

Concept Note

Informal Interactive Multi-stakeholder Hearing in support of the preparatory process towards the High-level Plenary Meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016

18 July 2016

**Conference Room 4
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Background

In accordance with Decision A/70/539, a high-level meeting of the plenary of the General Assembly will be convened on 19 September 2016 to address large movements of refugees and migrants. To support the inclusive, active and substantive engagement of civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in the process, the President of the General Assembly will convene an informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing on 18 July 2016.

Objective

The Hearing will provide all relevant stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute to the preparatory process in a day of interactive multi-stakeholder panel discussions that will include Member States as well as representatives from civil society, non-governmental organizations, the academic and scientific community, the private sector, philanthropy and others. The Hearing will support Member States in the preparatory process, including in the negotiations of the outcome document, by encouraging civil society and other stakeholders to share practical experiences from their work.

The Hearing will also provide an opportunity for inputs from those working directly on issues of domestic, regional and international policy as well as direct humanitarian responses to large movements of refugees and migrants, including those whom have been directly impacted. It will also serve to address critical cross cutting issues relevant for consideration by Member States including the human rights of refugees and migrants; gender perspectives; the rights and welfare of children, youth and older persons; persons with disabilities; opportunities for safe, productive employment and decent work; access to information and resources; and accountability and implementation mechanisms.

Guiding Questions

1. Within the current and emerging context of forced and voluntary migration globally, what are the critical deficiencies as well as opportunities in international cooperation and the UN system to protect human rights and dignity as well as to empower refugees and migrants in the context of large movements? How can we strengthen international cooperation related to issues of migration and displacement so that all migrants are afforded adequate support under a coherent global strategy?
2. How should understanding the root causes of forced migration and displacement inform responses to refugees and migration and the development of comprehensive and coordinated efforts to respond? What is the role of civil society, academia, and the private sector in supporting the protection and empowerment of refugees and migrants?
3. In what ways can global responsibility be shared equitably? What are the elements or practicable actions required to realize the “global compact on responsibility sharing for refugees” and the “global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration”?
4. How can we provide greater international protection and support for people who migrate for reasons other than persecution or conflict and who are not afforded protection under existing international law?
5. How can we combat xenophobia, discrimination as well as build a strong narrative that recognizes the positive contribution of migrants and refugees for inclusive growth and sustainable development? How can we encourage global leaders (political, social, religious, and private sector) to speak out and promote the positive narrative? What is the role of accurate, unbiased and objective information evidence in this regard?

Format

The one-day Multi-stakeholder Hearing will be comprised of an opening segment, four interactive panel discussions and a closing segment. The themes for the interactive panel discussions are: (i) Reframing the narrative on migration and refugees in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; (ii) Upholding and protecting the human rights and dignity of all refugees and migrants in the context of large movements; (iii) Achieving a Global Compact for responsibility-sharing for refugees; and (iv) Achieving a Global Compact for safe, regular and orderly migration.

Outcome

The outcome will be a President's summary, which will be circulated to Member States and stakeholders.