

***The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur, co-convened with UNHCR and the IDP Protection Expert Group, and facilitated discussions at a Cross-Regional Exchange on implementation of law and policy related to internal displacement. The four-day event was held at the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy from 6-9 June 2023 and was attended by the representatives of States and NHRIs from nine countries.***

**State officials across continents say they want to work together to effectively help internally displaced persons in their countries**

*Statement by Paula Gaviria Betancur,  
UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons*

In the lead up to my first interactive dialogue with Member States of the Human Rights Council on my [vision report](#) and priorities for my first term, I am keenly aware of the well-recognized need for opportunities and platforms for States to engage and exchange their experiences on how to effectively prevent and respond to internal displacement. This was a key recommendation of the [UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), of which I was a member.

I am very pleased to bring with me the perspectives I gained from the representatives of Governments at the national and subnational levels, and various institutions from nine countries that took part in the Cross-Regional Forum on Implementing Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement, co-convened with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, and my predecessors Professors Walter Kälin and Chaloka Beyani as part of our joint collaboration in the IDP Protection Expert Group.

Adopting legal, policy, and institutional frameworks aligned with international and regional standards is a crucial step towards resolving internal displacement. While there are 114 internally displaced persons (IDP)-specific instruments across 46 countries, effective implementation remains a significant challenge in most contexts – as the recent UNHCR-Global Protection Cluster [Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement](#) highlights.

Held over four days, the Forum was a laboratory of exchange of good practices and lessons learnt in addressing challenges related to preventing arbitrary displacement, protecting internally displaced persons and supporting solutions, including means of meaningfully engaging with displacement-affected communities. Government officials from Azerbaijan, Colombia, Georgia, Honduras, Mexico, Mozambique, Philippines, Somalia, and Ukraine, highlighted the value of learning from counterparts' practices, achievements and setbacks in planning and implementation, within and outside their geographic regions. The Forum also served as an

opportunity for subnational and local authorities to exchange with national Government officials on best practices and their respective roles, responsibilities, and comparative situations.

As Special Rapporteur I am convinced that there is no substitute for Government leadership in protecting the rights of IDPs and laying the groundwork for solutions. I will continue to provide technical assistance and advice to States and other counterparts on legal, policy and implementation measures and, in collaboration with UNHCR, will build on this first Forum under the banner of the IDP Protection Expert Group to continue to offer coordinated support for State-to-State peer learning.