

SUMMIT 2016

UN high-level summit on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants
New York, United Nations General Assembly, 19 September 2016
Civil Society taking action together

Sunday 17 July, 9.15 – 15.30 hrs

**Preparatory meeting for and by civil society
in the lead up to the 19 September Summit on addressing large movements of
refugees and migrants**

United Nations Church Center. 777 UN Plaza
(corner of 44th Street and 1st Avenue, New York)

Concept note and program

Why is this preparatory meeting organized, for who and by whom?

On Sunday 17 July, civil society, led by the self-organized civil society Action Committee¹, holds a preparatory meeting open to all in civil society. The meeting is being held the day before the 18 July interactive multi-stakeholder hearing that takes place at the United Nations (UN) in preparation for the UN High-Level Summit on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants that will be held on 19 September 2016.

According to the dedicated UN website, the Summit presents us with “*a watershed moment to strengthen governance of international migration and a unique opportunity for creating a more responsible, predictable system for responding to large movements of refugees and migrants*”. UN Member States have already started to negotiate the text of the outcome document for the Summit, including an annex called the Global Compact on Responsibility-sharing for refugees. Member States aim to finalize the text of the outcome document by the end of July.

This preparatory meeting provides an informal space for civil society to meet and strategize together on priority messages to bring into the 18 July interactive hearing, as well as towards the governmental outcome document negotiations. The meeting also looks at civil society organizing towards the Summit and beyond to ensure follow-up, implementation and accountability of governments.

¹ A [self-organized civil society Action Committee](#) has been created, which will focus on action, outcomes and implementation of the high-level Summit. The Action Committee is co-convened by ICMC, ICVA and the NGO Committee on Migration and is comprised of NGOs with longstanding expertise and experience on refugee, migrant, forced displacement and human rights issues. The 22 NGOs are: *Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)*; *Amnesty International*; *Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)*; *Asylum Access*; *Building and Wood Workers’ International (BWI)*; *CARE-International*; *Caritas Internationalis*; *Danish Refugee Council (DRC)*; *Global Coalition on Migration*; *International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)*; *International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)*; *International Detention Coalition (IDC)*; *International Rescue Committee (IRC)*; *Lutheran World Federation (LWF)*; *Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)*; *NGO Committee on Migration (New York)*; *Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)*; *Oxfam International*; *Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)*; *Save the Children*; *Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN)*; *Terre des Hommes*

What can participants expect and prepare?

The meeting will include an update on the outcome that UN member states are negotiating, as well as activities of civil society surrounding the Summit. The preparatory meeting will be organized in plenary and smaller group sessions around themes that are directly linked to the draft outcome document for the Summit, the program of the UN multi-stakeholder hearings on the 18th of July, and civil society's [New Deal for refugees, migrants and societies](#) (24 June 2016):

1. *“Commitments for refugees and migrants”* - Safety and dignity for refugees, migrants and displaced people on the move and upon arrival, what kind of action plan is needed?
2. *“Commitments for refugees”* – Protecting and empowering refugees, how can a Global Compact on Responsibility-sharing for Refugees be a game-changer?
3. *“Commitments for migrants”* - Rights-based governance of migration: what does a Roadmap for a Global Compact on safe, regular and orderly migration look like?
4. *Commitments to and by refugees, migrants and societies* – Inclusive and diverse societies without xenophobia, discrimination and racism, what action to take?

Each group session will start with an analysis of the latest draft of the outcome document, to review what's good and bad about it, what's missing and will ask what changes civil society organizations suggest. Each session will be tasked to include a cross-cutting focus on gender, children & youth and the role of civil society. The sessions will also discuss how civil society can and is organizing after the hearing, towards the Summit and beyond to ensure follow-up, implementation and accountability of governments. Each session will appoint a rapporteur to report back to the plenary.

Here are a few questions to prepare for the meeting:

- i. In your work or country what do you see are the **biggest challenges and opportunities for refugees, migrants and displaced persons**; and how do you think these should be addressed at the UN Summit?
- ii. Looking at the latest draft outcome document (12 July) and/or the draft Global Compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees, what do you think is **good about it, what's bad, what's missing, and what changes** do you suggest?
- iii. What do you propose to ensure **implementation and accountability** of states after the Summit and do suggest any **changes in the roles, responsibilities and institutions of the UN**?
- iv. **What are you/your organization planning to do** before and after the Summit to ensure the best outcome for migrants, refugees and displaced persons?

Here are a few documents to read:

- [Second draft of the Outcome document for the Summit](#) (released 12 July by the Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations in New York)
- Second Draft [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (dated 15 July)
- [In safety and dignity: addressing large movements of refugees and migrants](#) UN Secretary General Report (May 2016)
- A [new deal for refugees, migrants and societies](#) - civil society starting points for the outcome of the UN High-level Summit. (24 June 2016)
- [Civil society Action Committee feedback on zero-draft outcome](#) (7 July 2016)
- 4th [Newsletter for and by civil society with latest updates on the HLS process](#) (14 July 2016)

