National Model United Nations

Week B

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Human Rights Council

Documentation
Human Rights Council

Committee Staff

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Agenda

1. Strengthening Human Rights of Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Conflict-Ridden Regions

2. Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Fundamental Human Right

3. Deterring Discrimination and Violence Against Persons with Disabilities

Resolutions adopted by the committee

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Human Rights Council Summary Report

On Sunday, the Human Rights Council welcomed with enthusiasm the rapid adoption of the agenda by its 40 delegations as 1/2/3, putting forward the topic of “Strengthening Human Rights of Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Conflict-Ridden Regions”, and quickly entered into formal discussions. Groups rapidly gathered and began discussions on a variety of issues relating to the topic.

By Monday afternoon, the Human Rights Council was pleased to see 6 working groups actively working on specific mechanisms to implement and handle the topic of Returnees and IDPs.

Unexpectedly, but with great appreciation, the Dias observed delegates beginning the process of combining and merging their papers by themselves. By the end of the day, three working papers were received by the dais.

Between the Monday and Tuesday sessions, the Human Rights Council was delighted to receive one more working paper, raising the number to 4. As a proof of the good will and determination of the delegates, two papers gathered a great consensus among delegations by Tuesday morning.

The Human Rights Council was delighted to see such hard-working delegates, trying to agree on consensual working papers. By the end of our 5th session, the number of working paper was lowered to 4 after constructive discussions during suspensions of the meeting.

Then, during session 6, the first draft resolution was introduced to the body, soon followed by a second one. As a testimony of the consensual agreements the Human Rights Council managed to perform, the second draft resolution was sponsored originally by more than a third of our committee members. It was the sign that delegates had succeeded in gathering their efforts and strengths to overcome the remaining weaknesses of their papers.

Wednesday morning saw the elaboration and the clarification of the two remaining papers that were finally introduced to the body as resolution 1/3 and 1/4 by the end of our 7th session.

With the speaker’s list being exhausted during the last session on Wednesday afternoon, the Human Rights Council moved into voting procedure.

Divisions of the questions were raised on two resolutions, 1/2 and 1/4 but no resolution was in the end modified except by friendly amendments, which once again highlight the consensus among the committee’s members.

Out of the four draft resolutions introduced during voting procedures, only draft resolution 1/1 did not pass. The three other draft resolutions were welcomed with applause as resolutions of the Human Right Council.
Noting with deep concern that according to the United Nations (UN) Global Trends 2011, approximately 26.4 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and an unidentified number of Returnees are forced to live without security of their basic human needs,

Emphasizing the importance of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2009), known as the Kampala Convention, especially Article 5 which deals with the obligations of Member States to protection and humanitarian assistance to IDPs,

Bearing in mind a universally recognized definition does not exist that sets forth a framework for acknowledging and assisting IDPs and Returnees,

Acknowledging the ability of Member States to more effectively take action on domestic human rights affairs when ensured the support and respect of their region,

Fully acknowledging IDPs and Returnees come into existence through circumstances such as, but not limited to: armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, and natural or human-made disasters,

Recalling the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement specifically the standards that guide Member States in giving assistance and protection to IDPs,

Fully aware of the need for the creation of Safe Enclaves, in accordance with Protocol I of the Geneva Convention (1977),

Reaffirming the opportunities for capacity-building that regional bodies are offered through the United Nations system that can expand the efficacy of their framework,

Recognizing the A/RES/63/154 (2009), which emphasizes the importance of vocational education and technical training, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty,

Recalling the A/RES/62/153 (2008), which calls upon Member States to provide protection, including reintegration and development assistance to IDPs,

Respecting Member States’ sovereignty over their internal affairs and position within international and regional communities,

The Human Rights Council,
1) Notes the lack of an internationally recognized definition of IDPs and Returnees with the suggestion that:

a. The definition of IDPs be: groups or persons who have been forced or obliged to flee their homes or places of habitual residence, particularly in order to avoid or as a result of the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border;

b. The term Returnee be defined as: persons or groups of people that may have had the status of refugees or IDPs who return to their place of habitual residence or country in which they resided prior to displacement;

c. The General Assembly adopts, a broadly accepted definition, along with the suggestions stated above in order to grant IDPs and Returnees a status with legitimacy to protect their human rights;

2) Recommends for regional bodies created by bilateral or multilateral agreements, with human rights inclusive in their mandate to adopt a regionally focused, action-based framework focusing on strengthening the human rights of IDPs and Returnees that will:

a. Act in accordance with international objectives which have been established by the accepted global standard of human rights for IDPs and returnees as defined in the 1998 Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement, without infringing on national sovereignty;

b. Identify specific human rights challenges faced by the IDPs and Returnees of each Member State belonging to their regional body including but not limited to:

i. Discrimination faced by IDPs or Returnees within their new or former social group or community;

ii. Lack of identification and related legal documents that would ensure their basic rights provided by the Member State;

iii. Physical, mental, emotional and social threats posed during the reintegration process;

iv. Significant increases in the occurrence of exploitation and violence against vulnerable groups such as women, elderly, children and persons with disabilities within IDPs and Returnees;

c. Abide by existing regional agreements Member States have ratified;

d. Strengthen their partnership with national, regional, and international NGOs and humanitarian agencies to foster ongoing dialogue on human rights violations and solution-building allowing for a more comprehensive framework;

e. Assist databases such as the IDMC by providing more frequent and in-depth reports to address the gaps in data availability and accuracy of information;
f. Encourage subgroups of the regional body to:
   i. Continue to improve data collection and analysis spearheaded by the IDMC;
   ii. Monitor the implementation of the plan of action designed by the framework;

g. Adapt to the distinct nature of each conflict when executed through a process of specification;

3) *Encourages* Member States to assist those affected by an influx of IDPs and Returnees as a means to relieve the burden off those Member States by providing, healthcare professionals, medical supplies, and assistance to local governments and NGOs involved in IDP camps as a means improve the quality of life;

4) *Invites* Member States to expedite the formal process regarding the issuing of new documents such as passports, birth certificates, ownership certificates, and official identification;

5) *Calls upon* Member States who are host to IDP camps to provide security for populations who inhabit those camps in an effort to improve the quality of life for at risk populations and prevent harm perpetuated by outside threats;

6) *Approves* the creation of safe enclaves by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that would assure the protection of IDPs and would guarantee that:

   a. These enclaves will be created in accordance with the parties or governments involved and will be neutral to the conflict;

   b. The internal and external security of these enclaves will be assured by UN Peacekeepers similar to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (S/RES/872) which is recognized to today for saving the lives of thousand of IDPs;

7) *Expresses its hope* that states will support the active involvement of NGOs and cooperate with their efforts to evaluate and monitor the conditions of IDPs and Returnees by the following actions:

   a. Security in regards to physical well being, violent acts committed against, and protection of property involving IDPs and Returnees;

   b. Actively compile data which can be later incorporated into databases by monitoring access to safe drinking water and sanitation, status of shelter, healthcare services, and availability of education;

   c. Track reunification of families that were separated due to conflict;

   d. Protect vulnerable groups such as women, elderly, children, and persons with disabilities in IDP and Returnee populations in coordination with organizations such as United
Nations WomenWatch (UNWW), Disabled People’s International (DPI), Heart for Children and Inclusion International;

e. Creation of alternative dormitories for vulnerable populations as an option of choice in order to prevent further discriminatory practices such as gender based violence or cultural and ethnic discrimination;

8) **Encourages** the utilization of the NGO Information and Coordination (NGOIC) mechanism as a means to better foster collaboration between the UN and NGOs by:

   a. Efficiently coordinating available or particular assets and expertise from NGOs and the UN to target IDPs and Returnees populations or areas that will benefit the most;

   b. Acting as a data sharing body that will facilitate the exchange of vital conflict, disaster, and IDP and Returnee related data between NGOs and UN organizations in an effort to assess and obtain better data of at risk and affected populations;

   c. Improving targeting and matching programs to IDP and Returnee populations who may have a greater outcome from programs relating to agriculture, education, small business development, and housing;

   d. Utilizing expertise from bodies such as the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, private, or public sector to assist in the development of database;

9) **Affirms** the need for proper healthcare services as a means to improve quality of life for displaced people by:

   a. Expanding psychological care and training programs that target populations affected by displacement provided through NGOs such as Doctors Without Borders and the International Committee of the Red Cross;

   b. Urging Member States where IDPs and Returnees reside to provide services targeted at prenatal, reproductive, and pediatric healthcare in an effort to reduce overall child mortality rates amongst IDPs and Returnees by requesting additional support from UN organizations and NGOs including World Organization of Prenatal Education Associations (OMAEP) and Medical Civic Action Projects (MEDCAPs);

   c. Seeking additional support from NGOs including The Wheel Chair Foundation and Handicapped International involved in the assistance of persons with disabilities to aid IDPs or Returnees with disabilities by providing them with mobility equipment, vocational or post secondary education and training, health care supplies;

10) **Encourages** the development or upgrading of infrastructure within IDP camps in an effort to improve living standards and reduce mortality rates amongst internally displaced individuals by ensuring that:
a. Camps have access to basic sanitation services in terms of waste disposal by working with the UNHCR, NGOs, and local municipal services to improve said services;

b. Inhabitants of camps have adequate supplies of suitable drinking water consisting approximately 50-100 liters a day per person and water sources be accessible within 1000 meters of the camps as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO);

c. Children within IDP camps are given access to proper education through collaborative efforts by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), NGOs, and local governments;

11) **Supports** programs focused on sustainable agriculture development targeted towards IDP populations to assist in resettlement upon returning to home communities through efforts which may include:

a. Sustainable irrigation, utilization drip irrigation, and rain water harvesting to reduce water consumption by expanding or using programs in place from NGOs including but not limited to the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) and Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management (SSWM);

b. Training of IDPs by the UNHCR in the installation and maintenance of drip irrigation, rain water collection, and other sustainable agricultural technologies;

12) **Recognizes** the need for continued IDP awareness campaigns utilized in the past by Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the UNHCR programs and calls for cooperation with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) as a means to:

a. Promote progressive action on a ground level while not infringing national sovereignty;

b. Promote awareness involving the plight IDP’s and returnees among societies, affected individuals, and host communities;

c. Garner additional international support from private and public sectors in an effort to gain more financial assistance for active programs;

d. Cater other campaigns on a regional or domestic level to raise IDPs and Returnees awareness in an attempt to improve social conditions as a means to encourage the return of displaced individuals;

e. Use internet and social media technology by NGOs to create an online forum where displaced individuals can be reunited with families and communities;

f. Act as a platform for displaced persons and returnees to match their specific issue to an NGO which specializes in subjects such as housing, vocational and employment assistance, financial Assistance;
13) Recognizes the vital role reconciliation plays in creating social environments suitable for IDPs to return to their original communities through the use of:

a. Community based truth and reconciliation councils to facilitate the process of peaceful settlement in order to strengthen communities socially;

b. Training provided by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) directed towards community leaders regarding the process of truth and reconciliation in order to successfully improve the process at a micro level utilizing guidelines as outlined in the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) Reconciliation after Violent Conflict Handbook provided by IDEA and UNDP;

c. Awareness campaigns provided by UN organizations and NGOs including the IDMC and International Organization for Migration Interaction focused in areas affected by conflicts as a means to begin and sustain the process of reconciliation;

d. Education in primary and secondary schools regarding tolerance and sensitivity;

14) Suggests Member States create community outreach programs and awareness campaigns if capable to encourage IDPs and Returnees to seek assistance and counseling for physical and psychological traumas associated with conflict and help provide specific guidance for these individuals in recovering from such traumas in order to facilitate reintegration into their societies, these awareness campaigns should:

a. Promote a friendly and professional environment to IDPs and Returnees in order to encourage the sharing of experiences;

b. Specifically target the concerns faced by IDPs in a particular region and aim at providing assistance and resources;

15) Emphasizes that Member States are bodies whose sovereign right to rule shall not be infringed upon by the aforementioned stipulated regulations.