

## Reporting by Session Note-takers at the 2019 Annual Consultations with NGOs

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 3 July 2019</b>
<b>Session Title:</b>	<b>Opening plenary - Conversation with the High Commissioner</b>
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Guled Mire</b>
<b>UNHCR focal point:</b>	
<b>NGO focal point:</b>	
<b>Major points arising from speakers and discussions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>• The <b>Global Refugee Forum</b> is significant to provide a better refugees protracted and crisis responses, offer concrete solutions to refugees with new stakeholders, Members States, Civil society, Academies, Private sectors. Call to all stakeholder to make commitments at the Forum.</p> <p>There is a need to provide a moral and strategic stand, a need to convey the manner in which the response is better: more organized with more resource. The Compact will not respond to all challenges, it is not a new Convention but it offer concrete solutions to States, NGOs, Academies.</p> <p>90% of refugees are in host countries or development countries.</p> <p>At the beginning of the discussion of the Global Compact on Refugees in 2016, we called for a burden- and responsibility-sharing and now more than 15 countries are applying it. Need to invest in public structures and get away from camps, an inclusive approach.</p> <p>The Forum must see all of you, academic, civil society, private actors, talked about your experiences, use the Forum to make commitments to go forward</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Hate speech</b> needs to be tackle. The High Commissioner recently brought the issue to the Security Council just after Christ Church attacked. Politicize the humanitarian discussion is dangerous for the all society. “Bringing politics in the humanitarian discussion in the manner that marginalize refugees, migrants, foreigners, minorities, it is not only abominable but dangerous for foundation of the global society”.</p> </li> <li> <p>• UNHCR is an process of transformation through <b>regionalization</b>. Observation and listened of too much bureaucray and too much distance, decisions taken are too long, so we are reforming UNHCR. The modernization should suited to better partnership. Curious and willing to have the civil society thought on that.</p> </li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations/Conclusions/decisions on the way forward</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>• On <b>Europe</b>. The asylum system including Dublin regulation in Europe needs to be reform. Plus Europe should be proactive and unanimous of displacement root causes. Finally Europe should respect International Maritime Law. There is a need of a strong political will at this stage in order to move forward on these three points.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Refugees representation</b>. Refugees has to be seens as advocate of themselves. We have to look refugees participation at country level to see a difference.</p> <p>Who are the refugees who represent refugees? It is a political decision that refugees have to discuss and decide together. Refugees are presents at the Consultations. The Global Youth Advisory for instance.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>UNHCR and civil society work together on advocacy</b>. The mandate of UNHCR to work together go in different ways, might be public, might be private, depending of the strategy, a carefully balanced between public advocacy and private negotiations/advocacy needs to be done. And Civil society can complement that,</p> </li> </ul>	

sometimes they can't advocate, and we can, and inversely. Regionalization should be an opportunity to intensify UNHCR and civil society advocacy.

**Top two quotes from the session**

- “Bringing politics in the humanitarian discussion in the manner that marginalize refugees, migrants, foreigners, minorities, is not only abominable but dangerous for the foundation of the global society”
- “What Europe is doing in not respecting International Migration Law is unacceptable”
- “Civil society have a voice, local interest and have influence. It is your voice who needs to be heard. UNHCR needs your advocacy”

**Any general points regarding UNHCR-NGO partnerships**

- Regionalization is a promise to strengthen UNHCR-NGO partnerships
- Civil societies should stand on this