

Towards a wider perspective on refugees, migrants and displaced persons.

QUNO comments at “Ensuring No One is Left Behind: A High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Refugees” co-hosted by IPI and QUNO on July 20, 2016.

Many thanks to my fellow co-hosts and to our speakers for their insights and perspectives. I have two quick points and a question.

First, as the international community comes together around a normative and operational framework for these issues, let us take into account that, although the situation in the Middle East and its impact on Europe is particularly acute, our systemic approaches must be sufficiently flexible to be more broadly applicable to current and foreseeable situations – including the significant displacement and migration in the Americas, and the likely waves of climate migrants to come.

Secondly, although the September summit is focused on refugees and migrants - that is, people who have crossed borders - the 2030 Agenda perspective that we are concerned with today is not so limited, and provides a new, broader framing which allows us to take into account all displaced people, including those displaced within countries: human needs do not change just because a displaced person happens to have crossed a border – all displaced people suffer, and are in danger of being left behind.

So with that in mind, my question to our speakers is the following. What concrete steps can we take at a national, regional and global level to ensure that refugees, migrants and all displaced persons are taken into account in our implementation of the 2030 Agenda, are included in our data and our reviews at all levels, and benefit from the SDGs, not as a footnote, but as a priority, consistent with the Agenda commitment to ‘reach the furthest behind first’?

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July 2016