

Preliminary Joint Statement

by the Co-Hosts - Government of Japan and the Solutions Alliance

Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus: Collaborative Approaches to Find Solutions for Forcibly Displaced Persons

Government of Japan and the Solutions Alliance have come together to host a side event to mobilize broad support for the following five (5) points that are assessed as fundamental to achieve better collaboration between humanitarian and development actors to find solutions for forcibly displaced persons. These points draw upon field experiences.

Transcending the humanitarian and development divide involves multiple stakeholders including, but not limited to host governments and local communities, forcibly displaced people, civil society, and the private sector, along with international actors such as bilateral donors, multilateral partners, international financial institutions, international NGOs, academics, and the international private sector. The below five points to advance the Secretary-General's call for a shared commitment to humanity, in particular Core Responsibility Three, leave no one behind, and Core Responsibility Four, change people's lives-From delivering aid to ending need, alongside the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The latter provides an overall framework to ensure that no-one is left behind.

- 1. *Ensuring meaningful participation of the most affected - host and returnee communities and forcibly displaced people - in the pursuit of solutions to forced displacement.*** Their intentions, insights, experiences and understandings of the situation are critical to furthering self-reliance and inclusion during displacement for the eventual realization of a durable solution. Two fundamental actions are needed by all actors to engage those most affected: strengthening tools and methodologies for participatory planning and designing and adjusting interventions to better respond to short-term and long-term needs and concerns. It will also be a critical basis to ensure that our support enhances self-resilience of host and returnee communities.

Aligning humanitarian and development assistance could provide an opportunity both for the displaced and host and communities. Furthermore, forcibly displaced people bring skills and capacities that can contribute to the socio-economic growth of their host communities. A human-security approach should be taken to protection and empower each individual.

- 2. *Including forced displacement issues in national and local development plans, and in peacebuilding and recovery strategies.*** Inclusion in key planning documents provides the means to engage humanitarian and development stakeholders in support of solutions. The dynamics of inclusion will need to be carefully assessed. As non-citizens there may be resistance to including refugees in national development plans. With internal displacement, depending on the root causes and, or conflict drivers there may also be opposition to specific mention of internal forced displacement in national development plans. These differences should be reflected in plans and strategies through solid analysis that fully appreciates the distinct political, social-economic, and cultural dimensions of displacement in each context.

- 3. *Marshaling the comparative advantages of humanitarians and development actors for collective action through the promotion of institutional flexibility while respecting fundamental principles.*** In response to distinct needs, inherently different, yet complementary, approaches have evolved between humanitarians and development actors. The protracted and complex reality of forced displacement necessitates an alignment of these different approaches within a common overarching objective to realize solutions. This alignment does not fall along a linear time frame. The delivery of humanitarian and development assistance as well as support to resilience and self-reliance should happen in parallel with development actors engaged from the onset. Delivery of assistance and promotion of protection should function in an integral manner with a view to ensure that

synergies are maximized therein contributing, where possible, to preventing or resolving protracted displacement. In the process of alignment all efforts to preserve respect for humanitarian principles must be taken.

4. ***Developing a common vision through identification of complementary policies, and joint analysis that enable holistic planning.*** Protracted large scale displacement entails profound development challenges for displaced and host communities. This calls for further progress in building coherent and synergized responses by humanitarian and development actors. This must be initiated from the onset of a crisis and thereafter involving joint analysis and coherent multi-year planning as well as implementation and monitoring where possible. This planning should be accompanied by further policy development and guidance on the most efficient and effective support to be provided, based on good practices and lessons learned thus far while respecting the rights of displaced and host communities. To date we have seen significant synergies in aligning humanitarian responses with longer-term development action by focusing on strengthening community-level resilience.
5. ***Seeing the humanitarian-development nexus as an integral part of promoting peace and security.*** Pursuit of peace through political solutions of conflicts and providing forcibly displaced people with the possibilities for a safe, dignified and durable solution, including voluntary return should remain in the forefront of the response. Neither humanitarian nor development assistance is a substitute for, but rather complementary to political action.

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