

# **National Model United Nations** **Week B**

**March 24 – March 28, 2013**



**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

Document Code	Topic	Vote (Y/ N/ Abstention/ Non-Voting)
HRC/1/1	1 - Strengthening Human Rights of Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Conflict-Ridden Regions	37/3/0/0
HRC/1/2	1 - Strengthening Human Rights of Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Conflict-Ridden Regions	30/1/9/0
HRC/1/3	1 - Strengthening Human Rights of Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Conflict-Ridden Regions	14/13/13/0

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Code: HRC/1/1

Committee: Human Right Council

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

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1 *Noting with deep concern* that according to the United Nations (UN) Global Trends 2011,  
2 approximately 26.4 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and an unidentified number of  
3 Returnees are forced to live without security of their basic human needs,  
4  
5 *Emphasizing* the importance of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance  
6 of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2009), known as the Kampala Convention, especially  
7 Article 5 which deals with the obligations of Member States to protection and humanitarian  
8 assistance to IDPs,  
9  
10 *Bearing in mind* a universally recognized definition does not exist that sets forth a framework for  
11 acknowledging and assisting IDPs and Returnees,  
12  
13 *Acknowledging* the ability of Member States to more effectively take action on domestic human  
14 rights affairs when ensured the support and respect of their region,  
15  
16 *Fully acknowledging* IDPs and Returnees come into existence through circumstances such as,  
17 but not limited to: armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights,  
18 and natural or human-made disasters,  
19  
20 *Recalling* the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement specifically the standards that  
21 guide Member States in giving assistance and protection to IDPs,  
22  
23 *Fully aware* of the need for the creation of Safe Enclaves, in accordance with Protocol I of the  
24 Geneva Convention (1977),  
25  
26 *Reaffirming* the opportunities for capacity-building that regional bodies are offered through the  
27 United Nations system that can expand the efficacy of their framework,  
28  
29 *Recognizing* the A/RES/63/154 (2009), which emphasizes the importance of vocational  
30 education and technical training, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities  
31 and the empowerment of those living in poverty,  
32  
33 *Recalling* the A/RES/62/153 (2008), which calls upon Member States to provide protection,  
34 including reintegration and development assistance to IDPs,  
35  
36 *Respecting* Member States' sovereignty over their internal affairs and position within  
37 international and regional communities,  
38  
39 *The Human Rights Council,*  
40

- 41 1) *Notes* the lack of an internationally recognized definition of IDPs and Returnees with the  
42 suggestion that:  
43
- 44 a. The definition of IDPs be: groups or persons who have been forced or obliged to flee  
45 their homes or places of habitual residence, particularly in order to avoid or as a result of  
46 the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human  
47 rights, natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally  
48 recognized state border;  
49
- 50 b. The term Returnee be defined as: persons or groups of people that may have had the  
51 status of refugees or IDPs who return to their place of habitual residence or country in  
52 which they resided prior to displacement;  
53
- 54 c. The General Assembly adopts, a broadly accepted definition, along with the suggestions  
55 stated above in order to grant IDPs and Returnees a status with legitimacy to protect their  
56 human rights;  
57
- 58 2) *Recommends* for regional bodies created by bilateral or multilateral agreements, with human  
59 rights inclusive in their mandate to adopt a regionally focused, action-based framework  
60 focusing on strengthening the human rights of IDPs and Returnees that will:  
61
- 62 a. Act in accordance with international objectives which have been established by the  
63 accepted global standard of human rights for IDPs and returnees as defined in the 1998  
64 Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement, without infringing on national sovereignty;  
65
- 66 b. Identify specific human rights challenges faced by the IDPs and Returnees of each  
67 Member State belonging to their regional body including but not limited to:  
68
- 69 i. Discrimination faced by IDPs or Returnees within their new or former social  
70 group or community;  
71
- 72 ii. Lack of identification and related legal documents that would ensure their basic  
73 rights provided by the Member State;  
74
- 75 iii. Physical, mental, emotional and social threats posed during the reintegration  
76 process;  
77
- 78 iv. Significant increases in the occurrence of exploitation and violence against  
79 vulnerable groups such as women, elderly, children and persons with disabilities  
80 within IDPs and Returnees;
- 81 c. Abide by existing regional agreements Member States have ratified;  
82
- 83 d. Strengthen their partnership with national, regional, and international NGOs and  
84 humanitarian agencies to foster ongoing dialogue on human rights violations and  
85 solution-building allowing for a more comprehensive framework;  
86
- 86 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;

- 87  
88 f. Encourage subgroups of the regional body to:  
89  
90 i. Continue to improve data collection and analysis spearheaded by the IDMC;  
91 ii. Monitor the implementation of the plan of action designed by the framework;  
92  
93 g. Adapt to the distinct nature of each conflict when executed through a process of  
94 specification;  
95
- 96 3) *Encourages* Member States to assist those affected by an influx of IDPs and Returnees as a  
97 means to relieve the burden off those Member States by providing, healthcare professionals,  
98 medical supplies, and assistance to local governments and NGOs involved in IDP camps as a  
99 means improve the quality of life;  
100
- 101 4) *Invites* Member States to expedite the formal process regarding the issuing of new documents  
102 such as passports, birth certificates, ownership certificates, and official identification;  
103
- 104 5) *Calls upon* Member States who are host to IDP camps to provide security for populations  
105 who inhabit those camps in an effort to improve the quality of life for at risk populations and  
106 prevent harm perpetuated by outside threats;  
107
- 108 6) *Approves* the creation of safe enclaves by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
109 (UNHCR) that would assure the protection of IDPs and would guarantee that:  
110
- 111 a. These enclaves will be created in accordance with the parties or governments involved  
112 and will be neutral to the conflict;  
113
- 114 b. The internal and external security of these enclaves will be assured by UN Peacekeepers  
115 similar to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (S/RES/872) which is  
116 recognized to today for saving the lives of thousand of IDPs;  
117
- 118 7) *Expresses its hope* that states will support the active involvement of NGOs and cooperate  
119 with their efforts to evaluate and monitor the conditions of IDPs and Returnees by the  
120 following actions:  
121
- 122 a. Security in regards to physical well being, violent acts committed against, and protection  
123 of property involving IDPs and Returnees;  
124
- 125 b. Actively compile data which can be later incorporated into databases by monitoring  
126 access to safe drinking water and sanitation, status of shelter, healthcare services, and  
127 availability of education;  
128
- 129 c. Track reunification of families that were separated due to conflict;  
130
- 131 d. Protect vulnerable groups such as women, elderly, children, and persons with disabilities  
132 in IDP and Returnee populations in coordination with organizations such as United

- 133 Nations WomenWatch (UNWW), Disabled People’s International (DPI), Heart for  
134 Children and Inclusion International;
- 135
- 136 e. Creation of alternative dormitories for vulnerable populations as an option of choice in  
137 order to prevent further discriminatory practices such as gender based violence or cultural  
138 and ethnic discrimination;
- 139
- 140 8) *Encourages* the utilization of the NGO Information and Coordination (NGOIC) mechanism  
141 as a means to better foster collaboration between the UN and NGOs by:
- 142
- 143 a. Efficiently coordinating available or particular assets and expertise from NGOs and the  
144 UN to target IDPs and Returnees populations or areas that will benefit the most;
- 145
- 146 b. Acting as a data sharing body that will facilitate the exchange of vital conflict, disaster,  
147 and or IDP and Returnee related data between NGOs and UN organizations in an effort to  
148 assess and obtain better data of at risk and affected populations;
- 149
- 150 c. Improving targeting and matching programs to IDP and Returnee populations who may  
151 have a greater outcome from programs relating to agriculture, education, small business  
152 development, and housing;
- 153
- 154 d. Utilizing expertise from bodies such as the United Nations Institute for Training and  
155 Research, private, or public sector to assist in the development of database;
- 156
- 157 9) *Affirms* the need for proper healthcare services as a means to improve quality of life for  
158 displaced people by:
- 159
- 160 a. Expanding psychological care and training programs that target populations affected by  
161 displacement provided through NGOs such as Doctors Without Borders and the  
162 International Committee of the Red Cross;
- 163
- 164 b. Urging Member States where IDPs and Returnees reside to provide services targeted at  
165 prenatal, reproductive, and pediatric healthcare in an effort to reduce overall child  
166 mortality rates amongst IDPs and Returnees by requesting additional support from UN  
167 organizations and NGOs including World Organization of Prenatal Education  
168 Associations (OMAEP) and Medical Civic Action Projects (MEDCAPs);
- 169
- 170 c. Seeking additional support from NGOs including The Wheel Chair Foundation and  
171 Handicapped International involved in the assistance of persons with disabilities to aid  
172 IDPs or Returnees with disabilities by providing them with mobility equipment,  
173 vocational or post secondary education and training, health care supplies;
- 174
- 175 10) *Encourages* the development or upgrading of infrastructure within IDP camps in an effort to  
176 improve living standards and reduce mortality rates amongst internally displaced individuals  
177 by ensuring that:
- 178



- 179 a. Camps have access to basic sanitation services in terms of waste disposal by working  
180 with the UNHCR, NGOs, and local municipal services to improve said services;  
181
- 182 b. Inhabitants of camps have adequate supplies of suitable drinking water consisting  
183 approximately 50-100 liters a day per person and water sources be accessible within 1000  
184 meters of the camps as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO);  
185
- 186 c. Children within IDP camps are given access to proper education through collaborative  
187 efforts by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), NGOs, and local governments;  
188
- 189 11) *Supports* programs focused on sustainable agriculture development targeted towards IDP  
190 populations to assist in resettlement upon returning to home communities through efforts  
191 which may include:  
192
- 193 a. Sustainable irrigation, utilization drip irrigation, and rain water harvesting to reduce  
194 water consumption by expanding or using programs in place from NGOs including but  
195 not limited to the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) and Sustainable  
196 Sanitation and Water Management (SSWM);  
197
- 198 b. Training of IDPs by the UNHCR in the installation and maintenance of drip irrigation,  
199 rain water collection, and other sustainable agricultural technologies;  
200
- 201 12) *Recognizes* the need for continued IDP awareness campaigns utilized in the past by Office of  
202 the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office for the Coordination of  
203 Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the UNHCR programs and calls for cooperation with the  
204 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) as a means to:  
205
- 206 a. Promote progressive action on a ground level while not infringing national sovereignty;  
207
- 208 b. Promote awareness involving the plight IDP’s and returnees among societies, affected  
209 individuals, and host communities;  
210
- 211 c. Garner additional international support from private and public sectors in an effort to gain  
212 more financial assistance for active programs;  
213
- 214 d. Cater other campaigns on a regional or domestic level to raise IDPs and Returnees  
215 awareness in an attempt to improve social conditions as a means to encourage the return  
216 of displaced individuals;  
217
- 218 e. Use internet and social media technology by NGOs to create an online forum where  
219 displaced individuals can be reunited with families and communities;  
220
- 221 f. Act as a platform for displaced persons and returnees to match their specific issue to an  
222 NGO which specializes in subjects such as housing, vocational and employment  
223 assistance, financial Assistance;  
224



- 225 g. Enhance existing communication that supports accountability of the region and the  
226 Member State and affects awareness and the sense of urgency on a global scale;  
227
- 228 13) *Recognizes* the vital role reconciliation plays in creating social environments suitable for  
229 IDPs to return to their original communities through the use of:  
230
- 231 a. Community based truth and reconciliation councils to facilitate the process of peaceful  
232 settlement in order to strengthen communities socially;  
233
- 234 b. Training provided by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) directed  
235 towards community leaders regarding the process of truth and reconciliation in order to  
236 successfully improve the process at a micro level utilizing guidelines as outlined in the  
237 International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) Reconciliation  
238 after Violent Conflict Handbook provided by IDEA and UNDP;  
239
- 240 c. Awareness campaigns provided by UN organizations and NGOs including the IDMC and  
241 International Organization for Migration Interaction focused in areas affected by conflicts  
242 as a means to begin and sustain the process of reconciliation;  
243
- 244 d. Education in primary and secondary schools regarding tolerance and sensitivity;  
245
- 246 14) *Suggests* Member States create community outreach programs and awareness campaigns if  
247 capable to encourage IDPs and Returnees to seek assistance and counseling for physical and  
248 psychological traumas associated with conflict and help provide specific guidance for these  
249 individuals in recovering from such traumas in order to facilitate reintegration into their  
250 societies, these awareness campaigns should:  
251
- 252 a. Promote a friendly and professional environment to IDPs and Returnees in order to  
253 encourage the sharing of experiences;
- 254 b. Specifically target the concerns faced by IDPs in a particular region and aim at providing  
255 assistance and resources;
- 256 15) *Emphasizes* that Member States are bodies whose sovereign right to rule shall not be  
257 infringed upon by the aforementioned stipulated regulations.