

2023 UNHCR Online Consultations with NGOs

Information Note

In 2023, the UNHCR NGO and Civil Society Section of the Partnership and Coordination Service will organize a series of online consultations with NGOs, together with ICVA and other NGO co-organizers.

Objectives and approach

The overall objective of those online consultations is to **support an enabling environment for NGOs and UNHCR to exchange on operational, policy and advocacy priorities in a safe space.**

Going beyond the information-sharing focus and the usual panel and Q&A format, the perspectives provided by participants aim to **strengthen the policy-making processes at the stages of conception, drafting, impact assessment, decision-making, as well as monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation**, when appropriate. It is also aimed to have some impact through manageable and prioritized follow-up action points.

The aim of the consultations is to:

- **Lead to concrete and lively exchanges between UNHCR and NGOs**, sometimes inclusive of other actors;
- **Link to ongoing policy and strategy developments;**
- **Link to major global initiatives and processes** (e.g. related to the Global Refugee Forum);
- **Link to operational aspects**, particularly in engaging NGOs in the operationalization of specific policies and strategies or in discussing – at global level – coordination and implementing partnerships issues;
- **Connect to past discussions;**
- **Lead to collective recommendations** and/or follow-up actions.

Participation criteria

In keeping with the longstanding participation approach applicable to the UNHCR-NGO Global Consultations, NGOs who wish to attend and contribute to those consultations should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be an **partner funded by UNHCR in 2022/2023;**
- Be an **NGO / civil society organization collaborating with UNHCR** with a demonstrated interest in the solution to the problem of refugees, internally displaced persons and/or statelessness and/or in the themes of the consultations;
- Be a **member of ICVA;**
- Have **consultative status with ECOSOC** (UN Economic and Social Council) **with a demonstrated interest** in the solution to the problem of refugees, internally displaced persons and/or statelessness and/or in the themes of the consultations;

Depending on the topic, other actors (e.g. academia representatives, sports associations, etc.) may be allowed to join for specific sessions. If your NGO or organization fulfils one or more criteria above, kindly send an email explaining why you wish to attend and contribute to the UNHCR-NGO online consultations to: partnership@unhcr.org. The email subject must include "Participation in UNHCR-NGO Online Consultations_Name of Organization".

How are the themes selected?

The themes are selected through exchanges with and suggestions from NGOs and UNHCR staff, as well as past surveys related to the consultations.

Speakers/panelists:

Each consultation will include speakers from UNHCR and NGOs. Depending on the topic and objective of each consultation, representatives from other UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, academia and other stakeholders can also be invited to speak.

Speakers are selected jointly by the co-organizers paying particular attention to ensuring a gender balance, regional representation, and suitable expertise.

How to make the most of your participation:

The consultations involve seeking the opinions and analysis of participants, which means that efforts will be made to ensure proper time is allocated to exchanges. Interested participants will be **strongly encouraged** to be involved in the formulation of objectives, policies and approaches, and will have the opportunity to express their views, and share their experience, documents and good practices through direct oral intervention or through the chat box. In addition to UNHCR speaker(s) in each consultation, relevant UNHCR staff also participate and can exchange with NGOs.

UNHCR and NGOs will be **strongly encouraged** to provide inputs in advance of each consultation before the consultations while registering and/or during the consultation. In doing so, UNHCR and NGOs participants will be **invited** to share documents, remarks and analysis, raise questions, point to gaps and challenges, and make proposals.

To ensure effective exchanges and concrete outcomes through the online interface, there will be a flexible limit of **2-3 participating staff** per organization. Local NGOs and Organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons following the participation criteria are particularly encouraged to register.

Tentative agenda and duration

Date	Topic
2 March 2023	Increasing access to asylum through improved asylum capacity (co-organized with ICVA)
4 April 2023	Disability (co-organized with International Disability Alliance)
May 2023 (exact date to be announced)	Solutions to internal displacement (co-organized with ICVA)
June 2023 (exact date to be announced)	Innovation
September/October 2023 (exact date to be announced)	Climate Action (co-organized with ICVA)

Please note that the tentative agenda will be regularly updated once the dates and additional topics are confirmed.

The duration of each consultation is 1 hour and 30 minutes, usually organized on a Thursday, starting 14:00 Geneva time.

Format

The first part of each consultation will consist in introducing concepts, information and objectives through either traditional but short presentations or through interview-style dialogue between the moderator and panelists.

Keeping in mind the objective of improving the interactive format, a structured exchange with the audience will then take place, geared towards gathering inputs, commitments, and concrete action/follow-up points. This exchange should last for at least 40-45 minutes.

The consultations will end with a summary of the main follow-up and action points coming up from the consultation, presented by the moderator.

Interpretation

No interpretation will be provided during those consultations.

Contact

If you have any question or wish to receive more information about the online NGO consultations, please contact UNHCR's Partnership and Coordination Service at partnership@unhcr.org.

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