



## Message from Executive Director

### Putting People First – “*being and becoming*”

Our humanitarian community agrees that “change in the humanitarian system must place people and communities at the heart of response, and empower them to lead and shape emergency response”.

“*Putting People First*” is the theme of the 2018 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs. The consultations, co-organised by UNHCR and ICVA, are a major and rather unique event that provides an important forum for debate on global and regional themes. An opportunity to explore fresh collaboration on operational issues and on advocacy.

As per John Samuel, “*In people-centred advocacy being is as important as becoming*”.

As humanitarian actors, if we do not believe deeply in a cause, we cannot be advocates of this cause. Our moral strength in advocacy stems from our integrity and our legitimacy. We must bridge between words and facts, rhetoric and everyday life, theory and practice.

At the UNHCR-NGO consultations but also at the IASC coordination meetings, in our relations to donors, in capacity strengthening programmes and events, in our learning lab on Innovative Financing, in the engagement of our membership, in the collaboration between networks, advocating to “*Putting People First*” should translate in pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones. Otherwise, we will not change. We will continue talking to each other, amongst the “usual suspects”. We will not bridge. We will neither be nor become.

**Ignacio Packer**  
ICVA Executive Director

## Forced Displacement

### 1. The Global Compact on Refugees:

**a. Formal Consultations on the GCR:** For the fourth formal consultations (8-10 May), ICVA facilitated the drafting and delivery of six NGO statements on the following parts of the programme of action: introduction; mechanisms for burden-and responsibility-sharing; reception and admission; meeting needs and supporting communities; solutions; and follow-up and review arrangements. Thanks to the NGOs who contributed to the statements. You can read the NGO statements on the [ICVA website](#).

**b. Meeting with UNHCR and NGOs:** On May 2, ICVA convened and facilitated a meeting between UNHCR and NGOs to discuss the main changes in draft 2 of the GCR ahead of the fourth formal consultations. ICVA members can access the [notes from the meeting](#).

**c. GCR debrief meeting with NGOs:** On 25 May, ICVA organised a meeting with NGOs to discuss the main takeaways from the fourth formal consultations. NGOs also took the opportunity to strategise about the fifth formal consultations to be held on 12-13 June in Geneva. Contact [Jerome.Elie@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Jerome.Elie@icvanetwork.org) if you need more information or clarification on the GCR.

**d.** On 29 May, UNHCR organised an **informal exchange** on measuring the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees as well as on the indicators to monitor and evaluate the progress and outcomes of the global compact on refugees.

**e. Whole-of-Society/CRRF workshop Nairobi:** Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) and ICVA convened a workshop on “Understanding and Maximizing the Whole-of-Society Approach for the CRRF roll-out in Kenya” on 17 May, 2018 in Nairobi. The workshop built

and expanded on previous similar workshops organised at regional levels in Costa Rica (December 2017) and Thailand (30 April 2018). Participants from NGOs, both international and national, UNHCR, government, refugee and host community gathered to share and exchange information on the GCR and CRRF roll-out process and how a broader partnership approach can bring added-value. Those workshops are organised thanks to support from the United States Bureau of Population, Migration and Refugees (BPRM) and contributions made through UNHCR from the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO).

## 2. The Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration:

a. Implementation, review and follow-up in the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was one of the three thematic discussions at our **civil society strategy meeting convened by ICMC** for the [Civil Society Action Committee](#) ahead of the 5th Round of GCM negotiations (4-8 June). Attended by some 50 civil society leaders, current plans were assessed and short term and longer-term actions for civil society looked at.

b. Acknowledging the **key role of civil society organisations' engagement with IOM**, a small group of organisations, including ICVA, have started to frame questions and learn jointly from discussions with IOM specifically on structured civil society engagement in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM. We have organised with IOM a Working Group (WG), time-bound to end of the year. The first meeting the IOM-Civil Society Organisations took place in New York on 3 June co-chaired by the Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM) and ICVA.

c. **Uphold the rights of all migrants, regardless of status:** In an open letter to Member States, civil society organisations are calling on governments to respect the spirit of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and make sure the GCM will improve the lives of migrants and communities across the globe. The letter signed by almost 300 organisations, of which a number are ICVA members, identifies key areas that must be addressed in the final version of the GCM; all migrants to have safe access to services, end the practice of child immigration detention, include provision for migrants in vulnerable situations, prevent protection gaps between the two compacts, and expand safe and regular migration pathways. Read the joint civil society statement in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#).

3. **UNHCR Standing Committee:** The 72nd meeting of the Standing Committee will be held from 19 - 21 June. ICVA is facilitating the drafting and delivery of four NGO statements on international protection, statelessness, IDPs and the CRRF. For more information, contact [Arjun.claire@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Arjun.claire@icvanetwork.org).

4. **UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations:** Registration is now closed for the 27-29 June, annual meeting of NGOs and UNHCR. Under the theme "*Putting People First*" the three-day event is a unique forum for sharing feedback, information and experience, as well as raising awareness on emerging issues. The Consultations are also catalytic in forming and strengthening partnerships between UNHCR and NGOs.

· For those attending have a look at the "[A guide for NGOs Participating in UNHCR's Annual Consultations with NGOs](#)" which provides information and useful tips to enhance your participation and opportunities for engagement at the event.

· Further details on the Annual Consultations are on the [UNHCR website](#).

5. **Global Summit of Refugees 2018 – 25-26 June 2018.** The Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW) and the Network for Refugee Voices (NRV), in partnership with Independent Diplomat (ID), and ICVA member Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA), will convene a Global Summit of Refugee ahead of the 2018 UNHCR NGO Consultations, in Geneva, Switzerland. The two-day event will bring together refugee-led organisations and refugee change-makers from around the world to gather to discuss their lived experiences and propose solutions for more effective and sustainable global refugee policy. [Click here](#) for more information.

## 6. Internally Displaced Persons - GP 20 Plan of Action and Steering

**Group:** Represented by Jane Backhurst of Christian Aid, ICVA is member of the Steering Group of the Plan of Action for Advancing the Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. The [Steering Group](#) will function from June 2018 to December 2020 and is initially jointly convened by UNHCR and OCHA as co-chairs. The Steering Group is established to oversee the implementation of the [Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons](#) launched during the 20th Anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

**7. ICVA Provides an NGO Perspective at the IGC Full Round:** ICVA thanks the IGC Secretariat and its Norwegian Chair for including ICVA in the 23-25 May IGC Full-Round Consultations. The [IGC is the Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees](#) brings together 17 participating states, UNHCR, IOM and the EU. This was the first time an NGO perspective was included in such a proceeding. ICVA delivered interventions related to: 1) the nexus between humanitarian, development, peace and migration actors, 2) the Global Compact on Refugees; 3) the Global Compact on Migration, and 4) qualities desired in the next IOM DG candidate.

**8. IOM Director General Candidates:** The Permanent Missions of the Costa Rica, Portugal and the United States welcomed the suggestions for their candidates for IOM Director General to engage with civil society. ICVA was pleased to welcome Mr Ken Isaacs, (USA), Ambassador Laura Thompson (Costa Rica), and Mr Antonio Vitorino (Portugal), to the ICVA office to meet with NGOs.

## Humanitarian Financing

**9. Learning Lab on Innovative Financing:** ICVA and other members of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT) are working with experts to design and launch an inter-agency learning lab unpacking experiences to date (and the potential to take to scale). The learning generated by the lab will be shared with the sector, particularly with frontline responders. Experts can communicate between learning events using a LinkedIn Group. Recent exchanges with the World Economic Forum underscore the time is right for this initiative. Those who would like to contribute their learning, expertise and resources are encouraged to contact [Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org).

**10. Grand Bargain Capacity Strengthening:** ICVA, in collaboration with VOICE and the Somalia NGO Consortium, is organising a workshop on Grand Bargain Capacity Strengthening in Mogadishu, in the first half of July. Following an update on the Grand Bargain and workstreams with particular relevance to field practitioners, the participants will provide input on which workstreams are of greatest relevance to them, and perceived gaps in tools, capacity, or support to implement relevant Grand Bargain commitments. There will also be an exchange on best ways of engagement with the aim of ensuring the benefits of the Grand Bargain trickle down to local level. Feedback from the workshop will be shared with the relevant Grand Bargain workstream co-conveners and NGO co-champions for the priority workstreams to encourage responsible co-conveners and co-champions to develop guidance and tools that are relevant for field practitioners to implement the workstream commitments, and to identify links to capacity strengthening opportunities that can be shared directly with field practitioners. For more information contact [Marco.Rotelli@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Marco.Rotelli@icvanetwork.org) or [Jeremy.Rempel@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Jeremy.Rempel@icvanetwork.org).

**11. Launch of SAFER in Philippines:** Three of the largest networks of local and national NGOs in the Philippines; Caucus of Development NGOs (CODE-NGO), Humanitarian Response Consortium (HRC), and NASSA/Caritas Philippines, have joined forces to address financial gaps in disaster response through the [Shared Aid Fund for Emergency Response \(SAFER\)](#). SAFER is a NGO-run collective fundraising mechanism and pooled fund for emergency preparedness, response and recovery. When disaster strikes, funds will be channelled to SAFER-accredited NGOs with presence in 87 cities and municipalities in the country, enabling them to respond to the disasters and emergencies quickly. ICVA attended the launch of SAFER in Manila on 15 May. The platform is informed by other collective fundraising mechanisms such as the UK Disasters Emergency Committee and is one way in which NGOs in the Philippines are working towards localization.

## Humanitarian Coordination

### 12. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Updates:

**Emergency Directors Group: Ebola Teleconferences:** On 17 and 25 May, WHO updated the EDG on the Ebola disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the status of the response. As of the latest update on 29 May, the disease was still localised to the three health zones initially affected: Iboko, Bikoro and Wangata; 54 suspected cases and 25 deaths had been reported; a total of 906 contact had been recorded and were followed up actively. WHO shared Ebola prevention recommendations, that were then disseminated to ICVA members. The EDG agreed to update the group on a weekly basis. For more information, please contact: [Emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org)

**The IASC Regional Network for Asia Pacific Regional Directors meeting** was held on 28 May. The agenda included discussion of a proposal to focus on the humanitarian-development nexus in Asia through the context of linking early warning to early action. Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators provided updates on the humanitarian situation in Bangladesh and Myanmar, with a focus on preparedness and contingency planning and possible cross-border activities to strengthen efforts in both countries. OCHA also shared comments from the RC/HC on the humanitarian setting, drought preparedness and displacement in Afghanistan. ICVA presented the proposed revisions to the L3 System to the group and shared an update from the Regional Emergency Preparedness Working Group, which it co-chairs with OCHA.

**IASC Principals 31 May meeting:** The ICVA Chair, Anoop Sukumaran, and Executive Director, Ignacio Packer, both participated in the IASC Principals meeting on 31 May, in New York. A key part of the discussions focused on collectively strengthening the humanitarian sector's approach to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment and abuse (SHA). [See the Statement](#) from the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock, chair of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, published following the meeting. Also on the agenda were discussions around the proposal of the two components Scale-up and Sustain to replace the L3 mechanism; a review and agreement on the strategic priorities; how to enhance collaboration to find durable solutions of IDPs; and how the IASC can make a difference in humanitarian situations through public-private partnerships. The IASC Principals followed the humanitarian country team and the EDG recommendation to extend the IASC system-wide emergency responses (L3) for Syria until 31 December 2018. The agenda and some of the background documents are available on the [IASC website](#).

**13. CASH coordination: NGO position on country level cash coordination:** It is time to move from consultations to action and identify a practical solution to the challenge of cash coordination. The NGO community asks the IASC and donor community to ensure a continued and open dialogue on cash coordination with NGOs and to work collectively to address the issue of cash coordination by providing clear and standardised guidance on cash coordination. The [NGO position paper on cash coordination](#) was developed from consultations with the Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) Platform, representing 15 NGO cash actors, and from a VOICE-convened NGO event held in Brussels in March 2018 which included over 30 NGO representatives and a working group session on cash coordination.

## Humanitarian Partnership

**14. Strengthening collaboration in West and Central Africa:** ICVA participated in two meetings in Dakar on the new way of working (NWOW):

The co-chairs of the IASC Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian Development Nexus in Protracted Crises (HDN TT) in collaboration with OCHA and UNDP convened

a **practitioners' support workshop 28-29 May**, in Dakar targeting relevant West and Central African countries. The workshop, similar to the one held in Entebbe at the end of last year, brought together technical-level peers to advance stronger collaboration across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus at the country level. ICVA participated as a facilitator, brought the NGO voice on the subject, and encouraged NGOs to attend the workshop.

**A multi-stakeholder NWO regional workshop for West and Central Africa** was held from 31 May – 1 June. Building on the regional NWO workshops and high-level events held during 2017, and the concrete field experience in advancing the NWO in several countries in the region, the objective of the workshop was to (a) foster exchange among current and prospective implementing countries on how to operationalise the NWO; (b) Identify gaps and bottlenecks that hinder NWO implementation, and further tools, guidance and support needed; and (c) Support country teams to develop a roadmap on articulating and operationalising collective outcomes. ICVA participated in the panel 'Setting the Scene'. For more information, please contact [Marco.Rotelli@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Marco.Rotelli@icvanetwork.org)

**15. 4-Consortia Retreat:** ICVA thanks representatives of the InterAction, SCHR and VOICE secretariats for joining us in Geneva on 2-3 May for a “4-consortia” retreat. We shared priorities and exchanged views on areas of common interest. We look forward to continued fruitful collaboration.

## Field Support

**16. NGO FORA Support Programme:** ICVA is commissioning a guide on “*NGO Fora Member Engagement*”. This is in direct response to a series of consultations with NGO Fora who highlighted the need to continue to improve how they engage members in an NGO forum. The guide will document best practices in the management of a collective, recognising that NGO Fora are highly diverse but that engagement of members is of paramount importance in a fora’s effectiveness in fulfilling its mission. ICVA has commissioned Melissa Phillips, herself a former NGO Forum Coordinator to develop this guide. She is seeking your inputs through completion of an [online survey](#). If you would prefer to complete an interview via Skype or would like to receive more information, please email [melissa.phillips@migration-nexus.com](mailto:melissa.phillips@migration-nexus.com) With thanks in advance for your participation.

## Humanitarian Learning Stream



**17. Topic 3: "UN reform: the link to the "nexus" and what it means for non-UN actors"** will be held on **8 June** at 15.00 Geneva time. This webinar will look at the UN reforms in relation to the nexus, and the implications for NGOs and non-UN actors on humanitarian action. You will hear from the UN Resident Coordinator in Mauritania and from the Senior Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at CARE International.

[Register here.](#)

If you missed the first two webinars under the [Demystifying the Nexus Learning Stream](#), you can find both recordings of [The "nexus" explained](#) and [The World Bank and the humanitarian, development and peace nexus](#) webinars online.

For more information see the [ICVA website](#), or contact [Nishanie.Jayamaha@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Nishanie.Jayamaha@icvanetwork.org)

**18. Learning Opportunities**

**Registration open - ICRC intensive course on IHL** for senior humanitarian practitioners and policy-makers: Are you working with an international or local organisation dealing with humanitarian issues on a daily basis? Are you working in a situation of armed conflict and/or regularly confronted to the reality of armed conflicts? Do you have to make decisions that can have a humanitarian impact in the field? And most of all, do you ever wonder what the law really says and what legal tools could help you with your daily tasks? Then, this international humanitarian law course is definitely for you. [Click here](#) to register and for more information.

**Training in Amman (8-12 July) on IHL and protection:** Offered by PHAP, this series begins with the [three-day Core Professional Training on International Humanitarian Law](#) (8-10 July), which is an intensive learning experience tailored to the needs of mid- and senior-level humanitarian practitioners operating in situations of armed conflict. The combination of theory and practical discussion is suitable for participants both with and without prior legal training. Directly following, and building on the program of the Core Training, a [two-day Thematic Workshop will delve into the issue of Protection of Civilians during the Conduct of Hostilities](#) (11-12 July), both from the perspective of international law and the practical and policy challenges for humanitarian and other actors engaged in protection activities. Group discounts are available, as are a limited number of places at a reduced fee for staff of local and national NGOs. [Programme details](#) – [Apply now](#) – [Fee information](#)

**Building a Better Response (BBR) online course:** the newest e-learning unit - Unit 6: Complex Humanitarian Emergencies – is now available in Arabic and French. The unit describes complex humanitarian emergencies, elements of coordination among humanitarian actors during such crises, and the challenges in responding to a complex humanitarian emergency. To access all 6 units of the e-learning—in Arabic, English, and French, please [register here](#). [Watch](#) the 1-minute advertisement trailer (in English).

## ICVA Updates

**19. Reviewing ICVA's response to PSEA and SHW:** An external consultant, Mirela Shuteriqi, debriefed on her mandate of reviewing ICVA's response to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and sexual harassment in the workplace (SHW). While the focus of the systems in place focused on the ICVA Secretariat (part 1), the dialogue on implementation challenges of PSEA and SHW standards concerned the diversity of ICVA's membership (part 2). The findings of the later were shared at the 31 May IASC Principals meeting.

NGOs interviewed welcomed the current momentum in enhancing PSEA measures. However, to ensure that this does not become another missed opportunity, they call upon all actors to: 1. Strengthen engagement in prevention; 2. Enhance fight against inequality and promote horizontal relations; 3. Prioritise victim protection and support; 4. Mitigate negative impact (ie on the diversity of humanitarian actors); 5. Enhance focus at national and local level; 6. Ensure long term commitment and investment.

**20. New Director of Programme:** Michael Hyden is joining end of June the ICVA Secretariat team to fill our open position as Director of Programme. Michael was looking for challenges. ICVA was looking for somebody with commitment and passion for the humanitarian sector combined with experience in operations, policy, advocacy and partnership development in the field and in national and global management roles. Welcome Michael.

**21. Navigating the Nexus: NGO Perspectives:** ICVA's Annual Conference was held on 20 March 2018 followed by a week of discussions bringing together over 140 participants from over 36 countries to share lessons learned, best practice, opportunities, concerns, challenges and risks on "Navigating the Nexus: NGO Perspectives". [Read the Report](#).

## New and Noteworthy

**22. Toolkit on Responding to Violence against Humanitarian Action on the Policy Level:** This [toolkit](#) contains resources and templates to support NGO staff in responding to violence against humanitarian action. The Working Group on Protection of Humanitarian Action, an initiative gathering more than 20 partners and co-led by the Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action (ATHA) at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) and Action Against Hunger (Action contre la Faim) developed the toolkit.

## Forthcoming Events

### *ICVA Meetings and Events*

**June 7:** ICVA and NGOs Forward informal lunch discussions between Member States engaged in the GCR process and NGOs  
**June 8:** Learning Stream webinar: UN reform: the link to the "nexus" and what it means for non-UN actors  
**July 19:** Learning Stream webinar: Perspectives of peacebuilding actors in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

### *Other Meetings and Events*

**June 4-8:** 5th intergovernmental negotiations on the GCM  
**June 12-13:** 5th formal consultations on the GCR, UNHCR  
**June 13:** The (im)balance of partnerships, HQAI, Geneva  
**June 18:** Grand Bargain annual meeting, New York  
**June 19-21:** UNHCR 72nd Standing Committee on Protection, Geneva  
**June 19-21:** ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, New York  
**June 20:** World Refugee Day  
**June 25-26:** Annual Tripartite Consultation on Resettlement, Geneva  
**June 25-29:** UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva  
**July 3-4:** 6th formal consultations on GCR, UNHCR  
**July 3-6:** Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia  
**July 9-13:** Intergovernmental Negotiations of GCM (6/6)  
**August 19:** World Humanitarian Day  
**September 19:** Second anniversary of the adoption of the New York Declaration  
**October 8-9:** IASC Working Group meeting  
**October 23-23:** 7th Asia-Pacific Conference on Refugee Rights (APCRR7), Bangkok  
**October:** UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting (Geneva)  
**November 5-9:** Geneva Peace Week, Geneva  
**November 29:** IASC Principals Meeting, Geneva  
**December:** DAC meeting on NWOW at HoAs High Level.

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