

I speak today on behalf of the co-organizers of our Innovation Lab about Localization of knowledge, Research and academic engagement : the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN), the Sergio Vieira de Mello Chairs, the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) and the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer (FFVT).

We pledge to support collaborative research and academic engagement with and by persons with lived experience of forced displacement. We aim to ensure no one is left behind when research projects, development programs, policy proposals and engagement with the wider user-community are being designed, developed, deployed and disseminated.

We recognize that there is not only one voice that is representative of refugees and researchers and that universities build important bridges between knowledge, community initiatives and policy development. This includes but is not limited to refugee-led and civil society organisations and is key in responding to local challenges and contributing to sustainable and local development.

Leading up to the 2023 GRF, we commit to develop a joint pledge to build on our diverse knowledge production efforts, strengthen our connections and collaboration, and amplify diverse perspectives and the results of local research in global policy discussions.

We invite States, development and humanitarian actors, academic institutions, civil society organisations, forcibly displaced and stateless persons, host communities and other relevant stakeholders to join our efforts to:

1. Develop and invest in models of whole-of-university engagement in refugee responses such as the De Mello Chairs model active in 44 universities in five countries; and the Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH) in Nairobi led by exiled researchers leading on knowledge production on forced displacement.
2. Ensure local researchers are equipped to implement and give visibility to their research, and to support policymakers in designing strategies that intentionally include the voices of forcibly displaced and stateless persons from their conception to implementation. This includes initiatives such as the IDRC Network of Research Chairs on Forced Displacement in key refugee hosting countries.
3. Facilitate access to and stay in tertiary education for forcibly displaced persons through scholarships, research support, diploma validation and transportability, and flexibility with respect to admission processes, such as the DAFI programme in support of the 15by30 campaign.
4. Invest in initiatives that ensure that refugees produce research on forced displacement and statelessness issues. This includes support to refugee led organisations, such as R-SEAT, USRAB and TRSN.
5. Collaborate with national and regional research produced by actors based in contexts of displacement, This includes initiatives such as the Open Society Foundation's programme for academic engagement in policy making.

The ultimate aim of this initiative is to redistribute power and opportunities towards individuals with lived experience of displacement and scholars based in key countries most affected by displacement, recognising that their insights and expertise will advance scholarship in the field of forced displacement studies, and beyond.

To this end, I am happy to announce that the IDRC has initiated a collaboration with the De Mello Chairs on a research proposal on the issue of climate change and forced displacement, which will grant 500,000 CAN Dollars from 2023. This is the first of the many collaborations we hope to announce in the lead-up to the Global Refugee Forum next year jointly with the core organiser and this statement, namely:

Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN)

Sergio Vieira de Mello Chairs (De Mello Chairs)

Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN)

International Development Research Centre - Canada (IDRC)

Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer (FFVT)

Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT)

Chair in International Forced Migration, Inclusion and Human Rights, University of Guadalajara-IDRC

University for Peace - Latin American Observatory on Human Mobility, Climate Change and Disasters (MOVE-LAM)

Tertiary Refugee Students Network (TRSN)

U.S. Refugee Advisory Board (USRAB)

International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Sanremo Institute)