



Speech of Ms Anila Noor

I am honored to join this important discussion and presenting." The Multi-Stakeholder Pledge on Gender Equality and Protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV) which represents a critical step forward. It is not only a commitment to gender equality but also a tangible way to advance the Pact for the Future.

This pledge is aligned with **Action 8**—the achievement of gender equality, **Action 19**—accelerating commitments on women, peace, and security, and **Action 34**—improving gender equality in innovation, sends a powerful message. The involvement of **refugee women-led organizations (RLOs)** is a testament to the vital role women must play in shaping inclusive solutions.

Because

- The risks of violence against women and girls increase in conflicts and are a major driver of displacement. Gender-based violence risks also increase during displacement and are a threat to the more than 60 million forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls hosted primarily in low and middle income countries. One of the core objectives of Gender equality and GBV focuses on ensuring displaced women and girls have access to gender-based violence services and prevention, which is still too often not the case.
- We managed to mobilize more than 100 pledges,..... but there is still much more to do, in particular expanding our support to women refugee-led organizations on the frontline and ensuring every refugee women and girl had access to services when they need it.

But we cannot stop at *rhetoric*. If we are truly to advance gender equality, we must recognize the transformative potential that partnerships between states, civil society, and RLOs offer. **All** pledges bring forward an opportunity to improve women's and girls' access to comprehensive GBV prevention and response services. It's about creating real partnerships with refugee women and host communities—partnerships that aren't just for inclusion but for solutions tailored to their realities.

Meaningful participation is a pillar we must center in all our efforts. Refugee women must not only be consulted—they must lead. As we know, those closest to the issues are often those closest to the solutions. Their lived experiences and leadership are critical to addressing the protection and inclusion challenges we face.

Gender equality isn't an isolated issue; it's central to the **Pact for the Future** and the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is embedded in every action statement, and through the **Gender Equality and Protection from GBV** pledge, we can mainstream gender considerations across the entire response to forced displacement. This is about resilience, empowerment, and breaking down systemic barriers that have long kept women and girls marginalized.

Now, let's be clear: **the CO-DESIGNING WITH refugee and women-led organizations (RLOs) is not optional**—it is essential. As It, play a critical role in ensuring accountability, effectiveness, and sustainability of our efforts. Through the "whole-of-society" approach of the **Global Compact on Refugees**, we have seen the powerful impact of these voices at the table, including at the Global Refugee Forum 2023. But we must go further.



For the **Pact for the Future** to achieve its ambitious goals, RLOs must not only be involved but **co lead**.

Lastly, In the words of the late Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, “*The higher you go, the fewer women there are. I want to encourage more women to climb up the ladder and to contribute to decision-making.*” We must ensure that refugee women not only climb the ladder but are empowered to reshape it entirely, through meaningful participation. Together, through partnership, innovation, and a relentless commitment to gender equality, we can make the Pact for the Future not just a promise—but a reality.

Thank you.

Thank you for this important question.

With over two decades of leadership in advocating for refugee rights and gender equality, I can affirm that **intersectionality** is fundamental to achieving the 2030 Agenda’s goal of “*leaving no one behind.*” My journey, both as a refugee woman and through my extensive work with **refugee women-led organizations (RLOs)**, has shown that people face multiple, overlapping forms of discrimination based on age, gender, displacement status, ethnicity, disability, and more. Without an intersectional approach, we risk overlooking those who need support the most.

The **Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach** ensures that policies reflect these diverse needs. For example, a young displaced woman and an elderly man with a disability face unique challenges that require tailored solutions. To effectively implement **Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges** and ensure accountability to intersectionality, we should:

Collect Detailed Information :Gather and analyze information broken down by age, gender, and other factors to see who is being left behind. This helps in developing targeted and effective policies.

Promote Meaningful Participation :Involve refugee women and marginalized groups in policy design and implementation. Their insights are crucial for creating solutions that genuinely address their needs and ensure that **power dynamics are shifted** to enable true inclusion.

Ensure Accountability in Partnerships: The private sector and development actors must build genuine partnerships with RLOs. This includes providing direct investment and support to enable these organizations to lead and drive real transformation, rather than imposing external solutions.

Implement Training on Intersectionality

Equip staff with the knowledge to apply an intersectional lens in their work. This ensures policies are informed by the diverse realities of those they aim to support and fosters a **decolonized approach** to development.

To understand why certain communities are left behind, we must consider several key factors:

1. **Lack of Inclusion in Decision-Making:** Many affected communities, particularly refugee-led organizations (RLOs), are excluded from policy discussions. Without a seat at the table, their needs, experiences, and perspectives are overlooked.
2. **Insufficient Resources:** Marginalized groups often lack access to adequate funding and resources, hindering their ability to participate effectively in decision-making processes and contribute to sustainable solutions.
3. **Systemic Barriers:** Discriminatory policies, bureaucratic hurdles, and power imbalances perpetuate exclusion, particularly for women, refugees, and displaced persons from the Global South.
4. **Limited Accountability Mechanisms:** A lack of transparent and participatory monitoring and reporting systems prevents affected communities from holding decision-makers accountable and ensuring that pledges, such as those made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), are honored.

Establishing Monitoring and Reporting Systems

To address these gaps, it's crucial to develop transparent mechanisms to track the progress of GRF pledges. Affected communities, particularly RLOs, should be actively involved in monitoring and evaluation processes. This will ensure accountability and enable timely adjustments to strategies, ensuring that the needs of marginalized groups are met.

Advocacy for Systematic Justice

Our advocacy, built on over two decades of commitment to shifting power dynamics, highlights the importance of investing in and supporting RLOs. We believe that with proper investment and structural changes, RLOs can lead meaningful transformations and ensure that no one is left behind. Thank you.