

NGO Reference Group: The Global Refugee Forum 2023

Terms of Reference

Purpose

UNHCR has established an informal NGO Reference Group comprised of representatives from global and regional NGO networks, which will serve as a consultative mechanism for the preparations of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2023. Representation from a diverse range of global and regional networks will improve communication and engagement with global and local NGOs, including civil society, faith-based, and refugee-led organisations.

Objectives

1. **Contribute to and advise on the preparations for the Global Refugee Forum** through sharing information and providing advice and consolidated feedback on the development of (1) pledging guidance, (2) mechanisms for matching policy pledges from 2019 with financial, technical, or material support, (3) multi-stakeholder mobilisation arrangements, and (4) event modalities.
2. **Facilitate NGO engagement in the development of pledges and initiatives** for the GRF 2023, for example through working with NGO networks to identify areas for co-sponsorship, matching pledges, or joint pledges, as well as advocacy for pledge development. In practice, a key deliverable would be to map which NGOs are interested in working where and on which topics. *This is not a required engagement, but flexible depending on capacity of the network.*

At the GRF in 2019, 24 per cent of all pledges were submitted by NGOs. The [December 2021 Stocktaking Report: Where we stand](#) provides an overview of NGO engagement in pledge implementation (progress on pledges, gaps/challenges/opportunities) and good practices in the areas of protection capacity, education, statelessness, solutions, jobs and livelihoods, responsibility sharing arrangements, and energy and infrastructure. The report will provide a starting point for the Reference Group to help shape the role of NGOs in pledge and initiative development. It will be discussed at the Global NGO Consultations in June 2022 and regional consultations in 2023.

Activities and meeting frequency

UNHCR will convene quarterly meetings with the reference group leading up to the GRF in December 2023 to discuss the development of key phases of GRF preparations and NGO pledges, as follows:

Year	Month	Meeting agenda
2022	May/June	1 st Meeting: 30 th May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the group and work plan NGO Consultations: 8 th June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the group
	September	Feedback on proposed concept for the GRF, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRF 2023 Concept Note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ pledging guidance ○ pledge matching mechanism ○ co-sponsorship arrangements (The proposed concept will be shared during the second global quarterly briefing on the GCR/GRF that will be held in June. The reference groups can then seek and consolidate feedback from their members over the summer and bring this feedback to the reference group meeting in September.)
	November	Strategy for NGO engagement in pledge and initiative development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Mapping</u>: Network representatives would reach out to their networks in advance of this November meeting to identify which geographies and themes they are interested in supporting as part of existing or new pledges, if any current barriers to this exist, or if any further information is needed to proceed. • Based on the mapping, discuss the possibility of developing specific joint NGO or matched pledges.
2023	January	NGO pledge and initiative development strategy updates
	May	Role of NGOs in GRF modalities NGO pledge and initiative development updates
	September	NGO pledge and initiative development updates

Key events and milestones

- Global NGO Consultations in June 2022: Launch of the reference group
- High Commissioners Dialogue in December 2022: Development cooperation
- Informal preparatory meetings for the gRF in 2022 (Q3 and 4)
- Regional NGO Consultation in 2023 in all regions
- Formal preparatory meetings for the GRF in 2023 (Q1, 2, and 3): NGO joint statement
- Global Refugee Forum December 2023

Members

Network	Region
APPRN (Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network)	Asia-Pacific
CAREF	Americas
CORMSA (Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa)	Southern Africa
ECRE (European Council on Refugees and Exiles)	Europe
European Network on Statelessness	Europe
ICVA	Global
InterAction	Global
MENA Civil Society Network for Displacement	Middle East and North Africa
Mixed Migration Centre	West and Central Africa
RCUSA	Global
Red CLAMOR	Americas
ReDSS (Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat)	East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes
RIADIS	Americas
SALAAM	Southern Africa
UNHCR's Advisory Board of Organisations led by Persons of Concern	Global