

Human Rights Council – 38th Session

Clustered interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs and
Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights
Thursday 21 June 2018

Australian Statement

Australia thanks both Special Rapporteurs for their reports.

Australia welcomes the Special Rapporteur on IDPs' prioritisation of prevention by highlighting the need to address the root causes of internal displacement, including human rights violations.

We echo the Special Rapporteur's recognition of the primacy of a state's responsibility for protecting IDPs in accordance with relevant obligations under human rights and international humanitarian law as applicable, including ensuring unimpeded humanitarian access.

A better understanding of the demographics, drivers, legal and institutional frameworks for IDPs, as well as the obstacles to providing assistance, is critical to addressing internal displacement. We reinforce the need for an improved evidence base, including more comprehensive and disaggregated data, particularly on segments of the population with a higher chance of being at risk, such as persons with disabilities.

With our Indo-Pacific region hosting the largest number of disaster-induced IDPs globally, Australia encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to highlight the scale, and needs resulting from, disaster-induced internal displacement.

We take this opportunity to recognise the significant achievement that is the normative framework founded 20 years ago in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

The work of the Special Rapporteur in promoting integration of the Principles into national law and policy, as well as more broadly across the UN system, remains critical.

We would welcome the Special Rapporteur's views on how NHRIs could raise awareness of the Principles.

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