



Federal Republic of Somalia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

The following topic is before the Economic and Social Council: Tackling the Economic and Social Repercussions of Internal Displacement. The Federal Republic of Somalia believes that this topic has significance within the international community and looks forward to discussing them at the upcoming meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

The Federal Republic of Somalia has one of the largest internally displaced populations (IDP) in the world with an estimated 2.6 million IDPs, among whom 2.2 million live in highly congested urban and semi-urban settlements across Somalia¹. Internal displacement remains largely driven by conflict, worsened by floods, drought, and periodic cyclones. The Islamist armed group Al-Shabab conducted indiscriminate and targeted attacks on civilians², forcing them to flee their home. The Federal Republic of Somalia is horrified by the worsening development of the crisis in the country and across the international community.

Displaced populations in the Federal Republic of Somalia predominantly reside in over 2,400 highly congested informal settlements where access to basic services like health, water, shelter, and food is a big challenge³. IDPs have historically faced discrimination and exclusion to equitable services in these settlements, particularly women, girls and people living with disabilities. Moreover, most displaced people won't come back to their places of origin and they struggle to integrate into their new communities. The Federal Republic of Somalia is deeply concerned by the poor living conditions of the IDPs and their lack of access to basic necessities.

The Federal Republic of Somalia, in recognition of the scale of displacement and return within Somalia, strongly believes that immediate actions should be taken to put an end to the crisis. The Federal Republic of Somalia acknowledges that refugee-returnees and IDPs are Somali citizens or habitual residents of Somalia, and recognizes their resourcefulness and the relevance of this population in engaging in the economic reconstruction, peacebuilding and stabilization of the country⁴.

The Federal Government of Somalia has developed the National Policy on Refugee-Returnees and IDPs (NPRRI) with a view to put an end to the suffering of the internally displaced persons and returning refugees⁴, including women and children and to resolve displacement as part of efforts to stabilize, build peace and social cohesion, economically reconstruct, and increase the resilience of its people for IDPs and returning refugees to restart their lives in safety and dignity and in full enjoyment of their rights. The Federal Republic of Somalia also has a permanent system of government that takes responsibility for seeking and facilitating durable solutions for both refugee-returnees and IDPs in the country. In addition to progress on the legal framework, the Federal Republic of Somalia deposited its instruments for ratification of the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (also known as Kampala Convention) in March 2020 with the African Union (AU)⁵.

To address this issue, the delegate of the Federal Republic of Somalia would like to propose the solutions as follow:

1. Increased International Economic and Humanitarian Support for IDPs

The Federal Republic of Somalia urges the international community, especially developed countries, to put aside their differences and provide urgent and much-needed economic and humanitarian assistance to countries affected by the crisis such as the Federal Republic of Somalia. Assistance can be in the form of monetary aids, basic necessities, relocation of IDPs, and many more. More efforts are needed to end the marginalization of IDPs who must be able to exercise their full rights as citizens including through access to vital services such as healthcare, education, social protection and job opportunities.

2. Domestication of the Kampala Convention

The ratification of the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (also known as Kampala Convention) in 2020 cements the Federal Republic of Somalia's commitment to the millions of highly vulnerable internally displaced people living in the Federal Republic of Somalia⁵, and to finding solutions for the issue of displacement. The Federal Republic of Somalia urges all members that ratify the Kampala Convention to develop and adopt a national law domesticating the Kampala Convention and accelerate its efforts to implement the Kampala Convention¹. Member states should engage federal institutions and local authorities of the regional states in collaboration with civil societies and the international community to work in a harmonized way to improve the protection of IDPs.

3. Find Durable Solutions for IDPs

The Federal Republic of Somalia calls upon the international community to allocate more funds to conduct more research that aims to find durable solutions for IDPs. The durable solutions should follow the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. To achieve this goal, the Federal Republic has developed the National Policy on Refugee-Returnees and IDPs (NPRRI), which guides various tools and processes devised to attain durable solutions⁴. The policy encourages the formulation and financing of area level plans, which can be resourced through district funds, budgets, and national and local revenues, or can be supported by external assistance. However, the Federal Republic of Somalia believes that the international community should place a high priority on creation of a realistic relocation plan that protects IDPs from arbitrary evictions and exploitation¹.

References

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