



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED
AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Forced Displacement Working Group
Wednesday 24 May, 14:00 – 16:00
ICVA's Conference Room, 26-28 Avenue Giuseppe-Motta

NGOs present included: ACT Alliance; APRRN; CARE Canada; DRC; ICMC; ICRC; ICVA; IDC; InterAction; Intersos; Institute for the Study of International Migration; LWF; Network Durable Solutions Alliance MENA; NRC; Oxfam; RefugePoint; WRC; WVI

1. Updates and discussion on the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration

Global Compact on Migration: ACT Alliance and IDC provided inputs on the Geneva meetings of the week 8-12 May (1st GCM Thematic Session; IOM Briefing on GCM, etc.) and on the process moving forward, remaining challenges, upcoming dates, advocacy, etc.

On the Consultations

6 thematic consultations are taking place between now and October. The first one took place on 8-9 May and was on “Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance”.

- Main argument brought throughout the consultations, by civil society organisations and by some Member States, was about the importance of mainstreaming Human Rights throughout the process.
- This is the first time such kind of format was used at the UN.
- Letter from NGOs was sent in order to make sure they will be in a position to provide inputs. In the end, NGOs were quite successful in ensuring a more inclusive process and putting forward their arguments on the importance of mainstreaming Human Rights.
- Member States were engaging at very different levels – There is still a lack of clarity on what is expected.
- Latin American countries were pushing for the ratification of existing conventions and their implementation.
- There were some strong comments made by IDC on criminalization and detention of migrants, detention of children. But there was no reply to any of those points, none of that is really leading to a conclusion. Yet, the consultation is now closed and we are supposed to move on to the next one. It brings the risk that some very important issues will never be meaningfully addressed.
 - ⇒ Importance of engaging with Member States now.
- On the absence of IDPs:
 - According to some Member States, this issue has to be addressed in the migration compact rather than the refugee compact, if it is to be addressed

through the compacts at all.

- IOM and the US are pushing for a separate process (something similar to current compact, but not much more information available). This brings back the question of linking or not the two Compacts.
- At the global level, several initiatives, stock taking exercises on barrier and obstacle on IDPs: GRID IDMC report, NRC and DRC are very active, IASC is also engaged.
- Panel on Social inclusion and cohesion: Discussion on law and practice.
- Panel on xenophobia: OHCHR hosted a follow up event which went much more in-depth.

2nd Thematic Consultation (22-23 May 2017, New York) on Addressing Drivers of Migration:

- People on panel were asked specifically to focus on facts rather than advocacy; focus on what can be used in practice and to avoid speeches on principles.
- The official speaking space for civil society is not properly regulated, there was no possibility to react organically (people are pointed to reply/react). NGOs need to find a way to address that.
- Civil society organisations' main argument: We should be looking at drivers with a view towards improving human rights.
- Things to keep in mind:
 - Link with the SDG framework (and development framework in general)
 - Look at existing frameworks, which have already established relevant benchmarks and indicators.

19-20 June's consultation will be on "International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimension, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration".

- Since the consultation will be talking about governance, it would be interesting to see whether and which links will be made with the Refugee Compact. There would most likely be common elements.

On engagement with civil society in the region:

- Funding has now been secured to host regional civil society consultations. There will be 6 of them, which will take place between September and November as two-day consultations hosted by IOM but not facilitated by IOM. Great part of the funding will go into travels for NGOs.
- National consultations: About 60 countries have showed interest to IOM. NGOs now need to look into this and from an advocacy perspective, start advocating towards States.

On advocacy strategy:

- Separate process for Ecosoc and Non-Ecosoc accredited NGOs, excluding the latter NGOs.
- Some Human Rights NGOs plan to engage with the Mexican representative around the June Human Rights Council.
- A report will be drafted either looking at each of the thematic consultations or more

broadly looking at the Human Rights of Migrants in the Global Compact.

On the engagement of different actors:

- IOM is not playing a prominent role at all. Bill Swing made comments from the floor like any other actors.
 - ⇒ Are they taking a back seat?
- The PGA Office, SRSB and the co-chairs are taking the lead on this Compact.
- Member States interventions have been reduced down to two minutes.

It is necessary to look for the issue papers drafted before the thematic and see how we engage in those: How can we work more proactively to submit thoughts on those issue papers? Need to act before those issue papers are released because the format of these consultations are very directional.

 - ⇒ Issue papers are drafted by the SRSB, asking for inputs to relevant agencies. It could be the way to provide inputs. ACT Alliance can share the contributing agencies and leading agencies for each issues paper. Yet, amount of time between each paper is very short. It is important to also look into process points through official letters submitted to PGA office (like QUNO does) as well as focus and talk to MS on specific thematic NGOs are working on.
- Organisation around the Migration Compact:
 - Civil Society Action Committee: More could be done through the Action Committee to drive advocacy.
 - New York-based NGOs (Monami) and Geneva-based ones (QUNO) have taken helpful initiatives to share information.
 - The Initiative on Child Rights in the Compacts: Very engaging process.
 - ⇒ It would be good to know if there are any other advocacy strategies/initiatives taking place.

 - ⇒ As possible, notes on the thematic consultations as well as information on issue briefs will be shared with the FDWG.

Global Compact on Refugees: ICVA and other FDWG members provided updates on the process, including on

Process of implementation of CRRF in countries: UNHCR shared list of focal points per pilot (already shared to the FDWG)

- Honduras: Not much details. Yet, NGOs engaged in following up on the Brazil Plan of Action (BPA), network GAR-PAB, are working hard to make sure NGOs will be included in the process.
- In Africa: Number of meetings happening at the moment
 - Tomorrow (25.05) in Tanzania: Meeting with UNCHR and partners – regular coordination meeting but very much focused on the CRRF and on preparing for the Annual Consultations.
 - Still not much clarity on which NGOs will be part of the Secretariat (one INGO, one NNGO, but no information on which one).
 - Uganda: Series of meetings related to the CRRF and to the Solidarity Conference happening at the end of June.

- Solidarity Conference:
 - Lack of clarity on modalities for participation of NGOs.
 - One side event on private sector engagement (World Vision is helping to coordinate with Kathryn Taetzsch as a Focal Point), one on Humanitarian-Development Nexus (there might be scope to plug in with UNHCR SCOM statement on the subject), one on youth in refugee and host communities, one on empowering women and girls in refugee and host communities.
 - Tanzania Red Cross is leading on one of the side-event
 - A website has been set up on the Solidarity Conference
- Plan International has hired a consultant (Manisha Thomas) who will be going back and forth between Geneva & Tanzania/Uganda to look at how CRRF is being implemented in the CRRF pilot countries.
 - Her ToR includes linking up with Geneva NGO crowd. She will be a welcomed source of info and reflection.

At the global level:

- NGO Reflection Paper:
 - Deadline to send different parts is today.
 - So far, length of the document needs to be thought through again.
 - Each section will be shared with NGOs for feedback (ExCom/SCOM process).
- CRRF Reference Group: Main discussion was around the third version of the roadmap:
 - Thematic discussions have been clustered and date of the HC Dialogue changed in order to avoid clashes with the migration compact meetings. Yet, substance has not changed.
 - Modalities: Still unknown. UNHCR is supposed to share a concept note / invitation explaining the modalities for engagement. So far, it still seems very much modeled on the HC Dialogue' style (panels + informal discussions).
- 10 July - First thematic consultation: It will be the opportunity to bring regional perspectives.
 - ⇒ Some further discussion will be needed regarding ICVA's process & engagement regarding the thematic discussions: Will ICVA follow the same process as to prepare for the HC Dialogue, ie having one NGO co-leading for each thematic? Or would the strategic group be used to support preparation towards each thematic?
- June UNHCR's Standing Committee (28-30 June): Side-event organized by the Initiative on Child Rights in the Compacts. Volker Turk may be on the panel, as well as Terre des Hommes & World Vision International). This event will match with another event happening in Berlin couple of hours later.
- UNHCR is currently working on collecting good practices that could be used during the Annual Consultations. It will be shared with participants once some aspects have been clarified, such as the methodology and clarification on good versus best practices.
- UNHCR has developed a portal related to the CRRF: It will have all information available and would include information on NGO activities. The portal should be launched shortly.
 - LWF and ICVA were contacted for feedback on this online platform
- WB's role: The WB has seconded a staff part-time, the person was present at the last

Reference Group. At the moment, they are doing a lot of needs assessment missions. The funding from the IDA 18 sub-window will kick in September.

⇒ Some members would appreciate a meeting organized at ICVA with this WB staff if possible. ICVA will look into it.

On process:

- No clear outline on how NGOs outside of Geneva can engage in the process.
 - ⇒ Briefing papers could be put together ahead of the meeting?
 - ⇒ Available funding for NGOs to travel? No, UNHCR will not provide support, except for panelists, but there may be a possibility to look into other sources of funding.
 - ⇒ ICVA developed a timeline for engagement: ATCR meeting needs to be added given the responsibility-sharing aspect of the process.

2. Updates and discussion on the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations

This was the last meeting of the FDWG before the [Annual Consultations](#). ICVA provided updates on the final step of the organization process. Registration are now closed, with over 500 participants registered.

- ICVA followed-up discussions for some sessions where there were still important issues to solve.
- On the day before or the day of the opening, badges need to be collected individually.
- All relevant information is available on UNHCR [webpage](#) and a [blog](#) exists where you can upload all relevant documents.
- To follow information on the CRRF and updates on the Annual Consultations, you can follow on Twitter @UNHCRPartners; @ICVA_Displaced
- ICVA and UNHCR organized two webinars for NGOs attending UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations on logistics.
- ICVA will organize another webinar on 8 June looking more at the content of the CRRF & process. The idea is to give an opportunity to NGOs less engaged to get a sense of the process and what this is all about.
 - ⇒ NGOs are welcome to share the invitation with their colleagues or other partners, even if not participating in the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations.
 - ⇒ Need to make sure the final report of the Annual Consultations will not be business as usual either. NGOs will have to make sure they get to what they need from this in order to make the conversation moves forward.
- On the 13th, ICVA organizes a briefing for moderators and note-takers at ICVA. An invitation will be sent out shortly.
- On the 16th, ICVA organizes a members' informal gathering at 5pm.
 - ⇒ Key efforts must now be put into the NGO Reflection Paper.

3. AOB:

Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants:

Now that Francois Crepeau's mandate is coming to an end, the process of selection of the next Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants has started. After such a champion on migrants' rights, some people have concerns with shortlisted candidates, which include

Alexander BETTS (UK); Vincent CHETAIL (France); Felipe GONZALEZ MORALES (Chile) – another candidate from the Americas (recommended ranking from the advisory group). There has never been a special rapporteur from the global south; some of the best candidates were not considered/interviewed; concerns about the gender balance as well.

El Salvador is the President of the council. Concerns can be raised, but it has to be done in writing now to hrcpresidency@unog.ch

⇒ Announcement/decision has to be made shortly – everything has to be transmitted to the president of council next week.

June Standing Committee on Protection:

ICVA launched the process of drafting and revision, 3 statements are currently being developed:

- International protection
- CRRF
- Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus

First draft will be shared shortly.