

IDP Protection Expert Group

Enhancing protection in situations of internal displacement through
coordinated, collaborative, and targeted support



IPEG delegation with Vice Prime Minister Vereshchuk,
Ukraine, Nov 2023.



Cross-Regional Forum on IDP Laws and Policies,
Sanremo, June 2023.



NEWSLETTER



July 2024

Updates: January-June 2024

Ukraine Mission Follow-Up

In January, the Special Rapporteur presented and discussed the report and findings of the IPEG Mission to Ukraine (Nov 2023) with the RC/HC of Ukraine and the Ombudsperson of Ukraine in separate online meetings. Since then, follow-up to the mission has focused on *two areas*:

1) Supporting the development of a law on reparations for victims of the war, as requested by Ukraine's Ombudsperson. Since the mission, the Special Rapporteur:

- Briefed the Ombudsperson's Inter-Government Working Group on the Preparation of Proposals for Compensation and Reparations; Presented findings from the IPEG mission to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Task Force for the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine; & Participated in the Expert Roundtable on Reparations convened by the Council of Europe in Poland.

2) Promoting IDP participation. Since the mission, the UNHCR IDP Unit:

- Facilitated the participation of Ukrainian IDPs in global consultations on IDP policy virtually and in person; Recommended IDP leaders from Ukraine to join as members of the IDP Advisory Group to the Office of Special Adviser Robert Piper, as well as to join an IPEG-organized workshop on IDP Participation with McGill University in December 2024; Influenced the final language of the independent IASC review to reference Ukrainian IDP Councils accurately and appropriately, & Drafted a policy note on applying lessons from the experience of IDP councils to other contexts (forthcoming).

▶▶▶ IPEG-Supported Expert Roundtable on IDP Protection and Solutions in Washington, DC

A Global Conference on Internally Displaced Persons, hosted by Refugees International and Georgetown University, with support from UNHCR, took place on 18 April in Washington, DC. Following the morning public event, the Special Rapporteur, in her role as co-lead of the IPEG, convened a closed-door Expert Roundtable with around 30 IDP experts from across the humanitarian and development sectors, including multiple members of the IPEG who joined in-person and online, as well as IDP leaders. The highlight of the event was the participation of Yana Liubymova, the head of the Luhansk IDP Council in Ukraine, and Yirga Gebregziabher Assefa, a local community-leaders from Tigray, Ethiopia, as well as the participation of other IDP leaders online.



The SR, together with Yana Liubymova from Ukraine, Yirga Assefa from Ethiopia, Sarah Miller with RI, and Mark Yarnell with UNHCR, Washington, April 2023.

▶▶▶ The IASC IDP Review Recommends IPEG as Resource for RC/HCs



The Independent Review of the IASC Response to Internal Displacement, published in March, highlights the IPEG as a resource to RC/HCs for "high-level, time-limited support" with humanitarian diplomacy to address difficult IDP issues [Recommendation 10]. While such support can involve country missions, other tools include remote engagement, developing and providing confidential advice and guidance for UN and government leadership, and engaging in global public advocacy.

▶▶▶ IPEG Virtual Spring Meeting and Dialogue with SA Robert Piper

The IPEG members held a virtual meeting on 9 May to discuss updates from the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, as well as recent developments in the global IDP policy landscape, including the protection implications of the independent IASC review and the ongoing work of Special Adviser Robert Piper. The IPEG then met with SA Piper and his team on 14 June for a briefing on the OSA's work to-date and priorities for the coming months, as well as to receive feedback on considerations for post-2024 arrangements. A follow-up meeting to discuss potential priority areas for IPEG engagement will be scheduled for later in the year.

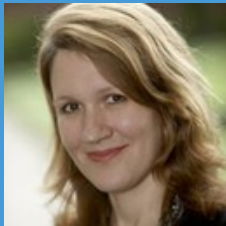


Meeting between the IPEG and SA Piper, 14 June

>>> Welcome to new members!



Elizabeth Ferris



Erin Mooney

The IPEG welcomed two new distinguished members: **Elizabeth (Beth) Ferris** and **Erin Mooney**.

- Beth is the Director for the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University. She was Co-Director of the Brookings Project on Internal Displacement and an expert advisor to the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, among other senior-level roles.
- Erin is an internationally recognized senior expert on IDPs, forced migration, humanitarian affairs and human rights, with 29 years of UN and other international professional experience.

What's Next - July-December 2024

>>> Peer Exchanges

BRIDGING GAPS BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Cross-Regional Forum on Implementation of IDP Laws and Policies in Africa

Dakar, 18-20 September 2024

Based on the success of the first Cross-Regional Forum in Sanremo in June 2023, IPEG is organizing a second event of this kind - this time with a focus on Africa. The Forum will promote government-to-government exchange of practice on concrete ways to make progress on law and policy implementation in Africa - under the framework of the Kampala Convention - in a context of complex and intertwined causes of displacement, including large-scale conflict, generalized violence, political upheaval, human rights violations, disasters and, increasingly, the adverse effects of climate change.

Multi-Stakeholder IDP Participation Workshop + IPEG roundtable

Montreal, 5-6 December 2024

IPEG and McGill University will be hosting a workshop to identify ways to further amplify IDP voices and put IDPs at the centre of the response to internal displacement. IDPs will be invited to share their experiences and recommendations on participation in the response and solutions to their displacement. The event, building on Virtual IDP Roundtables organized by UNHCR, as well as those by the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, will gather academia, NGOs, UN agencies, IPEG members and other practitioners.

➤➤➤ IPEG Public Thematic Commentaries

GLOBAL ADVOCACY ON IDP PROTECTION

In addition to participating in global events, such as the Georgetown University/Refugees International event in April, IPEG members will bring forward their expertise to publish periodic commentaries on critical thematic IDP protection issues over the coming months. Commentaries will be co-authored jointly by two or more IPEG members to be published in media outlets, as well as the IPEG website. The current topics planned for publication are:

- ***The case for IDPs as special category of concern*** -- July 2024
- ***Planned relocations in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change: Ensuring a protection-centered approach*** -- Oct 2024
- ***Advancing the meaningful participation of IDPs in peacebuilding*** -- Dec 2024

➤➤➤ IPEG Protection Missions

HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

IPEG is planning a protection support mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in late 2024, on invitation from the DSRSG/RC/HC. There are over 7 million IDPs in the DRC, with many facing severe protection challenges as the MONUSCO peacekeeping mission draws down. The IPEG is looking to focus on the situation in Ituri, where there are 1.8 million IDPs alone, and engage on three key issues:

- Reinforcing IDP protection in the context of the phased MONUSCO withdrawal.
- Engaging the government on its responsibilities to provide protection and assistance for its displaced citizens.
- Strengthening opportunities for IDP participation in the transition/peace processes.



Mbala displacement site in Urumu, Ituri, 2023.



MONUSCO patrol near Bunia, Ituri, 2022.

The IDP Protection Expert Group – IPEG – is co-led by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, UNHCR and the Global Protection Cluster. See more [here](#)

The IPEG Members include:

- Paula Gaviria Betancur
- Cecilia Jimenez-Damary
- Chaloka Beyani
- Walter Kaelin
- Peter de Clercq
- Jennifer Welsh
- Atle Solberg
- Nina Birkeland
- Maya Sahli-Fadel
- Erin Mooney
- Elizabeth Ferris

For more information:

Contact Mark Yarnell at yarnell@unhcr.org or Nadine Walicki at walicki@unhcr.org