Forced Migration Working Group

ICVA’s Conference Room, 26-28 Avenue Giuseppe-Motta
26 November 2019 (10:30-12:15)

Participants: Act for Peace/APRRN (online), Caritas (online), Danish Refugee Council, Finn Church Aid (online), FM4 Paso Libre, Good Neighbors International (online), International Displaced Monitoring Centre, (online), International Rescue Committee (online), Intersos, Institute for the Study of International Migration (online), Islamic Worldwide Relief, Japan Platform (online), Oxfam (online), Plan international (online), RefugePoint (online), Save the children, Women’s Refugee Commission (online), World Vision.

Agenda.

1. Exchange on Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges.
2. UNHCR ‘new’ positioning on Climate Change/Disaster Displacement.
3. AoB.

1. Exchange on GRF pledges.

ICVA
• 30th November is the deadline to send pledges to UNHCR to be showcased during the Forum. Pledges can be sent after the 30th of November, but it will not be showcased during the Forum.
• UNHCR is preparing an e-mail to send NGOs to clarify some points about participation, delegation size.
• The delegation size for NGOs is limited to two, four to six people maximum.
• Multi-stakeholder Breakfast at the Palais des Nations with Filippo Grandi at 8:30 am on 16 December with NGOs, Refugees, Sports Institutions, Academics. No clear information on who will be invited.

Save the Children
• What will be the Breakfast about?

ICVA
• Do not know the information yet.
• An idea coming from the High Commissioner itself or its office.
• A start of a multi-stakeholder approach.
• Will share the information with NGOs when we will have an update.
• Picking up the badge for the Forum. On 16 December at 7:00 am or for those based in Geneva on 13 December.

IRW
• Can we pick up badges for the colleagues of our organizations?

ICVA
• Will check the information.

Notes for NGOs only – not to be circulated to other parties
ICVA
- In terms of speaking modalities, during the plenary, it is very unlikely that NGOs will be able to speak. There is a speakers’ list, NGOs are not excluded but there is a Protocol to follow-up with States to speak. The speaking time is limited to 3 minutes and already not all the Member States will speak.

IRW
- Can ICVA read a statement on behalf of NGOs?

ICVA
- UNHCR mentioned that ICVA can coordinate an NGO statement but without guarantee to be read.
- The idea is to announced pledges in 3 minutes, how we can announce NGOs pledges in 3 minutes? Do we give the spotlight to some NGOs and why? Or do we speak in general without announcing pledges? A collective decision, so it is your decision too.
- UNHCR announced they will refer to the NGOs’ examples of pledges in the Annex during the Forum.

IRW
- Probably not the best idea to read a statement.
- If UNHCR referred to the Annex during the Forum, it is great.
- Are there NGOs’ in the panels of the Plenary?

Save the children
- Can NGOs ask Filippo Grandi to refer to three NGOs’ key messages, that NGOs prepared x number of pledges and refer to refugees making pledges?

ICVA
- We know that refugees will not be present at the opening.

Oxfam
- Global Refugee-Led Network submitted a Spotlight Session but was declined, they get a Session merged with Global Youth Advisory Council and the Gender audit team.

ICVA
- If NGOs have key messages/recommendations for the High Commissioner, you can send it to ICVA.
- NGOs can ask Germany co-convener also to refer in their opening statement to NGOs pledges.
- Confusion whether NGOs will be allowed to speak from the floor. NGOs are allowed to take the floor for the Spotlight Sessions on 16 and 17 December, the Special Events on 16 December and the High-level dialogue on 17 and 18 December.

IRW
- No information on the faith-based leader who will speak during the Plenary session.
• The whole-of-society approached risked being squashed at the Forum. Inclusive societies closing plenary session cannot be led by Member States only.

Oxfam
• On inclusive societies, there will be a refugee speaker from Uganda.

ICVA
• We can convey the message also to UNHCR on the risk on the multi-stakeholder approach during the Forum.
• There is no speaker list. It will be a mess; NGOs will have to raise their hands. There is a WhatsApp system put in place by UNHCR to get the speaker list on the spot. On page 3 of UNHCR’s note for organizers “To manage the speakers’ list for interventions from the floor, organisers are advised to provide a WhatsApp number to allow participants who wish to take the floor to make a request to do so during the session».
• Idea from UNHCR that the Secretariat will endeavour to ensure those who have not been able to talk during the Plenary session, will speak at other sessions. Wonder how this would work given that the speakers’ list would be managed on the spot by session moderators, not by the Secretariat.
• We have been informed by UNHCR that intervention priority will be given to those who will announce pledges.

Act for peace
• Read the information in the media that Erdogan and Iman Khan will be attending Malaysia’s KL Summit convened on 18-21 December.

IRW
• What do NGOs’ want to say? Instead of fighting for space.

ICVA
• NGOs present at the Forced Migration Working Group representing 10 percent of NGOs who will be present at the Forum, we can prioritize key messages, but several NGOs will not be aware about NGOs priorities and might not agree too.
• There will be difficulty in following all the events, that’s the reason why delegation size expands.

IRW
• How UNHCR can support and amplify NGOs messages and national NGOs during the Forum?

ICVA
• One idea ICVA had on how we can help in giving visibility staring from ICVA members, we need communication strategies and hashtag, we welcome your thoughts.
• Have you looked for the “Opportunities for Media Engagement” option? Can you send to ICVA NGO arguments to convince UNHCR to be present at the press media room?
IRW
- Will send NGOs arguments to request space for the media.

IRC
- Can we ask UNHCR for further clarifications? If there is a WhatsApp system when to send the telephone number and how?
- It is not acceptable. It is going to be a real mess. How NGOs can contribute at least by talking from the floor?

ICVA
- UNCHR will probably get pushback from WhatsApp. We can ask UNHCR to circulate the names of the speakers’ list in advance for the speakers’ list for all the Spotlight Sessions and the events.

IRW
- The moderators should be careful to include for sure civil society during the events.

Save the Children
- For the High-level dialogue, can UNHCR consider a pigeonhole?
- The challenge for NGOs is to “attract” CEOs to deliver a statement.
- For several Spotlight Sessions, NGOs will be in the Panels, but Panels will be enormous, how we will agree on the interventions?

ICVA
- We will be raised to UNHCR the pigeonhole idea at least for the High-level dialogue.

Oxfam
- Agree with IRC remark.
- For CEOs, it is not realistic to ask them to raise their names.
- Question-related to CEOs coming to the Forum If they do not speak?

ICVA
- Suggested that NGOs bring their nameplates.
- Cannot answer if CEOs have to come or not, it is a question to ask to UNHCR

Act Alliance
- Will we see a listing of good intentions during the Forum?
- The speakers’ list issue is the space to have critical discussion. NGOs need to identify the area of gaps for the Forum and keep an eye on where issues have been addressed.

WV
- On the lack of child protection, for instance, it is an issue that we raised to UNHCR.

ICVA
- In terms of intervention, it will be difficult to do it without knowing the pledges, so identify gaps will be complicated at this stage.
• Critical comments or call for corrections can be mentioned to Filippo Grandi.

Save the Children
• Can NGOs have a list of participants to the Forum in advance? So, we can organize bilateral meetings.

ICVA
• On pledges. ICVA had a discussion with UNHCR on the Annex with NGOs pledges examples to discuss how it could be more than an Annex. UNHCR found the Annex useful, they suggested having it updated with additional information, the geographical coverage of the pledge(s), the thematic of the pledge(s), the contact person for each NGOs. Helping to match. ICVA added columns and will share it again with NGOs to fill the information.

IRW
• Pledges were supposed to be published on the online platform. If ICVA facilitates UNHCR work for this initiative through the Annex, could NGOs get more time to submit pledges?

ICVA
• The deadline of 30 November is used to organize the pledges showcasing.
• The Annex is a summary of pledges and planned pledges, it is not an official registration of NGOs pledges.
• NGOs are not bound by the deadline; it is more to inform them and other actors. Early we do it, the best it is. NGOs can send ICVA pledges and updates for the Annex when they want.

GNI
• Heard from NGOs that the Annex is useful.

IRC
• In Jobs and Livelihoods co-sponsoring meeting group, there is no mention of what is going to happen after the GRF apart from a “Group of friends” suggested by UNHCR.
• What is going to happen after December 2019? And who will lead on GRF follow-up? Can NGOs raise this issue with Filippo Grandi at the Breakfast and even before?

ICVA
• Good idea to start to think some ideas about questions to ask Filippo Grandi. Maybe we can influence what will be the agenda with our questions.

DRC
• The Secretary-General from DRC is invited to discuss during the Breakfast. Do not know yet the content of the agenda.

Act Alliance
• On preparing pledges. Does ICVA has an overview of the partners?
ICVA
- If NGOs are looking for partners section in the Annex, it is a source but not a comprehensive list, it is indicative and can support NGOs’ own thinking.

Save the Children
- Agree with IRC to ask on the GRF follow-up in the conclusion for the Breakfast.
- Pragmatic question on the pledging format, how NGOs can put more than two pledges?

ICVA
- The pledges format can receive up to ten contributions.

Act Alliance
- On Jobs and Livelihoods, there was questioning on the continuity of the co-sponsoring meetings and pushed from UNHCR side.
- NGOs can push UNHCR to map what was highlighted at the co-sponsoring groups and offering an architecture for follow-up.

ICVA
- On follow-up, a number of questions to ask at the Forum or immediately after the Forum on 1) the GRF team; which staff will be moved? What will be the resources to deal with that and how it will be organized? Does UNHCR Focal Points of the co-sponsoring meeting will stay involved? 2) On the tracking mechanism, when it is going to start and under which modalities? What NGO can do that? On work around analysing on ICVA will work NGOs support to understand and analyse what will happen after the Forum, the gaps, analysis, themes like age, gender and diversity, child protection and if pledges were covered enough or not. Then looking at GRF mid-term review in 2021. ICVA will work on 3) accountability, how NGOs can suggest a better preparation for the second GRF in 2023, and the lessons learned of the GRF 2019.
- ICVA will pledge. Until the next two years, focusing on the three themes ICVA co-sponsor, Burden- and responsibility-sharing, Solutions and Protection capacity, with more focus on Solutions (with particular attention to the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement – ATCR, local solutions and voluntary repatriation themes; eager to discuss about it with NGOs).
- On Protection capacity, ICVA will have a focus on the Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG), helping NGOs to understand what it is and how NGOs can be involved.
- On Responsibility-sharing, the support platforms are concrete elements and an important format for the implementation regarding the Forum. ICVA will contribute to work on that.
- ICVA will follow-up in terms of accountability. Concrete activities such as disseminating information, develop NGOs analysis, workshops in Geneva and in regions, at least six workshops, and having specific publications, for example explainers on what is the ACSG, what are local solutions for instance related to follow-up and review.
• Eager to discuss it with NGOs and how to work with NGOs on that.
• On the future of the co-sponsoring meetings group. On Solutions, one avenue is the ATCR for third-country solutions but is not enough because the meeting is only once a year.
• On 25 November, was a lunch meeting organized by Canada, a small group with few States, UNHCR and ICVA, the only NGO invited. ICVA suggested to opening such meetings to NGOs.
• UNHCR is thinking it could be an avenue to continue the co-sponsoring meeting on Solutions. Member States said UNHCR should continue to play a role.
• Activities on local integration and local solutions will be developed according to UNHCR. So, it can be an entry point for NGOs’ follow-up. ICVA will share notes on this meeting.

Act Alliance
• Any indication on Local Solutions versus Local Integration at the lunch meeting?

ICVA
• No indication at the lunch meeting. To contextualized, ICVA and some NGOs had a discussion around the Local Solutions mentioned in the Compact, what does it mean, can we be defining what it is, with the preliminary idea if Local Solutions are avenue to Durable Solutions and not replacing Durable Solutions.
• Local Solutions is interchangeably used as Local Integration by UNHCR at the moment.
• ICVA and NGOs will work on that the next two years. Work needs to be done on what it means for NGOs to define it.

2. UNHCR ‘new’ positioning on Climate Change/Disaster Displacement.

ICVA
• ICVA had a meeting with UNHCR, Madeline Garlick, working on CC/DD.
• Andrew Harper is appointed Special Adviser on Climate Action for UNHCR.
• Past five years references on CC at ExCom.
• Next year: High Commissioner Dialogue on Protection Challenges in December 2020, will be on climate change. Related to that, idea would be to suggest of the theme of UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations in 2020 could be around CC/DD. Not guarantee it will be covered. If you agree or disagree on this topic suggested, inform ICVA.
• Related to the GRF, Madeline Garlick mentioned that UNHCR is working with Member States through the Platform on Disaster Displacement to convinced States to have pledges on CC/DD; greening; refugee responses related to Energy and Infrastructure.
• UNHCR shared with ICVA some pledges languages on CC/DD, ICVA will share it with NGOs. It could be the theme for the next Forum.
• Filippo Grandi talked about “climate emergency” instead of “climate change”.
• ICVA will follow-up on the theme. One idea is to invite Andrew Harper at the beginning of next year to see what UNHCR is planning. A link with IDPs policy maybe the HLP.

Act Alliance

Notes for NGOs only – not to be circulated to other parties
• We have been in touch with the Platform on Disaster Displacement, they were not aware of UNHCR engagement and they are currently developing their own pledges.

3. AoB
• If you are interested, ICVA will organize a week before the GRF, a last meeting on the GRF to exchange on the final details and on our collective communication.
• Shared the Omnibus resolution and an interesting analysis from the WRC. One important information is that it was used to be a consensus and it is not the case anymore.
• On the High-level panel on IDPs. There was a meeting in Geneva of the group of the High-level panel Friends, organized by Norway, co-convened by Ethiopia and Afghanistan. The tasks of the group are not clear yet.