



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED  
AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## Forced Displacement Working Group Meeting

27 April 2017, 10:00 – 11:30

ICVA's Conference Room, 26-28 Avenue Giuseppe Motta

### NGOs/UN Agencies Present:

- Act for Peace; AIRD; Caritas Internationalis; Intersos; Japan Association for Refugees (JAR); LWF; NRC; Oxfam; QUNO; ReDSS; RefugePoint; Save the Children; Settlement Services International

### A/ Quick updates and discussion on the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration

#### **Global Compact on Migration** (provided by Laurel Townhead, QUNO):

- As there are many questions about the process, who is circulating info, how not to miss out on info, etc., Laurel Townhead (QUNO) joined the conversation to present her organization's activities in this field and try to provide some answers to the above mentioned questions.
- The Migration Compact process has been complicated, unclear and un-transparent to date and continues to be so.
- Last year, the co-facilitators (Mexico and Switzerland) for the process leading to the adoption of a Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular migration were appointed and in early April, the modalities resolution was finally adopted in NY.
- Moreover, in March, Louise Arbour was appointed as SRSG for International Migration. She has a coordinating role. Louise Arbour is still in the process of forming the team that will support her. In principle she also has a workplan set.
- In terms of who is leading the process, nominally it is the president of the UNGA supported by the SRSG, in close cooperation with IOM and other [Global Migration Group](#) organizations. This is the result of the politics surrounding the GCM, within the UN and with MS.
- Timeline: we are now in the consultation phase until probably early November, with 6 thematic consultations and also regional consultations taking place around the Regional Commissions and also a series of other events feeding into the reflection such as the sessions of the Human Rights Council, IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (1<sup>st</sup> one took place in NY last week and the next will be in Geneva in July).
- There will therefore be a huge number of meetings and events. Of the 6 thematic sessions: 2 will be in New York; 3 in Geneva; one in Vienna. In principle, each session will be preceded 2-3 weeks ahead by an issue brief and concept note, although the one for the May thematic consultation is late.
- There is still an important lack of clarity about how CSOs will be able to participate in the

thematic consultations. There is talk about opportunities for MS and other stakeholders to intervene but details are unclear.

- After November, there will be a stocktaking phase when summary reports from thematic and other consultations will be brought together. A stocktaking event in Mexico will take place in early December and then a report will be drafted by the SRSB, feeding into negotiations between February and July 2018 in New York.
- On NGO engagement, hopefully it will become clearer as the thematic sessions take place but if you are not ECOSOC accredited there was a deadline to register for the process and this has passed. Member States are now considering those applications on a no objections basis. For NGOs with ECOSOC accreditation, there will be registration for each thematic discussion through [UN-NGLS](#). The process is however quite unclear and tight in terms of timing. Again, there is a great lack of transparency in the process. Logins can be difficult to get and the process cumbersome, asking even for details such as individual CVs. There is no way for non-Geneva based organizations to participate to those meetings. Even MS are getting frustrated about modalities for participation.
- There is no clear instruction on speaking, how NGOs will be allowed to intervene. The thematic consultations will be web cast though.
- We understand that at the Thematic Consultations, there would be 3 panels with 3 speakers, all of whom with civil society; There should be a 4<sup>th</sup> panel focusing on providing a summary panel with the speakers of each of the 3 panels with a moderator.
- In order to get and share as much information as possible, it is worth being on as many lists as possible. There is so far, no main channel to share and receive information.
- IOM has appointed a Liaison (Colin Rajah) who is sharing information (on the National level consultations done in partnership with IOM based on their national presences and Broad information on the different meetings IOM organizes) but this information is not necessarily on the overall process.
- IOM also has a webpage: <https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration>
- The Action Committee mailing list is also a good source of information
- <http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/> is the website where most public information on GCM is being shared.

On further opportunities for engagement:

- On 10 May, IOM is organizing a debriefing on the 2 days of the thematic consultations.
- There is the idea of having CSO Consultations before each regional consultation.
- Louise Arbour is in Geneva this week and will have a meeting with CSOs organized by OHCHR. It will be very much focused on human rights as the basis of the compact.

### **The Global Compact on Refugees**

*[ICVA will hold the second strategic meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – this will be the opportunity to go much more in depth in the conversation]*

- A number of events of relevance to the Refugee Compact are taking place in the coming weeks: ECRE is organizing an event in Brussels, there will be a side-event in London related to the Somalia Security Conference; the International Peace Institute is

- organizing a two-day event in Vienna.
- NGOs will start working on an NGO position/reflection paper on the Global Compact, which could potentially lead to a shadow compact. NGOs can further discuss how to organize themselves on Tuesday.
- There is also some un-clarity over the process and room for NGOs engagement in the GCR process. It seems that the thematic discussions' format might be quite similar to the HC Dialogue: Interactive with informal discussions, panels which may include NGOs, etc. However, we still do not know many important details, e.g. the number of panels, the number of days the discussions will last, etc. Similar questions remain for next year's formal consultations and UNHCR seems to indicate that they are looking at NGOs' 'consolidated' inputs into those consultations (possibly on the model of the NGO statements at Standing and Executive Committees). ICVA has been pushing for more meaningful engagement, beyond consolidated inputs.
- UNHCR gave a briefing last week, which seemed better organized and offered more space for NGOs to interact and provided more info on the pilots.
- The UNHCR-NGO-IFRC Reference Group is so far not as action-oriented as we may wish it to be but its first meeting led to good discussions on how to come up with concrete examples, good practices, and define benchmarks. The date of the second meeting has not yet been planned but ICVA and other networks on the Reference Group should follow up.
  - ⇒ The process of exchanging among NGOs prior to the last UNHCR briefing on the CRRF was a very good practice that should be reiterated.
  - ⇒ So far, questions are still very much process-oriented. We need to think of content questions to be put forward.

#### B/ Updates and discussion on the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations

- Reminder: All NGOs involved in coordinating a session should send asap the abstract as well as logistics requirements to the Partnership Section and ICVA (deadline was 13 April). Moreover, NGO coordinators should ensure that their respective moderator/speakers are registered on time.
- Some concerns and questions from NGO colleagues were shared, related to the preparation towards the Consultations:
  - A lack of ambition is felt – While everyone is looking at the Annual Consultations as a stepping stone in the development of the Refugee Compact, preparations sometimes sound a bit like 'business as usual'.
  - Based on the IASC WG that took place in Rome last month, the World Bank does not want to be changing its role as a financial institution.
  - The level of presence and engagement from Daniel Endres' and Ellen Hansen's team during the Annual Consultations was raised: What should be expected?
- ⇒ Members of the Task Team, and Ellen herself, are taking part in preparation meetings along with ICVA and UNHCR Partnership Section. The initial feeling is that Daniel may not be there all the time, but Ellen and others would, although not necessarily on panels.
  - Some NGO coordinators are having issues connecting with their UNHCR

Coordinators, they are not very responsive. It also makes it difficult to identify relevant speakers for the session without any feedback.

- ⇒ ICVA can help to find the most appropriate way to bring the information back to the Steering Committee when needed. Using the concept note that was initially developed is always be useful as a basis to ensure sessions are framed based on the initial defined role and language. In any case, NGOs should let ICVA know in case of any conflict/difficulties encountered so that ICVA can try to help.
- ⇒ On the selection of speakers, the Steering Committee (composed of ICVA, UNHCR Partnership Section and Members of Ellen's and Daniel's teams) agreed to an approach encouraging diversity of NGOs on each panel and the presence of NNGOs. It is important for all to make an effort to ensure a broad NGO representation, avoiding as much as possible having same NGOs on several sessions.
- ⇒ For the Africa regional session, it was suggested to encourage NGOs that are/will be part of the Secretariat to be considered as potential speakers.
- ⇒ ICVA will make sure NGO coordinators receive the provisional list of participants from the Partnership Section in order to facilitate the selection of speakers.
  - Case where a Member State was suggested to moderate a session at the Annual Consultations – Would there be any strong reaction to that?
- ⇒ This issue of state participation to the Annual Consultations has already come up and ICVA pushed back for several reasons: 1) Some NGOs do not feel comfortable to raise some issues with States in the room. It would completely change the dynamics in the room. 2) This is a UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations – the more we broaden to other stakeholders, the less space NGOs have to consult UNHCR on key questions and to deal with their everyday business questions. 3) If need be, there are many good option for moderators who can be as neutral (if not more) than state representatives (e.g., from academia).
- ⇒ For the session on the Grand Bargain, an exception will however be made but only for this one. Member States are in any case invited to the Closing Plenary on the third day.

#### C/ Updates and discussion on the 2017 IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations & ICVA in Africa (Marco Rotelli, ICVA's Regional Representative Africa)

##### **IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations:**

IOM has modified its approach to the IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations, co-organized with ICVA over the past 2 years. Those consultations will now alternate locations (one year in Geneva, one year in a region). This year, the IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations will take place in Nairobi, in September and have a regional focus:

- Potential dates: 11-12 September 2017 – still to be confirmed
- Approach: Global issue will be brought at regional level, in presence of actors mainly from the region.
- ICVA confirmed the availability to help support in preparation. There may be potentially two other co-organisers. While nothing has been confirmed, IOM was thinking of DRC (especially given their work on the mixed migration Secretariat) and would like to offer space for a small organization.

- 3 potential themes being considered at the moment:
  - o IOM IDPs Framework (presented 3 weeks ago in Rome), which should replace the 2002 policy; Regional Consultation for the Migration Compact; Mixed Migration considering being done by the RMMS in Nairobi.

#### **ICVA in Africa:**

- ICVA's Regional hub has been moved to Nairobi. West and Central Africa are not left aside, but it now makes more sense having the physical hub in Nairobi. A second office has been opened in Addis Ababa, led by Addis Tesfa, which will have a particular focus on the African Union and focus on ICVA's global south members.
- Spectrum of work:
  - o Covering all of sub-Saharan Africa
  - o Along with members in the region, ICVA's hub will try to bring global dimensions to the region.
  - o A big piece of work will focus on NGO Fora
  - o ICVA also engages on behalf of members with arising actors such as IGAD, ECOWAS, and the UA, in order to create opportunities for engagement. While some NGOs could already have liaison office, others may not and it is therefore interesting to provide this opportunity for smaller structure lacking of capacity to undertake such work.
- Regional Working Group: In the same perspective as other ICVA's Working Groups, this will be a flexible tool for members to engage with each other, exchange information and follow up some aspects that some would not have the capacity to follow up alone. Working Groups should not be understood as reserved for people only based in the region. For example, if someone is working on Africa in Geneva, he is welcome to join.
  - ⇒ ICVA will share again the e-mail announcing the regional Working Groups. So far, NGOs spontaneously requested to be included and/or asked for some more details. In parallel, ICVA will be targeting some NGO colleagues who could have very substantial inputs.
  - ⇒ The WG will start with one group, and could multiply itself based on themes in the future.

#### C/ Quick update on capacity strengthening Webinars

*[There was no time to discuss this agenda item - the below information was integrated afterwards, as agreed during the meeting]*

UNHCR & ICVA are organizing two webinars on capacity strengthening on 16 May and 18 May for NGO partners based respectively in Ethiopia (16 May) and Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda (18 May). The webinars will contribute to the finalization of the draft "Operational Guidelines for Complementary Capacity Strengthening for UNHCR and NGO Partners" and collect capacity strengthening initiatives and best practices from NGOs and UNHCR partners in the region. This is directly connected to the [UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Structured Dialogue on Partnerships](#) and builds on last year's [Bangkok consultation](#) organized with the help of APRRN and Mercy Malaysia. It is also relevant to the [Grand Bargain](#) localization work stream's focus on investing in capacity. Following questions will be addressed:

1. What are local, national and international NGO Partners doing to further build/strengthen their own capacity?
2. What strategies and innovative approaches could UNHCR offices carry out to support NGO Partners' initiatives on capacity strengthening in the future?
3. Other suggestions and proposals – some good practices will be showcased

If you are based in one of these countries, are interested in the topic and have not received an invitation from UNHCR, please contact [sophie.helle@icvanetwork.org](mailto:sophie.helle@icvanetwork.org).

#### D/ Quick update and discussion on the ExCom Conclusions process (Machine Readable Travel Documents)

- The Conclusion is a two-page document, referencing the NY Declaration, responsibility-sharing and complementary pathways. It not only refers to refugees, but also stateless people, which is where it could have the most impact. Also this conclusion is not only about convention travel documents but also has an operative paragraph calling on states which are not parties to the Refugee and/or Stateless conventions to put in place measure to ensure refugees and stateless people can have access to travel documents with specifications as close as possible to convention travel documents.
  - Initially states focused their resistance on the resilience and self-reliance conclusion. Now that this one is 'out of the way', some states are now turning more their opposition to the conclusion on the MRTD conclusion, which therefore may not be an easy win.
  - The ExCom Rapporteur is quite open to civil society inputs, but not in a formal way during the negotiations. There were meetings at ICVA with NGOs and there will be others: She is organizing an event before the opening of the negotiations (probably around 29 May), where she would like to have an opening with one State and one NGO providing good example of the use of travel document.
- ⇒ ICVA has reached out to some organizations/networks and will be in touch as things move forward.

#### E/ AOB, including quick heads up on important June events (besides the Annual Consultations), i.e.:

- APCR: The New Zealand chair and co-chair would welcome feedback and concrete suggestions on the draft agenda by 28 April with initiatives or practical examples that could be used to highlight the theme. They are also interested to receiving views on what additional components could be included in the marketplace session on Day Three. ICVA is happy to collect feedback and suggestions and pass it on.
- June Standing Committee on Protection (28-30 June): You can find the provisional list of agenda items here: <http://www.unhcr.org/excom/standcom/585bae707/standing-committee-work-programme-2017.html>  
The current idea would be to have 3 statements, unless some NGOs would have the capacity to lead an additional statement on a specific theme so far integrated in the big statement on international protection.
  - One big statement on international protection – including statelessness, resettlement, ExCom Conclusion, Community-based protection and education.

- ⇒ If no NGO wants to take the lead to draft a statement on one of the sub-themes, we will keep as it is.
- Strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus – including cash
- Follow-up to the NY Declaration

Reactions:

Canada has approached Save the Children to request support to organize a high-level meeting on 19 June on refugees' access to education. It will bring together MS, UN, private sectors, CSOs, academia. This high-level meeting is meant to follow-up on some pledges made on education at the Leaders' Summit.

- ⇒ There could be a potential separate statement on education led by Save the Children – to be further confirmed.