

2019 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs Global Refugee Forum, 5 July

Concept note

This year's UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs will have three main components: i) data and evidence ii) regionalization and iii) the Global Refugee Forum. Day three of the NGO consultations will be dedicated to the Global Refugee Forum, which will take place in Geneva on 17 and 18 December 2019. This concept note outlines the objectives, structure and expected outcomes of the day.¹

Objectives

The Annual Consultations will be a key milestone for UNHCR and NGOs to take stock of civil society engagement in the lead-up to the Global Refugee Forum. The day will be structured around the objectives of the Forum and will focus on how NGOs can contribute to broadening the base of support, mobilizing political will and achieving greater burden and responsibility sharing.

The aim is to have a series of substantive, forward-looking discussions that take point of departure in and build on NGOs' areas of expertise and partnerships.

Structure

To meet these objectives, the GRF day will consist of:

- An **opening plenary** to set the scene, which will include a presentation of the objectives of the Forum, the role of NGOs in the Forum and the preparations for the Forum.
- A session on **broadening the base of support**, which will focus on the role of NGOs in bringing on board a wide range of stakeholders to contribute to the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Specific discussions will take place on how NGOs can engage with and leverage (i) the private sector; (ii) innovative financing mechanisms; (iii) refugees and persons of concern; and (iv) cities and local authorities.
- **Thematic conversations** on concrete ideas for pledges and contributions by NGOs, the showcasing of good practice, and the mobilization of political will based on the key areas of focus for the Forum: education, jobs and livelihoods, energy and infrastructure, solutions, and protection capacities. A two-hour session will be dedicated to each theme.² The discussions will focus on ideas by NGOs for individual and joint pledges (with other NGOs or other stakeholders), and how NGOs can support State pledges. The sessions will also explore opportunities for co-sponsorship of a particular thematic area, as well as complementary advocacy, towards States and other actors, to ensure all stakeholders contribute to the success of the Global Refugee Forum, particularly its objective of expanding international solidarity and responsibility sharing.
- A **closing plenary** to present the main outcomes of the sessions, highlight concrete ideas for pledges and good practices to emerge from the sessions, and set the way forward.

Outcomes

The general outcomes of this day will be captured in the overall report on the NGO consultations to be prepared by the NGO rapporteur. In addition, session summaries will be prepared to allow for detailed, thematic-specific outcomes to be captured. Finally, a brief stand-alone summary of the GRF day will be jointly prepared by UNHCR and an NGO(s) to collect and reflect the specific outcomes related to this day. These elements will result in a clear picture of how NGOs are planning to contribute to the GRF. They will capture ideas for how NGOs can contribute to broadening the base of support, mobilizing political will and

¹ Consult the Global Refugee Forum website for further information <https://www.unhcr.org/global-refugee-forum.html>

² The discussion on jobs and livelihoods will take place on day two of the NGO consultations in the session entitled "Self-reliance and economic inclusion".

achieving greater burden and responsibility sharing. Combined, these documents will result in an overview of:

- Key milestones between July 2019 and the Forum at which NGOs can continue to contribute to the preparations for the Forum
- Concrete pledges and good practices under development by NGOs, individually and jointly, at the national, regional and global level
- Opportunities for NGOs to co-sponsor the key areas of focus
- Areas for complementary advocacy, towards States and other actors, going forward.