

## South America UNHCR-NGO Consultations

### “Solidarity in action on the path to the Global Refugee Forum”

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | 21 and 22 November 2019

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**Date and time:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> & Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 (09:00 – 18:30 hrs)

**Co-organizers:** UNHCR, HIAS and The Center for the Protection of Refugees and Immigrants (CEPRI)

**Context:** Given the complex human mobility context in the South American region with millions of people seeking asylum in mixed migratory movements, the role of Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector in supporting persons of concern is more important than ever. The First Global Refugee Forum (GRF) (17 and 18 December 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland) provides the opportunity for NGOs and the Private Sector to partner with other actors and have a deeper and more impactful collective action towards common protection and solutions goals.

#### Objectives:

- a) Discuss current challenges and opportunities in the sub-region and define how to enhance partnering and responsibility sharing among Civil Society and the Private Sector organizations in the Americas
- b) Develop individual or joint pledges that can be announced towards the GRF
- c) Share good practices and other contributions for the GRF

**Main themes of discussion:** To provide a strategic focus and maximize the impact of the first GRF in 2019, contributions are encouraged in the following areas of focus: (i) Arrangements for burden and responsibility sharing; (ii) **Education**; (iii) **Jobs and Livelihoods**; (iv) **Energy and Infrastructure**; (v) **Solutions**; and (vi) **Protection Capacity**. Within an area of focus, contributions could address: a sub-theme; a specific refugee situation; and/or a specific group.<sup>1</sup> Given the regional context and the short time for the meeting, the event will focus on the themes highlighted in bold.

#### Participation Criteria for NGOs & Private Sector organizations:

Organizations that will participate shall fall under the following criteria:

- Organizations that work directly with asylum seekers, refugees internally displaced and stateless persons in the Americas
- Organizations willing to exchange good practices and experiences with respect to regional and specific country situations, as well as at a global level
- Indicated an intention to make new, innovative, or impactful pledges or other substantive contributions towards the GRF

#### Declaration of Commitment

The purpose of this event is for NGOs and Private Sector organizations to **consider their commitments through the development of individual or joint pledges and contribute with good practices** towards the achievement of the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees and strengthen collective response for situations of human mobility in the Americas region as we prepare for the 1<sup>st</sup> GRF.

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<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, Pledges and Contributions, <https://www.unhcr.org/pledges-and-contributions.html>