

Review of the Annual Consultations with NGOs
Agenda Item 8

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. High Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for this opportunity to brief ExCom members on the results of the 2015 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations.

And a special thanks to the NGO's for their vibrant and interactive discussion on such a challenging topic "In pursuit of solutions". This year 273 NGO's from 86 countries with 500 plus participants were part of Consultations. This is record breaking.

The moment of truth has arrived, as stated by the High Commissioner at the opening plenary session. We cannot wait until the system is broken. We must act now to promote all available solutions. If we have the courage and take greater risks, we will be a powerful force for change with the caveat that we work together.

In 2014, 42,500 persons were displaced per day. Old conflicts remain unresolved while new conflicts erupt. We need to create more strategic partnerships that will bring relief and development solutions. The focus should remain on upholding the dignity of persons of concern and implementing rights-based approaches. Needs are increasing dramatically, resources are not keeping pace. Partnerships will be useful for interventions to be strategic. Humanitarian assistance is only meaningful if accompanied by a rights-based approach.

We are currently working in a manner that anticipates temporary displacement. Yet, this is not the reality. We have to look at the broader approaches to solutions before realization of one of the traditional durable solutions, including how to empower people of concern through partnerships. Partnerships with an array of actors: with host communities, with governments, and with civil society including national and international NGOs. We have heard clearly and loudly that the more we are inclusive in our solutions by engaging Person of Concerns, the greater our success will be.

As the Rapporteur, I reviewed the notes from all the sessions and, while writing the report that you have received with your other ExCom materials, noticed key themes emerging from the discussions.

1. When we think of solutions we have to start rethinking of our problems from our current perspectives to reflect a more universal point of view. We heard during the Consultations that we have to change the way we work. It is no longer business as usual. We have to look at the

different ways in which specific communities address the many challenges they faced. We learned that it is critical to empower Person of Concerns to be part and parcel of the solutions we are seeking to provide. We have to work with host communities who in many cases are also lacking resources but have generously accepted to host Person of Concerns.

2. As part of solutions, we have discussed the need for the humanitarian-development equation to be reformulated. This reformulation has to start with ensuring we plan for development at the beginning of a crisis working closely with development partners such as the World Bank and actors in the private sector for sustainable solutions.
3. We have been discussing the human rights-based approach but let's have the courage to discuss the politics around displacement. Political will is imperative to address protection at sea and climate change, for example. Protection at sea starts and ends with protection at land. To ensure that there are speedy and real-time operational responses, data sharing on mixed migration movements by sea between agencies needs to be strengthened. Existing Task Forces on the national and regional level are an excellent platform to allow for this exchange of information to happen. Although mixed migration is complex and the context is highly sensitive, finding solutions requires disaggregated data that captures the protection needs of different groups, including women and children. Climate change is also taking place and many of the displaced are not being recognized as refugees. Due to migration that is taking place across borders it is important to recognize these displaced as refugees who require protection and resources. A solution is to have a dignified migration of people if we know climate change is going to affect them.
4. IDPs must remain visible on the global agenda via advocacy and establishment of legal frameworks to ensure the safety and rights of the IDPs within their national borders. Working together in protection is the way forward and more cooperation is needed. Protection is a priority during displacement of IDPs and we need to listen to all the actors from host communities, to the IDPs themselves, to civil society, national and INGOs to ensure a holistic response to the displacement. When displacement takes place we need to ensure we are creating links for the entire humanitarian response from protection to education to health.
5. As stated by the Executive Director of ICVA "let us finally truly move from the rhetoric about national NGOs as equal actors to concrete demonstration of their role as decision makers." UNHCR had 908 partners in 2014 of which more than half (543) were national

NGOs. A theme emerging from the World Humanitarian Summit is the need to support local actors more nimbly and sustainably.

6. The World Humanitarian Summit is an opportunity to provide creative and innovative solution for our many challenges. For this to occur we need to ensure that it is not the lowest common denominator that drives this agenda. World Humanitarian Summit is an opportunity to reshape the humanitarian system, develop new partnerships, and bring a variety of stakeholders including local and national actors, the private sector, UN agencies, member states and national and international civil society organizations together.
7. One of the most talked about sessions was the one on Youth. This panel was comprised solely of young refugees. The four panellists emphasized working with youth in displacement settings, for providing them with opportunities to learn and work with and within their communities with other young people, especially as peer support workers and mentors. Since the theme of the 2016 UNHCR-NGO Consultations will focus on youth, we will be – for the first time ever – holding a series of refugee youth consultations in the run-up to a Global Refugee Youth Consultation to be held in June 2016. This will inform our Annual Consultations, and help to shape thinking on youth-focused humanitarian guidance, and possible policy development in the shape of an Executive Committee Conclusion on youth during 2016.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, let us be bold, let us be courageous let us start changing our narrative so that we can move some of these solutions forward.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.