

UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS
3 – 5 JULY 2019

International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Title of session: Solutions

Date: Friday, 5 July 2019

Time/Room: 13:30 – 15:30 – Room 2

Executive Summary:

One of the primary objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) is to facilitate access to solutions, including by planning for solutions from the outset of refugee situations. The Global Refugee Forum represents a unique opportunity to work towards the progressive achievement of this goal through increased international cooperation, solidarity, and support, particularly for safe, dignified, and sustainable voluntary repatriation, local integration, and local solutions and resettlement and complementary pathways.

The session on solutions will present concrete ideas for contributions by NGOs to the Forum as well as showcasing of good practices in expanding refugees' access to solutions. It will highlight some of the recent efforts to support solutions in the broader sense, including at the regional level in West Africa, before looking closer at resettlement and complementary pathways. It will be an opportunity to get familiar with the UNHCR-led multi-stakeholder 3-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary pathways and discuss how NGOs can contribute to making the Strategy the driving force for expansion of resettlement and complementary pathways as foreseen in the GCR.

Concept Note:

- **Background and link to the theme** [*see Concept note for the overall theme for reference*]

Refugee situations continue to increase in scope, scale, and complexity. One of the primary objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) is to facilitate access to solutions, including by planning for solutions from the outset of refugee situations. The Global Refugee Forum represents a unique opportunity to work towards the progressive achievement of this goal through increased international cooperation, solidarity, and support, particularly for voluntary repatriation, local integration, and local solutions and resettlement and complementary pathways.

The GCR is a strong signal that the international community is determined to strengthen solidarity with refugees and the communities that host them. Representing tangible solidarity

and responsibility-sharing mechanisms, multi-stakeholder efforts to support the reception and reintegration of repatriates in their countries of origin and the expansion of third country solutions for refugees are major objectives of the GCR. As an important tool to achieve the expansion of third country solutions, the GCR envisages the development of a three-year Strategy (2019 – 2021) on resettlement and complementary pathways as part of global efforts to promote durable solutions and enhance responsibility-sharing. The GCR foresees the Strategy as an important vehicle to increase the number of resettlement opportunities available for refugees, expand the base of resettlement countries and improve the availability and predictability of complementary pathways.

This Strategy is the first of its kind and will help to achieve the objectives of the GCR by demonstrating to countries hosting large numbers of refugees that responsibility-sharing is a reality. Through concrete measures to expand resettlement and complementary pathways opportunities for refugees as well as harnessing the power and expertise of all relevant stakeholders in a truly whole-of-society approach, the Strategy will chart the future of resettlement and complementary pathways for the next three years and beyond.

- **Objective(s) of the session** [*Development of the executive summary provided for the detailed agenda*]

The session will aim to present concrete ideas and showcase best practices in expanding access to solutions that can help inspire participants to formulate individual or joint pledges and contributions for the Global Refugee Forum.

Through discussing the successes related to solutions in a specific regional context, the session will demonstrate how multi-stakeholder approaches, which include States, NGOs and other relevant actors, can be built upon and replicated in other contexts to enhance refugees' access to solutions. Building on para. 89 of the GCR, the discussion will particularly highlight efforts to support solutions in the Ivorian situation, with specific reference to recent developments to build cooperative approaches to strengthen the successful and sustainable reintegration of repatriates in Côte d'Ivoire.

The session will also provide an opportunity to present and discuss with participants the UNHCR-led 3-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways. This Strategy, which was foreseen as part of the GCR and which was developed following an open and consultative process including NGOs and other actors, has the overarching aim of achieving the GCR's third objective of expanding third country solutions for refugees. The presentation on the Strategy will be complemented by interventions from various NGOs highlighting some of the existing best practices and how the Strategy can help grow them. Through the discussion, participants will be inspired to identify areas of contributions and pledges for the Forum that can help achieve the goals of the Strategy.

Against this background, the objectives of the session are:

- Participants have a shared understanding of how expanding refugees' access to solutions is at the heart of the GCR;

- Participants are aware of existing initiatives to support solutions through multi-stakeholder approaches, including support for sustainable reintegration of repatriates in their society of origin;
 - Participants are informed about the 3-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways, its vision and goals;
 - Participants are aware of existing initiatives that support the 3-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.
- **Desired outcome of the session:** [*What would you like to achieve with this session? What would be the follow-up actions to it?*]

The desired outcomes of the session include:

- Participants are informed about good practices and opportunities for co-sponsoring the Solutions theme at the GRF;
 - Participants are inspired to formulate individual or joint pledges to enhance refugees' access to solutions at the GRF;
 - Participants have ideas on how they/their organisations can concretely contribute to achieving the vision of the 3-Year Strategy for Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.
- **Methodology & choreography** [*panel discussion, break-out sessions, pigeonhole, video presentation, mixture of different elements*]

Initial input by panellists, followed by discussion in plenary.

Facilitator: Introduction to theme by *RefugePoint*, including how solutions are at the core of the GCR

Inputs by: *Save the Children* on the value-added of multi-stakeholder approaches in supporting sustainable reintegration of repatriates in Côte d'Ivoire.

UNHCR on the 3-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways as a substantive and concrete action stemming from the GCR that can be used to galvanise support for the GRF.

International Rescue Committee (IRC) on how civil society actors can contribute to the growing of resettlement and how the Strategy can help civil society in their advocacy to expand resettlement.

Démocratie et Entraide en Syrie, Ghosn Zeitoun, France on how local NGOs and civil society actors can contribute to increasing the availability and predictability of complementary pathways, in particular education opportunities, and how the Strategy can support existing efforts to achieve this goal.