

## The United Nations General Assembly high level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants 19 September 2016

### *Opportunities for NGOs*

#### Background

On 19 September, the General Assembly will convene a Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. This is the first time that the UN has convened such a high-level meeting on these topics and it is a historic opportunity to strengthen our systems of international cooperation. In preparation for the Summit, the Secretary-General issued a report *In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants* which includes a number of recommendations organized around 3 pillars:

1. Uphold safety and dignity in large movements of both refugees and migrants
2. Adopt a Global compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees
3. Work towards a Global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration

The GA Summit is informed by the UN Secretary-General's Report.

#### The process

The President of the General Assembly (PGA) has asked the permanent representatives of Jordan and Ireland to convene meetings with Member States to arrive at an outcome document to be adopted in the opening plenary session on 19 September.

The Summit itself [present thinking]: two concurrent plenary sessions, 6 roundtables on specific themes with opportunities for civil society representatives to contribute in all of these. Moreover, civil society, academia and the private sector will be able to contribute their views on the outcome document, including through informal meetings under the leadership of the co-facilitators.

The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN/NGLS) Office, together with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) will, on behalf of the Office of the President of the General Assembly (PGA), coordinate civil society participation and the application/registration process for the interactive Multi-stakeholder hearings on 18 July as well as for the 19 September Summit. A civil society steering committee has been established to prepare both events.

ICMC, together with ICVA and the NGO Committee on Migration, are co-convening a civil society 'self' organizing process through an Action Committee working on common advocacy messages, open consultations, a survey, and a CSO strategy meeting on 17 July.

#### What else is going on?

- US President's Leaders' Summit on Refugees, 20 September, New York
- Private sector event organized by Concordia from 19-20 September, Grand Hyatt, to focus on refugees & migrants, not to be confused with the regular meeting of the UN Global Compact (UN private sector forum) to meet on 19 September.

#### How to get involved

- Participate in the Summit (deadline for registration: 31 July). Register here: <https://fs22.formsite.com/unngls/form25/index.html>

- Engage your constituency
- Advocate among Member States
- Use social media. Website for Summit: [refugeesmigrants.un.org](http://refugeesmigrants.un.org)  
Hashtag (more coming): #UN4RefugeesMigrants
- Sign up for the civil society newsletter from ICMC/ICVA and NGO Committee on Migration Action Committee here: <http://made.civ.im/civicrm/mailling/view?reset=1&id=242>
- Write a blog. Send links to: Anne Wittenberg ([wittenberg@un.org](mailto:wittenberg@un.org))

### Advocacy messages

- Support the recommendations in the SG's report.
  - Address causes/drivers of large-scale refugee and migrant movements, incorporate Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into national laws and policies, support efforts to mitigate impact of climate change on communities at risk, protect people en route and at borders, intensify efforts to combat criminal smuggling, ensure protection-sensitive border management and detention policies, prevent discrimination, reject xenophobic rhetoric, provide predictable humanitarian funding to support refugees and the communities that support them, expand and direct development funding to strengthen countries impacted by large movements of refugees and migrants; support SG's global campaign against xenophobia, develop comprehensive plans for inclusion of refugees and migrants.
  - **Adopt the Global compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees as presented in the SG's report**, including commitment to share responsibility for refugees and for UNHCR to develop a comprehensive refugee response at the outset of a large-scale refugee movement to address immediate humanitarian needs, and include more development-humanitarian cooperation, more alternative admission pathways, and more support to host communities.
  - Agree to develop a Global compact on safe, regular and orderly migration to be adopted at an intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018, based on human rights instruments and existing regional and international processes; press for commitment to developing more opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration, in line with target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals; support a new State-led consultative process to develop guidance for protection of migrants in vulnerable situations; support for forging a closer relationship between the UN and IOM
- Focus on implementation mechanism and a strategy for after the 19 September meeting on both the national and UN levels.
- Use recommendations from the SG's report and Summit to mobilize support for related issues which were covered only briefly in SGs report, e.g. particular groups (women, children, older people, people with disabilities, etc.), campaigns to counter xenophobia, detention, resettlement, policies on smuggling, host communities, issues around migration governance, etc. etc.

### Contacts

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