



FIRST FORMAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE GRF  
2 February 2023

### **Refugee Statement with Key Asks for the First Formal Preparatory Meeting for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum**

This statement was drafted through ongoing consultations with a wide variety of refugee<sup>1</sup> actors globally and reflects the diversity of our views.

The Global Compact on Refugees signed in 2019 calls for “States and relevant stakeholders [to] facilitate meaningful participation of refugees...ensuring the inclusion of their perspectives on progress” (Paragraph 106). While States, INGOs, UNHCR, and other stakeholders have taken steps to increase refugee participation, there is still a lot of room for progress on this front. Refugees composed only 2% of participants at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), and we still often find ourselves limited in global forums to participating through advisory roles rather than being afforded direct participatory access.

For the first formal preparatory meeting for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, the Global Refugee-led Network (GRN) would like to present the following key asks to ensure meaningful refugee participation at and beyond this year’s Forum:

1. **Meaningful Refugee Participation**— “Nothing about us without us”— to be a **banner theme of the GRF** and reflected robustly throughout the agenda.
2. **All stakeholders to work towards signing on to the Refugee Participation Pledge** as early as possible.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. UNHCR to **increase the financial resources dedicated** to supporting the participation and preparedness of refugee-led organizations and refugee participants at the Forum.
6. **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.

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<sup>1</sup> A refugee is understood as a person who has been forcibly displaced from their home country, regardless of obtaining any legal status. Refugee-led organizations/initiatives are organizations which are founded and/or led by those with lived refugee experience, and may include both formal, registered organizations and informal initiatives.