



QUARTERLY INFORMAL BRIEFING ON THE GCR
6 March 2023

Global Refugee-led Network Statement for the Quarterly Informal Briefing on the GCR

Paragraph 106 of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) signed in 2018 calls for “States and relevant stakeholders [to] facilitate meaningful participation of refugees...ensuring the inclusion of their perspectives on progress.” Since States signed adopted the GCR, the Global Refugee-led Network has worked to make this call for meaningful refugee participation a reality.

At the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019, we **launched the multi-stakeholder Refugee Participation Pledge**, which now has over twenty-seven signatories.

We have brought together hundreds of refugee leaders around the world for **Regional Refugee Summits**, in the Asia Pacific, Africa, Middle East and North Africa, and Europe. These summits are opportunities for the refugee community to network, discuss our policy priorities, and provide a platform to input into the GCR process. More summits will be held between now and December, to ensure that refugee voices are included at the next GRF.

Since 2019, we have facilitated the participation of **independent refugee delegations** at key refugee policymaking events. These delegations include a diverse representation of our Network’s membership and facilitate access for refugee leaders to directly engage on policy and with policymakers. At these events, we have delivered **refugee statements**, which are drafted in close consultation with our Network’s wider membership, to ensure the priorities of the refugee community are considered.

We launched **Refugee Skill Up, a series of capacity building workshops by refugees, for refugees**. By employing the training of trainers’ methodology, *Refugee Skill Up* aims to disrupt traditional capacity building power dynamics by transferring knowledge to refugee communities. *Refugee Skill Up*’s eight skills building modules on issues were designed to prepare refugee leaders to engage in policy making and covered: Refugee Rights and Policies, Basics of Diplomacy, Strategic Communication, Leadership and Organizing for Advocacy, Fundraising, etc. These trainings have reached hundreds of refugee-led organizations (RLOs).

Finally, our members activated our Network to **respond directly to the most urgent needs of the refugee community** as crises around the world unfolded. Our regional chapters responded to emerging challenges, such as COVID-19, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, ensuring that the refugee communities’ needs and voices were centered in the global responses to these tragedies.

To ensure meaningful refugee participation at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, we urge the international community to take the **following six key steps**:

- (I) First, make meaningful refugee participation— “Nothing about us without us”— a banner theme of the GRF and reflected robustly throughout the agenda.**
- (II) Second, for all stakeholders to work towards signing onto the Refugee Participation Pledge as early as possible.**
- (III) Third, for all stakeholders to work towards including a refugee advisor on their national delegation to the GRF and in organizational and preparatory meetings in the run up to the GRF.**
- (IV) Fourth, for all stakeholders to work towards a refugee participation rate at GRF 2023 above 10% of total**

participation and refugees to be represented on all panels.

(V) Fifth, for UNHCR to **increase the financial resources dedicated** to supporting the participation and preparedness of refugee-led organizations and refugee participants at the Forum.

(VI) Sixth, for UNHCR to **send GRF invitations no later than four full months ahead of the 2023 Forum**. This will give refugee participants time to secure required visas, prepare and familiarize themselves with all aspects of the Global Refugee Forum, as well as to fully understand their role and maximize their contribution before, during, and after the Forum.

To conclude, we would like to express our appreciation for the service of those who, like us, were forced to flee, and we affirm our commitment to collaborative engagement with all stakeholders in the lead up to the Global Refugee Forum.