

## Summary Note

Localization and Climate Action

UNHCR Global Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Geneva and online, 7-10 June 2022

### Introduction

In 2022, the [UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs](#) will take place in Geneva and online (hybrid format) from 7 to 10 June 2022. The themes for the consultations are 'Climate Action' and 'Localization'. They build on the UNHCR [Strategic Framework for Climate Action](#) and on the 2021 [Regional Consultations with NGOs](#), which focused on the same topics, recognizing the essential engagement of local actors. The [2021 Monthly online Consultations](#), also addressed those themes.

### Climate Action and Localization

The climate crisis is increasing vulnerability, further driving displacement and intensifying protection and other challenges for those forced to flee. Disasters displace millions of people each year – including those already in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Most remain within their countries of residence, while those who cross borders in search of safety and assistance tend to move to neighbouring countries.

UNHCR and much of the humanitarian sector made the commitment to “Empower national and local humanitarian action” and thus, to work towards a greater localization that includes organizations formed and run by affected people. The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed that this approach is essential as these groups, often the first responders, provide support and services in areas where UNHCR and NGOs have limited or no access. However, modalities to develop localized responses are multifaceted and often slow to take root and must go well beyond directing additional resources to national NGOs to deliver services.

Localization should include improving communication channels, support to existing capacities and strengthening mutual learning between local and international actors. Greater focus should be put on dismantling barriers to participation. Climate action is at its core, like localization, built on inclusive approaches and accountability to affected people. It should aim to amplify local/ marginalized voices in confronting related challenges and should strive to ensure equitable access to assistance and protection, and decision-making for all the people UNHCR serves.

### Objectives of the consultations

1. **Exchange on progress** made on region specific recommendations and commitments made through the 2021 Monthly and Regional UNHCR-NGO Consultations; and review those that could be endorsed to become global recommendations.
2. **Develop new recommendations** to inform future UNHCR-NGO collaboration to prepare and respond to protection and solutions challenges related to Localization and Climate Action.
3. **Feed into globally driven processes** such as the UNHCR Strategic Framework for Climate Action and preparations for the second GRF in 2023.

### Participation criteria

- **Overall limit of in-person participation:** 200 delegates, from International and National NGOs, FBOs, and organizations led by refugees, returnees, stateless people, the internally displaced and asylum-seekers, (maximum of 2 delegates per organization).
- **UNHCR in-person participation** of maximum 80 staff. Other UN Agencies may request to register one staff per organization, as speaker or as 'observer'.
- **Overall limit of online participation:** 170 delegates from International and National NGOs, FBOs, and organisations led by refugees, returnees, stateless people, the internally displaced and asylum-seekers, (150) and UNHCR (20).
- **Registration priority** will be given to those that work on forced displacement and which:
  - have engaged in the 2021 Regional and Monthly UNHCR-NGO Consultations.
  - demonstrate expertise and experience in at least one of the two broad topics.
  - are ICVA members and/or implementing and/or operational partners of UNHCR.

ICVA/UNHCR PCS NGO and Civil Society team as of 27 May 2022.