

UNHCR SOUTHERN AFRICA CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS AND MULTISTAKEHOLDERS

10-11 SEPTEMBER 2019

DISCUSSION PAPER

Date: 11 September

Time/Room: 9:00am – 10:30am, 10:45am – 12:00am /Main auditorium

Session Title: Dialogue with UNHCR Colleagues on Global Refugee Forum, Poverty Alleviation Alliance, and Country Representatives on the Global Compact on Refugees

Executive Summary:

On the occasion of the UNHCR multi-stakeholder Consultations for Southern Africa, UNHCR would like to consult with its NGO partners in the region, on the specific strategic and operational priorities. In a vast and complex region, the UNHCR and NGOs partnership will be dealing with challenges relating to various drivers of forced displacement requiring strong and solid partnership.

The Dialogue will be split between two sessions. The first session will focus on the UNHCR Regionalization process, the Global Refugee Forum and the Global Compact on Refugees. As many NGOs have done, UNHCR has recently re-organized in Regional Hubs with the aim of enhancing its response capacity and contribution to sustainable solutions. UNHCR's regionalization should be an opportunity for more focused programmatic collaboration with NGOs, through regional analysis and response to displacement situations. The UNHCR closer to the field and more accessible to its NGO partners is welcomed, especially for local and national NGOs not present in Geneva. This new proximity to the field has indeed the potential of resulting in faster and more effective response mechanisms. On the other hand, there is a fear that regionalization also bears the risk of fragmentation and inconsistent application of global policies. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from UNHCR top leadership about the main features of the regionalization and engage in an exchange on what it means for partnership.

Session two will be an opportunity to exchange among senior representative of both NGOs and UNHCR, and participants with questions from the floor on operational issues specifically pertinent to the region including but not limited to:

- Operational aspects of refugee protection and assistance in the region.
- Conflict generated internal displacement.
- Involvement of UNHCR in natural disaster generated displacement.

This final session will cover the current and planned capacity of UNHCR and NGOs at the regional and country level and will enable a debate among partners to identify gaps in preparedness and response deserving common attention in the incoming months.

Objectives of the Session

Three years after the New York declaration for Refugees and Migrants and 8 months after the endorsement of the Global Compact on Refugees at the UN General Assembly, UNHCR and NGOs will have the opportunity to debate on the regional dimension of the related processes, and particularly:

- The modalities for NGOs to make pledges, individual and joint, and showcase good practices at the Global Refugee Forum.
- Exploring opportunities for complementary advocacy, towards States in the region and other actors, to ensure all stakeholders contribute to the success of the Global

Refugee Forum and its objectives, particularly with a view to expanding international solidarity and responsibility-sharing.

- The special initiatives related to the GCR (e.g. the three-year resettlement strategy; the Asylum Capacity Support Group; the Support Platforms), which will be showcased at the Global Refugee Forum and to which NGOs can contribute.
- Provide opportunities to partners to debate on UNHCR – partner processes.
- Identify gaps in UNHCR or partner preparedness and response.

Outcomes of the Session

- Regional pledges, individual and joint, to be made at the Global Refugee Forum.
- Development of a joint advocacy strategy.
- Partners and UNHCR have a better understanding of the shared goals and objectives to work towards the Global Refugee Forum and the regional implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Facilitator:

Co-facilitated by Mr Marco Rotelli, Regional Representative for Africa, ICVA and Mr Arafat Jamal, Head of Partnership and Coordination Service, UNHCR

Speakers:

- Mr. George Okoth-Obbo, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, UNHCR
- H.R.H. Prince Jaime Bourbon de Parme, Senior Adviser, Private Sector Partnerships, UNHCR Ms Pierrine Aylara, UNHCR Country Representative Zambia
- Ms Monique Ekoko, UNHCR Country Representative Malawi
- Mr Robert Hurt, Head, Implementing Partnership Management Service (including financial partnerships), UNHCR
- Ms Sweta Madhuri Kannan, Policy Officer, Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team, UNHCR
- Ms Annabel Mwangi, Senior Policy Adviser, Durable Solutions, UNHCR
- Mr Cian O'Brien, Poverty Alleviation Alliance Secretariat, UNCHR
- Ms. Rachel Levitan Vice President of International Programmes, HIAS