



## Refugees' inclusion and participation in Delegations

### Guidance Note

UNHCR welcomes the inclusion of refugees in State and other stakeholder delegations to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023. Should refugees be included as part of your in-person delegation, please be aware that it is the stakeholder's responsibility to:

- ✓ ensure that the refugees follow the event in a *meaningful* manner.
- ✓ inform UNHCR that refugees will be included in your delegation. UNHCR will organize activities with refugee delegates invited to the GRF both **during and in advance of the GRF**; other refugees participating in the GRF are welcome to join such activities, including a preparatory briefing on protection risks, logistics, and communications.
- ✓ ensure that refugee members of the delegation are registered in [Indico](#) (registration closes on December 1, 2023) and their letter of accreditation from the respective country/organization uploaded.
- ✓ cover the costs of and support arrangements for visa application and travel arrangements.

### *What are the General Meaningful Participation Considerations?*

#### Protection Considerations

- ✓ **Do no harm.** Assess and prevent protection risks, which may range from misuse of personal data and verbal and written threats/harassment to interference in refugee/stateless status determination and resettlement, arbitrary detention, deportation, persecution, gender-based violence and discrimination, physical abuse, and other types of ill-treatment.
- ✓ **Safe transportation and accommodation:** Consider protection risks and communication barriers when arranging flights and stopovers for refugee delegates, particularly for people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ persons, women, and girls.
- ✓ **Fulfil basic needs:** Refugees might not be able to participate in events due to financial and/or practical barriers, including the risk of losing income/education opportunities, food insecurity, and lack of resources to afford childcare and shelter. As this should not be a barrier for participation, expenses should be fully covered and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) should be facilitated by the stakeholder including the refugee in their delegation, as needed.

#### Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) Considerations

- ✓ **Promote Inclusive participation:** Observe gender parity and address specific needs and capacities of refugees.
- ✓ **Prioritize refugee-led approach:** Where existing, engage local and national refugee-led structures to identify/support the identification of refugees to participate in the event.

## Meaningful Participation Considerations

- ✓ **Manage expectations:** Clarify event outcomes and limitations with regard to timing and extent of the impact on the ground and maintain communication on the next steps and follow-up actions after the event. Participation is not a guarantee of immediate change.
- ✓ **Raise political awareness:** Ensure information on political sensitivities and terminology is shared to ensure respectful and diplomatic communication before and during the GRF.
- ✓ **Brief refugees on relevant subject matter prior to the meeting:** Including on the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Refugee Forum.
- ✓ **Recognize refugees as agents of change:** Refugees have independent advocacy voices. Support the inclusion of diverse perspectives of refugees in their interactions and engagement in preparation for and during the GRF.