



## PRESS RELEASE

### Refugee Leaders Call for Meaningful Participation at the Second Global Refugee Forum

**Geneva, December 12, 2023:** Tomorrow kicks off UNHCR's second Global Refugee Forum, the world's largest gathering on refugees. The event, which takes place from 13 – 15 December in Geneva, Switzerland, gathers multi-stakeholder actors from the sector, most notably among them, refugees themselves. Over thirty refugee leaders from the six chapters of the Global Refugee-led Network (GRN) are in Geneva to participate in the Forum.

"Together, refugees are creating a movement," said Amer Alkayed, Chair of the GRN. "We are change-makers, building a system that acknowledges the role and contribution that refugees make to policies. The end goal is to improve refugee lives."

During the Forum, representatives of the GRN will continue their work to ensure refugees have meaningful and full participation in decision making processes that affect their lives, including by promoting and increasing the signatories to the [Multi-Stakeholder Meaningful Refugee Participation Pledge](#). Specifically, the GRN will be pushing for five main commitments from the international community at the Forum:

- 1. Move beyond ad hoc approaches and expand and systematize meaningful refugee participation.**
- 2. Increase direct funding to refugee-led organizations to promote refugee self-reliance and advance equitable partnerships.**
- 3. Establish pathways to forms of regularized status in countries of asylum, clearly distinguished from local integration as a durable solution.**
- 4. End the detention of asylum seekers, externalization of asylum obligations, and forced returns.**
- 5. Review and implement changes in existing restrictions on domestic and international mobility for migrants that are hampering refugee self-reliance.**

Over the next few days, GRN members will join several events and meet with representatives from Member States, civil society, the private sector and other refugee-invested communities to discuss new initiatives to increase refugee participation and ensure that refugees have a voice in decision-making processes which affect them.

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For more information on the Global Refugee-led Network see: <https://www.globalrefugeenetwork.org/>