

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

International Conference Center Geneva

**DISCUSSION PAPER**

**Title of session:** Broadening the base of support: Cities and local authorities

**Date:** Friday, 5 July 2019

**Time/Room:** 11:00 – 12:30 – Room 2

**Executive Summary:**

With 60 per cent of the world's 25.4 million refugees living in urban areas, cities are increasingly on the frontlines of the global refugee response. Mayors and local authorities, together with civil society, service providers and private sector partners, play an increasingly important role in welcoming and protecting displaced people who arrive in cities and fostering social cohesion.

Bringing together representatives from local authorities, NGOs, city networks and UNHCR, the session will demonstrate the positive impact of strong engagement between local authorities and NGOs to effectively support refugees in urban areas and enhance their self-reliance. The session will build on the outcomes of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges in 2018, including the commitment to involve cities in the Global Refugee Forum. Panelists will share good practices from cities in Greece and Uganda, among others, and participants will be encouraged to reflect on initiatives which could be scaled up or replicated in cities in the lead up to the Global Refugee Forum. The session will also discuss potential contributions by cities and local authorities towards the Forum, including those that NGOs could support.

**Concept Note:**

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

With 60 per cent of the world's 25.4 million refugees living in urban areas, cities are increasingly on the frontlines of the global refugee response. Mayors and local authorities, together with civil society, service providers and private sector partners, play an increasingly important role in welcoming and protecting displaced people who arrive in cities and fostering social cohesion.

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and NGO to effectively support refugees in urban areas and enhance their self-reliance. The session will build on the outcomes of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges in 2018, including the commitment to involve cities in the Global Refugee Forum. Panelists will share good practices from cities in Greece and Uganda, among others, and participants will be encouraged to reflect on initiatives which could be scaled up or replicated in cities in the lead up to the Global Refugee Forum. The session will also discuss potential contributions by cities and local authorities to the Forum, including those that NGOs could support.

The session will discuss examples of frameworks of engagement that lay the foundation for positive engagement between local authorities and NGOs, including a draft 'Framework for Engagement between Local Authorities and Humanitarian and Development Actors', under development by the Global Alliance for Urban Crises.

- **Objective(s) of the session** [*Development of the executive summary provided for the detailed agenda*]
  1. Highlight good practice examples of strong engagement between local authorities and NGOs in welcoming, supporting and protecting refugees in cities that can be shared at the Global Refugee Forum.
  
- **Desired outcome of the session:** [*What would you like to achieve with this session? What would be the follow-up actions to it?*]
  1. Increased visibility of the importance of strong engagement between local authorities and NGOs in cities supporting large numbers of refugees.
  2. An increased interest by NGOs to initiate complementary initiatives to strengthen engagement with cities and local authorities in the lead up to the Global Refugee Forum.
  3. An overview of potential joint contributions to the Global Refugee Forum by NGOs and cities.
  4. Increased awareness of the draft 'Framework for Engagement between Local Authorities and Humanitarian and Development Actors', under development by the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, and interest by NGOs to support the rollout of this process in their cities of operation.
  
- **Methodology & choreography** [*panel discussion, break-out sessions, pigeonhole, video presentation, mixture of different elements*]
  - Initial scene set & introductions
  - Short pechakucha style presentations (5 visual slides x 5 minutes) to allow presenters to share existing initiatives
  - Panel discussion
  - Plenary Q&A
  - (Either pigeonhole or mentimeter will be used to generate further interest from participants)