

**UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs
27 – 29 JUNE 2018**

International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Session title: *Africa Regional session*

Date: Wednesday 27 June

Time/Room: 14h00 – 16h00 – Room 4

Background:

The African continent remains host to the largest number of refugees and internally displaced, while being heavily beset by the deeper issues surrounding urbanization, internal conflicts, massive economic migration, climate change and poor governance. At the same time, refugees and IDPs continue in their endeavors in finding individual solutions for the medium and longer term. UNHCR and NGOs have long struggled to foster refugee inclusion into their hosting economies, into national health and educational systems, and into societies at large. The theme, "*Putting People First*", gives us a chance to look at the impact of our work, not only as a tool for future planning, but as a way to understand the key priorities, synergies and direction we need in this changing environment.

The panelists and participants will use this session to reflect upon the main trends in Africa, particularly in areas where refugee inclusion presents strong opportunities for personal and professional prosperity, and how UNHCR and NGOs can improve our contributions to this process.

Objectives of the session:

There are two primary objectives of the session on Africa, linked to the theme of "Putting People First":

- Jointly and collectively identifying key opportunities, in line with the 'whole of society approach', to finding solutions to forced displacement in the African context;
- Panel discussion focused on improving UNHCR and NGOs' approach and vision in *putting people first*.

Desired outcome of the session:

In line with the above:

- Concrete recommendations on identifying and exploiting new avenues for finding solutions to the forced displacement crises in Africa, based on the voices of refugees and other displaced, particularly the youth;
- Recognition of and strategy for overcoming critical limitations on our approaches to putting people first (e.g., ongoing conflict, economic impoverishment, urbanization, bureaucratic obstruction and delay, etc.).

Methodology:

1. **TED Talk style** with two speakers (appx. 10 – 12 minutes each) and Q&A to follow (pigeonhole welcome).
2. **Director's Overview**
3. **Panel with Q&A:** Three panellists (one NGO, one UNHCR, one refugee) will discuss questions surrounding:
 - How to increase engagement by the public and private sector in finding solutions to forced displacement;
 - How implementation of CRRF and other initiatives are initiating change within the agencies and institutions (and is this good / bad);
 - The question of how UNHCR, NGOs and others can ensure that the displaced have a place at the table in designing their futures.