

IOM Council, 105th Session, 25-28 November 2014

Tuesday 25th November, Item 5: Admission of new members and observers

Statement by IDMC Director, Alfredo Zamudio on the admission of IDMC as an observer

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Excellencies, IOM friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

My name is Alfredo Zamudio and I am the Director of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Last year, I had the privilege of addressing this IOM Council as a personal beneficiary of the invaluable work of IOM, as a political refugee from Chile in the 1970s. This year, it is my great honour to be here to represent IDMC as an official observer to the Council for the first time.

IDMC was established in 1998 by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in response to a gap in the protection and assistance provided to internally displaced people worldwide. In order to address this gap, the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC),

identified the need for global data and analysis on internal displacement, to inform policy decisions and operations.

Today, 16 years later, IDMC is established as the leading source of information on internal displacement, also recognised by bi-annual resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. The IDMC analysis shows that the trends in internal displacement continue to be a cause for serious, global concern. Last year, 33 million people were internally displaced by conflict, violence and human rights violations. Of these, 8.2 million people had been displaced in 2013. The rest, have been in displacement for many years, up to 17 years as an average.

Same year, 22 million people were internally displaced by disasters, and the risk to be displaced since 1970 until now has doubled, our data shows.

And the size and complexity of the challenge makes partnerships and knowledge-sharing more important than ever.

The trends over the last 40 years is alarming. Internal displacement is increasing in numbers, due perhaps better data, due perhaps more access, better response by national governments, and also, because the human suffering is increasing due a large number of reasons.

Our goal is to inform forums like this, where decisions for the benefit of the displaced can be taken.

Over the past few years, our partnership with IOM has gone from strength to strength. This year, for example, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) team here in Geneva as well as some 28 IOM offices worldwide contributed to IDMC's annual Global Estimates report on disaster-related displacement. Recently, we have also worked together in developing inter-agency policy positions on human mobility in the context of climate change and the post-2015 agenda on disaster risk reduction.

The Cooperation Agreement IDMC signed with IOM earlier this year, together with our acceptance today as an observer to the Council are much appreciated as further developments of this fruitful relationship.

Thank you.

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