

Agenda, Regional Workshop on Internal Displacement in the South Caucasus

Tbilisi, Georgia, May 10-12, 2000

Welcome and Introductions

Giorgi Burduli, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Jean-Michel Lacombe, Head, OSCE Mission to Georgia

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

Oddhild Gunther, Head, International Department, Norwegian Refugee Council

Introductions: *Roberta Cohen*, Co-Director, Project on Internal Displacement, the Brookings Institution

Internal Displacement: A Global Overview

In 1992, at the request of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary-General appointed a representative on internally displaced persons. This session provides an overview of the problem worldwide and examines the response of the international community, including institutional arrangements, country visits and the development of a legal framework.

Moderator: *Irakli Macharrvariani*, Personal Representative of the President of Georgia

Presentation: *Francis M. Deng*, Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons

Internal Displacement in the South Caucasus

There are an estimated one million internally displaced persons in the states of the South Caucasus. This session seeks to identify the main trends in internal displacement in the region; the causes of displacement and its impact on communities, countries and the region as a whole.

Moderator: *François Bellon*, Head of Delegation, ICRC, Georgia

Presentation: *Marco Borsotti*, UN Resident Coordinator, Georgia

Commentators: The NGO Perspective: *Krishna Sob*, Mercy Corps International, Azerbaijan

Gevorg Pogosian, President, Armenian Sociological Association

May 11, 2000

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

In 1998, the first international standards for internally displaced persons were presented to the UN Commission on Human Rights. Entitled the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the Commission, Economic and Social Council and General Assembly acknowledged them, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee has endorsed them, and they are being widely disseminated by the UN. Regional organizations in Africa, Europe and the Americas have also acknowledged them, as have many NGOs. This session reviews their origin and content, and how they are being applied worldwide.

Moderator: *Imran Veliyev*, Centre for Legal and Economic Education, Azerbaijan

Presentations: *Walter Kaelin*, Professor of Constitutional and International Law, University of Bern, Switzerland

Roberta Cohen, Co-Director, Project on Internal Displacement, the Brookings Institution, and co-author with Francis M. Deng of [*Masses in Flight: The Global Crisis of Internal Displacement*](#)

Protection and Assistance

Internally displaced persons require protection and assistance which encompasses a broad range of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. For instance, in addition to the right to basic material assistance (food, medicine, shelter), as citizens of their countries the internally displaced are entitled to freedom of movement and residence, political rights such as the right to participate in elections and in governmental and public affairs as well as economic rights such as the right to seek employment and participate in economic activities. This session seeks to identify and discuss the main protection and assistance concerns of the internally displaced in the states of the South Caucasus and to identify priorities for the future.

Moderator: *Ekber Menemencioglu*, UNHCR

Presentations: Basic Subsistence: *Deborah Hines*, WFP

Basic Subsistence: *Ervin Blau*, IFRC

Political Participation: *Simon Bagshaw*, Election Observer, UK

Political Participation and Freedom of Movement and Residence: *Vladimir Shkolnikov*, OSCE/ODIHR

Particular Concerns of Internally Displaced Women and Children

The vast majority of internally displaced persons are women and children, many of whom find themselves in situations of vulnerability. This session seeks to identify the particular concerns internally displaced women and children face in the South Caucasus region, the extent to which these are being addressed and by whom, and future strategies for doing so.

Moderator: *Liliana Aslanyan*, Deputy Head, Department of Migration and Refugees, Armenia

Presentations: *Julia Kharashvili*, Association of IDP Women, Georgia

Nino Elizbarashvili, Association of Women in Business, Georgia

Hranush Kharatian, Armenian Centre for Anthropological Studies

Imran Veliyev, Centre for Legal and Economic Education, Azerbaijan

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 focuses on conditions for safe and voluntary return, including the protection of returnees and questions of property restitution and compensation, and looks at alternatives to return since the search for lasting political solutions often takes time and situations of internal displacement easily can become protracted.

Moderator: *Vladimir Shkolnikov*, OSCE/ODIHR

Presentations: Protection of Returnees: *Ekber Menemencioglu*, UNHCR

Property Restitution: *Marcus Cox*, European Stability Initiative; Former Legal Adviser to the High Representative and the Commission for Real Property Claims, Bosnia, and to the Housing and Property Directorate, Kosovo

Property Restitution: *Zurab Burduli*, Georgian Young Lawyers Association

Alternatives to Return: *Arthur C. Helton*, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations, New York

May 12, 2000

Role of National and Local Government

As Guiding Principle 3 affirms, the duty and responsibility for meeting the protection and assistance needs of the internally displaced rests first and foremost with the national and, through them, local authorities. This session aims to identify the means through which national and local governments in the South Caucasus region are seeking to respond to the needs of their internally displaced populations and the level of success they have enjoyed, and what steps are envisaged for the future.

Moderator: *Jafar Jafarov*, NGO Resource and Training Centre, Azerbaijan

Presentations: Representative of Armenian Government Delegation

Representative of Azerbaijani Government Delegation

Representative of Georgian Government Delegation

Role of Local NGOs and Civil Society

Often, the efforts of national and local government in meeting the protection and assistance needs of the internally displaced may be supplemented by the efforts of local NGOs and civil society. This session examines the role of local NGOs and civil society in the promotion of solutions and also how to strengthen their collaboration with national and local government.

Moderator: *Arthur C. Helton*, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations, New York

Presentations: *Levon Nersisyan*, Sakharov Fund, Armenia

Jafar Jafarov, NGO Resource and Training Centre, Azerbaijan

Jaba Devdariani, United Nations Association, Georgia

Role of Regional and International Organizations

In recent years a broad range of humanitarian, human rights and development organizations have begun to provide protection, assistance, and reintegration and development support to internally displaced populations, and regional organizations have been promoting political solutions. In addition, international NGOs have been developing and strengthening information systems on IDPs. This session looks at the role and approaches of these organizations in the South Caucasus, ways to increase local and national capacity building, promotion of solutions and whether there is a need for such organizations to play an expanded role with the internally displaced.

Moderator: *Marco Borsotti*, UN Resident Coordinator, Georgia

Presentations: *Brian Keane*, OCHA Georgia

Roman Sischuck, Chief, UN Human Rights Office Abkhazia, Georgia

Christophe Beau, Global IDP Database, Norwegian Refugee Council

Vladimir Shkolnikov, OSCE/ODIHR

Identification of 'Best Practices' at the Local, Regional and International Levels

This session will bring together the major conclusions and recommendations reached during the workshop, identifying the optimal means through which the protection, assistance, reintegration and development needs of internally displaced persons in the South Caucasus region can be best met at the local, regional, and international levels.

Moderator: *Walter Kaelin*, Professor of Constitutional and International Law, University of Bern, Switzerland

Presentation: *Simon Bagshaw*, Rapporteur, Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, and *Gimena Sanchez*, Co-Rapporteur, Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement

Commentators: Representative of Armenian Government Delegation

Representative of Azerbaijani Government Delegation

Representative of Georgian Government Delegation

Concluding Remarks

Moderator: *Roberta Cohen*, Co-Director, Project on Internal Displacement, the Brookings Institution

Presentation: *Francis M. Deng*, Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons