

**UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS**  
**3 – 5 JULY 2019**

International Conference Center Geneva

**DISCUSSION PAPER**

**Title of session:** Inclusion of refugees and other persons of concern

**Date:** Friday, 5 July 2019

**Time/Room:** 11:00 – 12:30 – Room 5/6

**Executive Summary:**

Humanitarian and development policies and programs targeted at refugees are among the highest priorities of the international community, yet refugees' voices are often absent from policy and decision-making processes that affect their lives. This results in policies and programs that fall short of addressing the needs and aspirations of refugees effectively. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a key role in shaping international policies and programs as well as safeguarding the civic space in international fora. In view of this, it is essential that NGOs work in collaboration with refugee representatives and their organizations to enhance their inclusion in decision-making spaces. In this session, the Global Refugee-led Network (GRN) in collaboration with the Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC) will facilitate a discussion about the importance of refugees' inclusion and self-representation. Panelists will share good practices developed by different stakeholders, including private sector entities and NGOs, which could be shared at the Global Refugee Forum and replicated by others to promote refugees' inclusion. Innovative ideas for how NGOs can be engaged in supporting pledges and contributions at the Forum that involve refugees will also be shared.

**Concept Note:**

**Objective(s) of the session**

1. Highlight what meaningful refugee participation is and the challenges and gaps to refugee participation from the perspective of different actors, including NGOs, refugees, INGOs, and States, where possible. Examine the ways in which refugee participation could be facilitated and showcase good practices to illustrate real-life examples of how diverse actors have supported refugee participation in different ways.
2. Indicate a number of joint pledges for the Global Refugee Forum drawing upon good practices to demonstrate concrete ways that NGOs, private sector and other stakeholders could work *with* refugees.
3. Highlight the role of refugee agency, especially when it comes to protection.
4. Share the voices of refugees who cannot participate in person due to their status and inability to travel.

## **Desired outcome of the session**

1. Concrete examples of good practices that can enable joint collaboration between refugee-led initiatives, States, NGOs as well as local and national authorities, which can be shared at the Global Refugee Forum.
2. Commitments and pledges about meaningful inclusion of refugees by different stakeholders, particularly towards the Global Refugee Forum.
3. Enhanced awareness among participants of meaningful refugee participation and how it can be promoted in their respective organizations.

## **Methodology & choreography**

The session will be conducted in a panel format with two co-moderators guiding the discussions. To commence, panelists will deliver their presentations, sharing good practices and lived experiences. To make the panel interactive, co-moderators will also pose questions to the panelists. This segment will last 45 minutes.

As this event focuses on refugee inclusion, a number of videos will be shown from refugees who are unable to participate in the event either in person or virtually. These video will help bring the voices of refugees from different places to the discussions at the session. This segment will take 10 minutes.

Following the videos, panelists will be granted a total of 10 minutes to share their comments and/or observations.

- The moderators will then open the floor for Q&A with the participants. This segment will take 25 minutes. Following the Q&A, moderators will then conclude and close the session.