

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME
60th Meeting
24-26 June 2015

NGO Statement – Durable Solutions

Agenda Item 3.a

Oral Statement

426 words

Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

NGOs would like to raise three points on Solutions.

First: We urge States to reverse the global trend towards reduced quality of asylum: The prospect of (re)-establishing full access to rights, including legal protection for refugees, should be the determining factor in people's decision to pursue a particular durable solution. Too often, solutions result in reduced quality of asylum, whether due to reduced funding, legal restrictions by the host state or, returns motivated by political interests rather than the wishes of the displaced populations and a genuine concern for the conditions in areas of return. **We encourage States and UNHCR to recognise that the quality and sustainability of solutions often rests on the quality of asylum.** A secure and safe space of asylum can act as a transitional environment, preparing and empowering displaced populations to develop capacities and engage, as right-holders, once solutions become possible. We call on donor states to provide the necessary financial support to support this approach.

Second: Strategies for solutions should commence at the onset of displacement. While the priority in the first stage of a displacement crisis is saving lives and ensuring protection, efforts should also be invested in identifying how the immediate response impacts on future prospects for solutions, including through the early involvement of development partners. We urge humanitarian and development actors to work together at the onset of displacement, and member states to ensure this approach is taken in funding mechanisms. We encourage stakeholders to work through platforms that are playing an active role in this, such as The Solutions Alliance, and through civil society such as the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), a coalition of some of the largest implementing agencies operating across East and Horn of Africa.

Third: Unlocking protracted displacement must take its point of departure in international normative and legal frameworks and commitments. Most notably, the Refugee Conventions, the Guiding Principles on IDPs and state ratified regional frameworks such as the Great Lakes Protocols and the Kampala Convention on IDPs. We urge States to uphold their commitments under relevant international legal frameworks, and for UNHCR and States to continue to promote implementation of frameworks on ending displacement such as the UN Secretary-General's Decision on Durable

Solutions, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs.

In closing, **we call on UNHCR and States to maintain protection as central to solutions for displacement.** The rights of displaced persons, their protection and empowerment should be at the heart of approaches to displacement solutions.

Thank you, Mr Chair