



Draft Programme

2026 ECOSOC Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development

16 June 2026, New York

Updated on 12 June 2026

Overarching Theme: Advancing solutions for internally displaced persons and strengthening financing for crisis contexts

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#), the 2026 Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development will be held in New York on 16 June. The meeting will be co-chaired by His Excellency Ambassador Wellington Bencosme, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations in New York, in his capacity as Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the 2026 Operational Activities for Development Segment, and His Excellency Ambassador Héctor Gómez, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations in New York, in his capacity as Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the 2026 Humanitarian Affairs Segment.

The meeting is an opportunity to convene Member States and partners, including the UN system, humanitarian organizations, development and peacebuilding actors, international financial institutions (IFIs), regional organizations, and affected communities. It will provide a platform to examine how existing financing instruments and coordination mechanisms can better support countries navigating complex and overlapping crises, including situations of internal displacement, in a challenging global macroeconomic and financing context. It will also feature the important contributions of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and includes a geographic focus on Haiti, South Sudan and the Sahel, in line with General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#).

The meeting will: (i) highlight opportunities to strengthen financing in crisis contexts through more coherent, predictable, and accessible instruments; and (ii) advance approaches that support durable solutions for internally displaced persons.

The global development financing context is challenging with the most vulnerable experiencing a ‘financing squeeze’. 2025 saw the largest annual contraction on record for Official Development Assistance and a second consecutive year of decline, bringing ODA to where it stood at the start

of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹ In 2025, ODA declined by 23.1 percent in real terms compared to 2024. This includes a 38.5 percent drop in humanitarian ODA.

These challenges are exacerbated in many crisis-affected settings, where humanitarian needs, recovery efforts and longer-term development processes unfold simultaneously rather than sequentially or recur. Countries may experience acute crises in some regions while maintaining relative stability in others, requiring flexible and coordinated responses across humanitarian, development and peace actors. In complex contexts and with nonlinear paths to development, the ability to mobilize and align different and consistent sources of financing becomes critical to supporting nationally led pathways from crisis response toward more sustainable outcomes, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its commitment to leaving no one behind, including those affected by conflict and displacement.

Tuesday 16 June 2026, 10:00–10:30, ECOSOC Chamber

Opening Session

- H.E. Ambassador Héctor Gómez, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations in New York & Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the 2026 Humanitarian Affairs Segment
- H.E. Ambassador Wellington Bencosme, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations in New York & Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the 2026 Operational Activities for Development Segment
- Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations [pre-recorded video remarks]
- H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations & Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission
- H.E. Ambassador David Lametti, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations & Chair of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

Tuesday 16 June 2026, 10:30–13:00, ECOSOC Chamber

High-Level Panel 1: *Strengthening financing in crisis contexts: promoting partnerships and avoiding fragmentation*

Context/background: Against a backdrop of intensifying conflicts, recurrent climate shocks and growing needs, it is difficult to shift from immediate crisis response to sustainable development pathways, as financing and support systems remain fragmented and often difficult to access.

¹ OECD/DAC 2025 preliminary data; accessed 21 April 2026: <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/insights/data-explainers/2026/04/a-historic-decline-in-foreign-aid-preliminary-2025-oda-data.html>

Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other partners will therefore be critical to overcoming fragmentation, improving access to financing and supporting countries in crisis contexts, including the Sahel, South Sudan and Haiti, as they move towards sustainable development

Objectives:

- Explore how the United Nations system, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), regional development banks, the private sector, and other partners can work together to deliver greater and sustained impact for crisis-affected populations amid the current funding crisis.
- Identify practical measures to reduce fragmentation across financing instruments and strengthen complementarity and coherence among all relevant actors, including by improving access to existing financing windows.
- Explore opportunities for further collaboration between IFIs and UN-managed funds to better align financing with the evolving needs of crisis-affected countries, enabling responsive and context-specific interventions that support sustainable development outcomes.
- Discuss country-level examples of how United Nations pooled funds – such as the Joint SDG Fund and the Peacebuilding Fund – are used in a complementary and strategic way across different country contexts, and how this can help catalyze additional financing.

Guiding questions:

- In the context of shrinking ODA and increasing demand for concessional finance both for humanitarian needs and development efforts, what are some concrete actions that can be taken to reduce fragmentation and enhance collaboration between the United Nations system, IFIs and other partners to ensure that crisis-affected countries are receiving needed support?
- What financing tools and instruments are the international financial institutions advancing to ensure that immediate term finance to address crises is paving the way for long-term financing for sustainable development? What are some concrete examples of how these tools have been used to that end?
- How is sequencing across pooled funds operationalized in practice, and how is complementarity ensured across different contexts? And how are pooled mechanisms converting coordination gains into scaled investment for the SDGs?

Moderator: Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA

Invited panelists:

- Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office
- *Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator* [virtual] (TBC)
- Ms. Mireia Villar Forner, Deputy Director, Development Coordination Office

- Mr. Hans Das, Deputy Director-General and Chief Operations Officer, European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- Ms. Juliana Almeida, Principal Specialist, Office of the Special Advisor at the IDB Presidency, Inter-American Development Bank

Tuesday 16 June 2026, 15:00–18:00, ECOSOC Chamber

High-Level Panel 2: *Advancing durable solutions for internally displaced persons*

Context/background: Internal displacement continues to rise globally amidst escalating crises and shrinking resources. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) face heightened vulnerabilities and remain displaced for years, facing persistent barriers to livelihoods, housing, basic services and social inclusion often compounded by weak governance, insufficient funding and repeated shocks such as disasters or renewed violence, creating cycles of protracted displacement.

Building on the United Nations Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and operative paragraph 47 of the 2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review resolution, there is a growing shift from addressing internal displacement primarily as a humanitarian issue toward government-led, development-anchored – and ultimately development-financed – approaches.

More coordinated action across sectors and partners, streamlined United Nations support under Resident Coordinator leadership, and stronger national ownership and political commitment to find lasting solutions are increasingly evident across contexts and governments are gaining experience in addressing displacement as a complex development challenge. However, significant challenges remain to achieving solutions on a scale. Financing gaps persist, highlighting the need for a whole-of-financing approach that mobilizes domestic, international, public, and private resources.

Objectives:

- Discuss how development and humanitarian actors can collaborate more effectively - through joint planning, coordinated implementation, and shared monitoring of results - to achieve durable outcomes in displacement-affected contexts, highlighting recent coordination achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations to better support affected countries and communities. Examine how development financing, including through stronger engagement with international financial institutions, can support national efforts to address internal displacement.
- Discuss how United Nations Country Teams and Resident Coordinators can more systematically mainstream internal displacement into United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and support governments in integrating durable solutions into national development plans and other planning documents as appropriate.

- Identify practical recent achievements in strengthening system-wide coordination, share lessons learned, and propose recommendations to better support affected countries and communities by bringing together Member States, United Nations entities, the international financial institutions, NGOs and partners.

Guiding Questions:

- What are the structural barriers - legal, financial and institutional - that prevent internally displaced persons from accessing services and securing rights, such as land, housing and livelihoods?
- What concrete actions can governments and other institutions take to dismantle these barriers, including through the integration of IDP rights into national legal and development frameworks?
- In the context of record levels of internal displacement and contracting and increasingly transactional ODA, how can development actors and IFIs shift from short-term relief toward government-led, development-anchored durable solutions?
- How can we transition from immediate relief to long-term approaches that address the underlying drivers of displacement, and support durable solutions?

Moderator: Ms. Mireia Villar Forner, Deputy Director, DCO

Invited Panelists:

- Mr. Raouf Mazou, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees
- Ms. Maria Dimitriadou, Special Representative to the UN and Head of Multilateral Affairs, World Bank
- Ms. Shoko Noda, Director, Crisis Bureau, United Nations Development Programme (annual convenor of the UN's system-wide support to solutions to internal displacement)
- Ms. Christine Knudsen, Vice President, Humanitarian Policy and Practice, InterAction
- Ms. Shabnam Baloch, Country Director in South Sudan, Oxfam [virtual]
- Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons [virtual]

Closing session

- Closing remarks by H.E. Ambassador Wellington Bencosme, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations in New York & Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the 2026 Operational Activities for Development Segment
- Closing remarks by H.E. Ambassador Héctor Gómez, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations in New York and Vice-President of ECOSOC responsible for the 2026 Humanitarian Affairs Segment