflict-affected States soon.

62. Third, the United Kingdom was prioritizing collaboration with local actors and communities

affected by climate change, including internally displaced persons. The majority of climate adaption finance did not leave capital cities, which meant that it did not reach the most vulnerable. Climate financing sources needed to show greater flexibility to facilitate stronger local partnerships, particularly in contexts with high numbers of internally displaced persons. For example, in South Sudan, the United Kingdom was funding climate-resilient livelihood strategies to improve food security, reduce dependency on humanitarian aid and foster self-reliance among displaced persons. Such strategies were more effective when local communities and affected populations played a critical role and when Governments provided services. She would be interested to know more about upcoming opportunities to discuss strategies related to internally displaced persons, including how to deliver on the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.

63. **Mr. Sahraoui** (Observer for Algeria) said that while internal displacement remained one of the most pressing global challenges, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda offered a unique opportunity to address its root causes. However, the pledge not to leave behind internally displaced persons, as one of the most vulnerable groups, remained far from reality for many of them. In the context of sustainable development initiatives to help internally displaced persons, priority actions must include ensuring their access to basic services, creating economic opportunities for them and strengthening local governance.

64. A key strategy for Algeria was the systematic inclusion of internally displaced persons in development planning as a complement to humanitarian initiatives. That approach helped to ensure that internally displaced persons could actively participate in shaping their futures.

65. Moving forward, the international community must focus on strengthening coordination between humanitarian and development actors, enhancing national capacities for displacement responses and ensuring that solutions were driven by displaced communities themselves.

66. Lastly, three key lessons had emerged from initiatives to increase impacts across humanitarian and development efforts: (a) the importance of early and sustained engagement by development actors in displacement solutions; (b) the need for flexible multi-year funding that bridged the humanitarian-development divide; and (c) the critical role of data and evidence in informing policy and programming decisions.

67. **Mr. Popowski** (Director-General, Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission) said that complete dependence on humanitarian aid was not a sustainable solution to displacement. Governments and other actors, such as banks and the private sector, must do their part to help to create jobs, including by providing access to microcredit. A nexus approach was indispensable to the success of such durable solutions.

68. **Mr. Piper** (Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement), responding to the question from the representative of the United States of America on the inclusion of the private sector in durable solutions, said that many countries had enormous potential for private sector partnerships to develop their housing. He had therefore recently begun working with the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group to plan a dialogue with private sector partners on housing development. Market forces were also being leveraged by some countries in order to give people land that they could then sell to build houses or to donate land to internally displaced persons in exchange for investment in local communities. However, more could and should be done to encourage the participation of the private sector in such initiatives.

69. Responding to the question from the representative of the United Kingdom on upcoming opportunities to discuss internal displacement strategies, he said that the Peacebuilding Commission would be holding an event the following week in which internally displaced persons would be heavily involved thanks to leadership from the Economic and Social Council. The upcoming high-level political forum on sustainable development would also be holding a side event organized by UNDP on internal displacement. In addition, the 2024 annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund could provide an opportunity to reflect on how to finance solutions to internal displacement.

70. While it was still unclear whether internally displaced persons would be mentioned in the forthcoming declaration of the Summit of the Future, the importance of development actions for them could be expected to be included in the language of the next resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. He hoped that the resolution would also establish the forum proposed by the Secretary-General for ongoing dialogue on internal displacement at the regional and global levels.

71. **Mr. Rajasingham** (Director, Coordination Division, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian

Affairs) said that durable solutions must be community driven and local actors must be empowered to lead the implementation of responses through innovative partnerships with local authorities and local front-line responders. Resident coordinators played a key role in bringing together the humanitarian, development and peace actors needed to support Governments in finding solutions to the challenges identified by internally displaced persons local response.

72. **Ms. Betancur** (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons) said that the important progress made on developing innovative financing mechanisms for internally displaced persons must be sustained. Addressing the root causes of displacement was crucial to the success of durable solutions, as was listening to internally displaced persons and monitoring the enjoyment of their rights. To that end, more investment was needed to support non-governmental and other organization that worked with internally displaced persons to meet their needs.

73. **Ms. Bechdol** (Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), speaking via video link, said that everything possible must be done to prevent situations of internal displacement from arising in the first place, including through anticipatory actions strategies. In the context of unprecedented weather events, such strategies should be focused on early warning systems and improved risk analyses. Alongside those data driven efforts, it would also be important to work with Governments, national leaders, the private sector and local partners on pre-agreed action plans with pre-allocated financing. As more flexible and creative funding mechanisms would be required in that regard, she welcomed the efforts already under way to establish such mechanisms.

74. **Ms. Daniels** (Deputy Director-General for Operations, International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that there would be 216 million internally displaced persons by 2050, owing to the climate crisis. Data showed that climate impacts made it twenty times less likely for internally displaced persons to return to their homes. Climate adaptation plans could therefore play a very important role in preventing new and ending existing displacement.

75. She wished to mention three last points that had not yet been considered: the engagement of the diaspora was critically important for addressing displacement at the community level, particularly given that their remittances contributed towards funding the Sustainable Development Goals; local development efforts needed to be better connected to national development planning and investments; and cities and their mayors played a

critical role in addressing urban displacement because internally displaced persons typically moved to urban areas.

76. **Mr. Mazou** (Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) said that in a context where humanitarian responses were already chronically underfunded, funding for development activities became even more important and he welcomed private sector initiatives to support internally displaced persons.

77. **Ms. Donli** (Director, Gender Equality, Peace and Development Centre, Nigeria) said that the governments of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States in Nigeria had recognized that key elements for the successful implementation of their durable solutions strategies were effective leadership, strong partnerships and an improved security situation. The strategies were inclusive and comprehensive in scope, but unfortunately many internally displaced persons were unaware of their existence. They must therefore be empowered to know and demand their rights.

78. **Ms. Noda** (Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Bureau, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) said that she was pleased to see that there was a consensus on the need to provide durable solutions for internally displaced persons. She looked forward to working with the Council to ensure that internal displacement featured even more prominently in the Council's next programme of work beyond its meeting on the transition from relief to development.

79. **Mr. Ladeb** (Co-Chair), summing up, said that partnering with and providing support to Governments was crucial for fostering cross-sector collaboration to advance durable solutions and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants at the meeting had discussed ways in which humanitarian responses lay the foundation for lasting solutions. It was clear that development actors needed to respond earlier and with more resources and be consistent in their support, treating internal displacement as a priority for development and peacebuilding.

80. Best practices were emerging in several countries, with Governments leading transformed approaches for their citizens. Supporting those efforts and learning from what worked would help millions still displaced elsewhere. A meaningful, concrete difference could only be made by working towards durable solutions that reduced risks and addressed vulnerabilities in countries affected by crises. Joined-up efforts were crucial, involving Governments, civil society, donors,

international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, the private sector and the United Nations.

81. The Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement had helped to mobilize action and to make important progress over the past two years. However, more needed to be done, including on prevention and large-scale development financing. Member States could support those efforts by giving heightened attention to internal displacement in various discussions and creating opportunities to take ambitions further. It was also imperative to emphasize the indispensable contribution of donors. Collective efforts would make valuable contributions to the upcoming ministerial meeting in preparation for the Summit of the Future.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.