

TOWARDS A GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES  
FORMAL CONSULTATIONS 5  
12-13 June 2018

**NGO intervention on  
Programme of action: Mechanisms for burden- and responsibility-sharing (Part III.A)**

**Agenda item 2**

Dear Chairperson,

This intervention reflects a diversity of views among NGOs.

In general, Draft 3 adds clarity on responsibility-sharing mechanisms, which should allow for more systematic and predictable support. These mechanisms now enjoy wide support and are better linked. This is crucial to broadening the support base, but only a first step. Further efforts are required to deliver on expectations.

The Global Refugee Forum is now firmly at the centre of the system, as the main tool to sustain momentum and mobilise stakeholders. However, complementarity between national arrangements and Support Platforms will require further precision.

While welcoming added details on the **Global Refugee Forum**, a clear role for civil society actors including NGOs still needs to be mentioned. The GCR should also commit to the systematic and meaningful participation of refugees in the Forum. Age-, gender- and disability related barriers to meaningful refugee participation must be addressed.

We also note that the Forum is now the main vehicle to take stock and assess progress. This will occur every 4 years, so linkages to ExCom and the General Assembly are essential for annual follow-up. We need to establish a clear mechanism to review progress on the GCR objectives in the lead up to each Forum. We repeat that developing a template to collect and record pledges will help promote predictability and coherence, allow for covering gaps, and help with follow-up.

We endorse the primacy of national leadership on **national arrangements** so long as space for independent, impartial and neutral humanitarian action is guaranteed. Engagement of sub-national actors should be encouraged and involve displacement-affected populations, including women, youth, and children. Clarity is also needed on how national arrangements complement existing UN coordination structures at country level. In sum, this section should add details on inclusivity, transparency and accountability frameworks.

**Support Platforms** must aim at achieving collective outcomes developed as part of comprehensive plans and avoid multiplication of coordination structures. We remain concerned that mobilization of standby capacities through voluntary contributions may work against rapid reaction. Activating the Platforms also requires further clarification. In situations where criteria are fulfilled, but consent of the host State is lacking, a balance will have to be struck between State sovereignty and the imperative to save lives. As the 'L3 system' shows, deactivation also poses major challenges.

Language on **solidarity conference** now provides for diversified contributions from a wider set of actors. Establishing criteria on when to call for such conferences would ensure solidarity conferences are not called upon arbitrarily. This could also partially address concerns over earmarking of funding. Where possible, these should align with already planned country-specific pledging events.

Under **key tools for effective burden- and responsibility-sharing**, we welcome the commitment to timely, predictable, and sustainable funding. We recommend highlighting the need for additional humanitarian funding, over and above current levels, and as a complement to additional development funding. While development funding should not impose conditionality on host countries, it is equally important that additional resources result in reducing aid dependency. Additional development resources should not impact funding for humanitarian action. We also regret the removal of references to grants. These can bring much-needed additionality for low-income countries.

We welcome the commitment to a **partnership approach** but regret the deletion of the Principles of Partnership. Humanitarian in character, those represent a practical basis for whole-of-society approaches. We also note the continued absence of some relevant UN Agencies, including OCHA. We welcome that recruitment of local personnel by humanitarian and development agencies will not lead to weakening of local structures.

On **data and evidence**, we reiterate our call to include a specific reference to adopt a human-rights based approach to data collection. Furthermore, welcoming systematic data collection and analysis on resettlement and complementary pathways, we suggest extending this to all durable solutions.

Finally, NGOs are keen to contribute to the process of **measuring the impact** of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees and would welcome details on participation modalities. Refugee and host communities would also have valuable insights.

A detailed version is available on [icvanetwork.org](http://icvanetwork.org)

Thank you.