

JOINT MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

The development and peace dimensions of forced displacement: Countries' best practices in creating durable solutions

**Monday 1 July 2024, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
ECOSOC Chamber**

Background

Forced displacement driven by conflict, persecution and human rights violations continue to pose significant challenges to global stability and development.

The United Nations estimates that there were approximately 117.3¹ million forcibly displaced people at the end of 2023, including refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people. As millions of individuals are uprooted from their homes, the impact on host communities, the displaced and the international community is profound. Addressing these challenges requires increased and coordinated international action that integrates peacebuilding and development efforts, while fully respecting humanitarian principles.

As recognized by the Global Compact for refugees, forced displacement has increased in scope and complexity in recent years. As low and middle-income countries continue to host the vast majority of the world's refugees, there is an urgent need for more equitable burden and responsibility-sharing. This must take into consideration existing contributions and the varying capacities and resources of different States.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses asylum-seekers, refugees and displaced persons within the context of vulnerable groups of people and the principle of leaving no one behind. Most recently, the Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit (A/RES/78/1) has addressed refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants in the context of those whose needs are to be reflected by the 2030 Agenda.

Too often, countries exclude asylum-seekers, refugees and displaced persons from national development planning. They are often more vulnerable than their fellow citizens, facing compounded challenges including the loss of home, livelihoods, economic opportunities, services, disrupted education and skills development, social exclusion and discrimination, as well as legal and documentation challenges. This in turn exacerbates socio-economic disparities and social tensions, impedes poverty reduction efforts and hinders inclusive growth.

The full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs requires the systematic inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees and displaced persons in national planning to help ensure that these groups are not left behind.

¹ According to UNHCR's [Global Trends Report 2023](https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2023), available at <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2023>.

Furthermore, climate change and extreme weather events continue to exacerbate social, economic, and political tensions, jeopardizing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Recent disasters worldwide demonstrate the escalating impact of climate-related loss and damage. Global emissions have reached unprecedented levels. The most vulnerable communities, including in small island developing States, the least developed countries and those affected by conflict, are also bearing the burden of these impacts. Conflict and violence force civilians to flee their homes and countries. If not properly addressed, it hinders post-conflict recovery and sustaining peace efforts as well as broader stabilization and peacebuilding processes.

The Secretary General's A New Agenda for Peace (2023) reinforces these messages, emphasizing record levels of forced displacement, stressing state responsibility, and advocating for a people-centered approach - with specific reference to displaced people - in efforts to prevent new conflicts, avoid relapse and sustain peace.

The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) plays a crucial role in supporting peace processes, strengthening governance and building resilient communities in conflict-affected regions. By focusing on the root causes of conflict and fostering conditions conducive to sustainable peace, the PBC could significantly contribute to mitigating the impacts of forced displacement and providing durable solutions.

In this context, ECOSOC's mandate to promote international economic and social cooperation provides a valuable framework for addressing the socio-economic dimensions of displacement. By working together, the PBC and ECOSOC can ensure that peacebuilding efforts are complemented by initiatives that promote economic and social inclusion, which are essential for sustainable reintegration of displaced population.

Objectives of the meeting

Building on the joint ECOSOC-PBC meeting in June 2023 on "The importance of the SDGs in linking peace and development on the ground" which underscored the need for an integrated approach between development and peacebuilding efforts, the meeting will be an opportunity to leverage the role of the ECOSOC and the PBC to address a global issue which undermines sustainable development and peace.

It will offer concrete insights into how governments have created and implemented durable solutions and complementary pathways for displaced persons as well as how a coordinated response across the UN can support this endeavor.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to showcase innovative solutions and best practices from different regions providing valuable insights and lessons learned.

It will be an opportunity to further demonstrate that solidarity with people forced to flee is possible and needed.

Guiding questions

- What are the primary drivers of forced displacement in different regions, and how do they interact with each other?
- What lessons can be drawn about the role and contribution of development engagement and peacebuilding to lasting solutions to forced displacement?
- What do effective nationally and locally-led peacebuilding efforts, linked to development initiatives, look like and how do they contribute to durable solutions? What are the main challenges and how can they be addressed?
- How can governments ensure that the perspectives of asylum-seekers, refugees, and other displaced persons are reflected in development and peacebuilding efforts?
- How can the United Nations more effectively support government-led efforts to uphold the principle of leaving no one behind, taking into account the growing number of forced displacement? What is needed to increase a joined and coherent approach among stakeholders?
- What role can the ECOSOC and Peacebuilding Commission play in advancing and mobilizing support for nationally-owned solutions and promoting cross-pillar approaches related to forced displacement?
- What is the role that national strategies for conflict prevention can play to provide lasting solutions to address forced displacement?

Expected Outcomes

The outcome of the meeting will be a joint summary by the ECOSOC President and Peacebuilding Commission to support peacebuilding efforts, considering solutions to forced displacement in these bodies, advice to the Security Council, General Assembly, and in their engagement with International Financial Institutions.

It will aim to reflect:

- Enhanced understanding of the interconnectedness of displacement and peacebuilding.
- Identification of actionable strategies for integrating peacebuilding into displacement responses.
- Strengthened partnerships among international stakeholders for a global response to forced displacement.
- Commitments to support and fund initiatives aimed at sustainable peace and addressing forced displacement.
- Documentation best practices and innovative solutions for wider dissemination.

List of speakers

There will be no advance inscription for the interactive discussion following the remarks by the panelists.

Requests to speak should be made directly from the floor during the meeting.

In view of the limited time available, statements should be limited to no more than 3 minutes for statements on behalf of groups and 2 minutes for national statements.