Highlights from June 2019

Message from Executive Director

Hindered to deliver

Geneva hosted in June both the 41st session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS). Whilst the HAS focuses on emerging and pressing humanitarian issues, the HRC is responsible for strengthening the promotion of human rights and addressing human rights violations around the globe.

This year many of the subjects were echoed in both platforms. A lot of focus was on the situation in Syria, especially in Idlib and western Aleppo, where ongoing civilian casualties and destruction of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, violate international law and shock our human values.

Beyond country situations, issues such as the need to strengthen respect for international law, accountability before justice and to the affected individuals, disaster, climate change and migration as well as women rights were also high on both agendas. And while in both platforms the crucial role of the NGOs is recognised, both platforms discussed this year concerns on shrinking space for NGOs.

HRC considered for example a report on criminalisation of humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and International Solidarity, while HAS included discussions on impact of counter terrorism measures in access and delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Concerned by any trend resulting in less space for NGOs, ICVA held its most recent learning stream on “How do NGOs navigate shrinking civil society space?”. ICVA remains committed to work with its members, States and other partners and actors, so that NGOs are not hindered to deliver on their mandate.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA

Reports and Studies
NGO Fora Membership Engagement Guide in French

ICVA’s new guide for NGO fora to achieve active member engagement is now available in French. Access the guide in French here.

Key ICVA publications available in Turkish

Thanks to our member Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH), selected key ICVA publications are now available in Turkish. Check out the briefing papers on "global humanitarian coordination mechanisms", "humanitarian coordination at the country level", and "the nexus explained", all in Turkish.

Forced migration

1. The Global Compact on Refugees

Meeting on co-sponsorship for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF): On 3 June, UNHCR organised a meeting for Member States and other stakeholders to share information on the role of co-sponsors in the process leading to the first Global Refugee Forum. This was also an opportunity to introduce UNHCR appointed focal points for each area of focus. UNHCR’s summary of the meeting is available online.

Informal briefing on the Global Refugee Forum: on 13 June, UNHCR arranged a briefing on the Agenda for the second preparatory meeting for the Global Refugee Forum, the Asylum Capacity Support Group, the Update on measuring the impact of hosting refugees and Indicators for the Global Compact on Refugees. UNHCR’s short summary of discussions is available online and ICVA will soon share detailed notes with NGOs.

Second preparatory meeting for the Global Refugee Forum: On 25 June, UNHCR organised the second preparatory meeting for the Global Refugee Forum. UNHCR’s background note served as basis for discussions. Most importantly, UNHCR announced on this occasion that the Forum will be co-hosted by UNHCR and Switzerland, and co-convened by Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany and Turkey. Those States will be involved in mobilising broad political support for the Forum. ICVA coordinated the drafting and delivery of two collective NGO statements during the meeting covering organisational arrangements and the Structure of the Forum. ICVA will soon share detailed notes with NGOs.

2. UNHCR June Standing Committee

ICVA coordinated the drafting and delivery of three collective NGO statements for the 75th Meeting of the High Commissioner’s Standing Committee (18-20 June). The statements focused on international protection, UNHCR’s engagement with internally displaced persons and the Global compact on refugees and on preparations for the first Global Refugee Forum. Many thanks to all NGOs which contributed with inputs. This was the last Standing Committee attended by Mr. Volker Tüks in his capacity as Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, who offered reflections
on refugee protection. The next UNHCR Standing Committee will take place in September and ICVA will soon launch the process on drafting NGO statements.

3. Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

On 27 June, the Permanent Mission of Norway and ICVA organised an informal meeting with Ms. Hanne Melfald, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN in New York. Participants included 20 NGO representatives and other organisations. The meeting aimed at providing an update on the status and progress of the initiative for a High-Level Panel on Internally Displaced Persons. NGOs particularly showed interest in remaining involved in the process.

4. UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations, 3-5 July, Geneva

ICVA and UNHCR’s Partnership and Coordination Service worked to finalise the last details for the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations, which will particularly focus on Data and Evidence, UNHCR’s Decentralization process, and the Global Refugee Forum. Further information on the consultations’ objectives and sessions are available online, including the detailed agenda. In this final stage of preparations, ICVA exchanged with the University of New South Wales (Australia), which is tasked to conduct a Gender Audit to document the Consultations’ discussions on age, gender and diversity and sexual and gender-based violence, with a particular focus on women and girls. Findings will be combined into a comprehensive report with recommendations. An example of a Gender Audit is available here. Similar exercises are being conducted for the Preparatory Meetings for the Global Refugee Forum.

5. UNHCR Annual Consultation with MENA NGO and Civil Society, 20-21 June, Aman, Jordan

Participants looked at considering the vital role of partnership between UNHCR and NGOs on the ground, analysis of good practices from Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon, as well as the opportunities and challenges related to having more meaningful partnerships with UNHCR, which reflect accountability to displaced populations and support to host communities, in line also with the Global Compact on Refugees.

6. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

On 18 July from 15:30-17:00 (CEST/ Geneva time), a webinar will provide follow-up on the 4 April 2019 consultation on the UN Network on Migration: an update on the workplan, recruitment of the Network’s Civil Society Liaison Officer. RSVP to the UN Network secretariat at unmignet@iom.int by 10 July 2019.

The Civil Society Action Committee is coordinating civil society inputs for the negotiations around the "Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums (IMRF)". The Global Compact for Migration envisions IMRF as a global platform where Members States review its implementation progress. Action Committee is making a plea for a strong role for civil society in the IMRF process, including a strong and unanimous request for civil society to self-organize and self-select for the multi-stakeholder hearing and a request for a four day IMRF to better accomplish its objectives.

2030 Agenda provides a key opportunity to proactively address migration and its relationship to development. The session unwrapped precedents for migration governance including greater collaboration between the migration and development sectors including civil society actors.

8. ICVA participation to roundtable at African Union, 19-20 June, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

ICVA participated in the second Continental Commemorative meeting on the implementation and supervision of the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention held in Addis Abeba Ethiopia in the presence of high-level officials from the African Union Commission and member states. The meeting focused on examining the implementation of the convention and an outcome document was drafted. The document includes recommendations for the AU and relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the convention including on the elaboration of interpretative guidance on climate induced displacement. For more information contact: addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org

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**Financing**

9. Grand Bargain annual meeting, 27 June, Geneva

All signatories congratulated the Outgoing Eminent Person and World Bank CEO Ms. Kristalina Georgieva for her vision and ongoing contributions to the Grand Bargain process. Participants were also introduced to the new Eminent Person, Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Netherlands Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. The 2018 Annual Independent Report provided food for thought to assess the purpose of the various elements and how they have progressed so far. Read ICVA's summary notes for more information.

10. Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) meeting, 28 June, Geneva

Members of the Pooled Fund Working Group met in the margin of this year's ECOSOC HAS. A key discussion point between ICVA and NRC (current Chair of the OCHA-NGO Pooled Fund Dialogue Platform) has been to identify how we can improve participation of national NGO partners in the Pooled Fund Working Group. We hope to have agreement by the fall to expand national NGO participation to two, along with two INGOs and the NGO chair of the IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group. Two evaluation of the Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) mechanism are currently underway; one, led by NRC and OCHA to look at NGO engagement, will be released shortly with recommendations on how to improve NGO access to and use of pooled funds. OCHA is also undertaking a global independent evaluation of CBPFs that will be completed later in the year. The ICVA Humanitarian Finance Working Group will be the primary platform for gathering input from members on issues with CBPFs; for more information on how to engage, contact jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org.
11. IASC

EDG face to face meeting, 26 June, Geneva
This was the occasion to take stock of and discuss specific support to provide to operations that had already been followed by the EDG since the beginning of the year. The EDG discussed the situations in Venezuela, in Mozambique informed by the Operational Peer Review (OPR), the response to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the humanitarian situations in Burkina Faso, Syria and Afghanistan. Followed up teleconference and visits have been planned on some specific issues. For more information, please contact: emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org

IASC Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion Retreat, 28 June, Geneva
The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion met for a full day retreat on 28 June in order to refine the activities planned for 2019 and decide on the members leading them. The retreat was preceded by a survey and regional consultations with NGOs in Africa and Asia in order to have the input of local actors about the priorities and needed activities of the Results Group. Priorities discussed were accountability to affected populations, prevention of SEA and SH, and Inclusion. For more information, please contact: alon.plato@icvanetwork.org

Meeting of the IASC Results Group 3 on Collective Advocacy, 21 June
These monthly Results Group meetings aim at keeping the group updated on the workplan progress. The current workstreams of the group include: addressing the impact of counter-terrorism measures, developing humanitarian diplomacy strategies and common advocacy messages, sharing best practices regarding engagement with non-state armed actors. The next IASC Results Group 1 (Operational Response) face-to-face meeting will take place on 02 July. For more information, please contact: emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org

Meeting of the IASC Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Finance, 24 June
The results group discussed final input into priority focus areas and associated key deliverables. The group has still not received final approval of the 2019-2020 priorities from the IASC Operations, Policy, and Advocacy Group, but it is expected that approval of the latest round of revisions should be received shortly. The current focus areas of the group group include:
- Development of innovative approaches to deepen and widen the humanitarian funding base;
- Development of financing instruments that support humanitarian and development co-benefits;
- Improvement of the application of multi-year planning & funding and reduced earmarking of funds;
- Facilitation of the harmonization and simplification of un funding mechanisms and agreements. Detailed deliverables support each of these priority areas and are implemented by results group members. Going forward, there will be a monthly meeting of the group starting 23 July. For more information, please contact: jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org

12. Engagement with humanitarian leadership

On 20 June, ICVA organised a meeting with Yassine Gaba, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (DHC) in Nigeria, during which he shared an update on the deteriorating humanitarian situation and on the ongoing security issues.

13. ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), 24-26 June, Geneva

Throughout the 3 days of high-level panels, side events and general discussion, ECOSOC’s Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) assembled a diverse group of Member States, UN entities, humanitarian and development partners to discuss the current humanitarian challenges. A particular attention was given to the issues of climate change, localisation, the relationship between International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and counter-terrorism measures, transitioning from humanitarian aid to development projects and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) > see “new and noteworthy section”. A draft resolution on Strengthening of the
coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations is being discussed by States.

14. Support to NGO fora: Strategic Planning in Afghanistan

ICVA completed a mission to Kabul and Heart in Afghanistan to support ICVA member the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR) with their strategic plan review process. This mission was completed as part of the ICVA NGO Fora Support Programme and included targeted meetings with ACBAR members, peer networks, UN and donor partners and government representatives. The results will feed into the 2020-2022 ACBAR strategic planning process.

Navigating change: cross cutting issues

15. Civil Society Space

Did you miss the recent ICVA/PHAP webinar on “How do NGOs navigate shrinking civil society space”? Access the recording and recommended resources.

Access a collection of civic space resources developed by the Civic Space Initiative (CSI) partners which aims to support individuals and civil society organisations working on civic space issues around the globe. The CSI is a collaborative effort funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to protect and expand civic space in a time of increasing restrictions. The CSI is implemented by Article 19, CIVICUS, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, and the World Movement for Democracy.

16. Localisation

Accelerating Localisation through Partnerships - Nepal

ICVA supported a workshop in Kathmandu bringing together over 100 representatives of NGOs, Red Cross Movement, UN, and government stakeholders to discuss localisation of humanitarian action and disaster management. ICVA gave the introductory address on the state of play in localisation at global and regional level, introduced case studies of localisation in action from the region and highlighted challenges and opportunities for work in Nepal. The event began steps towards a government-led localisation working group and considered how to better support national NGOs as frontline actors.

Local 2 Global Protection Report: Grand Bargain 2019

This analysis presents an overview of global humanitarian funding flows between 2009 and 2018 with a particular focus on how much funding went directly or indirectly to local and national responders in 2018. Through their signatures to the 2016, Grand Bargain (GB), major government funders committed to channel 25% of their funding to local and national responders as directly as possible. Analysis based on UN OCHA data indicates that Grand Bargain signatory governments have not increased their direct financial funding flows to local and national responders since signing the agreement.

Regional Conferences on Localisation of Aid

Registrations are now closed for the Africa Regional Conference in Addis Ababa (15-16 July
2019) and Middle East Regional Conference in Amman (29-30 July 2019). Registrations for the Asia and the Pacific conference in Jakarta (27-28 August) will be open soon.

17. PSEA

SCHR Misconduct Disclosure Scheme: Mid-term Review of Implementation Meeting, 19 June, Geneva

ICVA participated in the mid-term review of implementation meeting where the state of implementation of the Misconduct Disclosure scheme, applicable since January 2019, was discussed. The challenges in implementing it and their potential solutions we addressed. ICVA is a signatory of the scheme, which aims at tackling the risk of perpetrators of abuse moving between aid agencies, and encourages its members to look into the possibility of joining it.

New and noteworthy

18. UNHCR Transition in Implementing Partnership Management Service (IPMS) Leadership: After more than six years of service leading UNHCR IPMS in Geneva, Fatima Sherif-Nor has now rotated out of her position as of 1 July 2019. During her time in Geneva, Fatima worked closely with NGOs on some of the more difficult details of partnership. Her dedication to serve the interests of refugees has resulted in clear improvements in how UNHCR partners with and supports NGOs of all types.

Transitioning into the leadership role of IPMS going forward is Robert Hurt, formerly Head of the Risk Management, Compliance and Quality Unit in UNHCR Kenya. ICVA looks forward to continuing our work with UNHCR and Robert to maintain and improve quality partnership with NGOs serving refugees around the world.

19. The Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) Steering Group has selected Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls as the topic for its first-ever thematic evaluation. See Terms of Reference of the evaluation which aims to provide its main stakeholders, including policy-makers and practitioners, with evidence and practical advice to achieve this goal and improve gender-responsive programming. The final report is scheduled to be issued in early 2020.

20. Following the Oslo Conference and the ECOSOC HAS discussions on ending sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises, (see more info here) the Emergency Relief Coordinator called upon all actors for more proactive steps in addressing gender inequality and ending GBV.

21. The “Réseau Logistique Humanitaire” (Humanitarian Logistics Network - RLH) – which brings together around a dozen international humanitarian organisations - proposes specific areas of work orientated towards collaborative practices in its newly released report: “Strength in Numbers - Towards a More Efficient Humanitarian Aid: Pooling Logistics Resources”.

22. The SDG Lab has developed a living document, the SDG Lab Toolkit: Accelerating the 2030 Agenda. The toolkit was developed in response to many requests for a ’how-to’ guide on replicating the Lab model; a demand that came to from governments and organisations alike in their quest to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition to the online version, the toolkit can be downloaded as a PDF.

23. "Financing the nexus, gaps and opportunities from a field perspective". To respond to a IASC humanitarian financing priority, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with OCHA, OECD, the World Bank and ICVA, launched a study to map and analyse existing humanitarian and development funding flows and mechanisms in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, DR Congo, Ukraine and Uganda. The study aims to determine how such
financing mechanisms are adapted to country plans and situations on the ground. The findings and recommendations will contribute to the global policy discussion, urging action from donors, receiving countries, and other actors involved in nexus activities.

24. Sphere is looking for a new Executive Director – see job description here. Deadline for application is Thursday 18 July.

25. A clustered international dialog with the Special Rapporteur (SR) on Internally Displaced Persons took place at the Human Rights Council (HRC), focusing on internal displacement and the role of the national human rights institutions (NHRIs). In her report, the SR highlights the important role national human rights institutions can play to ensure the rights of IDPs are protected and concludes with a number of recommendations for both NHRIs and National Governments.

26. Apply for UNHCR NGO Award 2019! The UNHCR NGO Innovation Award celebrates efforts and achievements that advance the innovative delivery of services to refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR. Learn more and apply here.

27. This year, World Humanitarian Day will honor women humanitarians. To better understand the motivations and daily lives of women humanitarians, OCHA is conducting a survey which polls women humanitarians about the work they do, their reasons for becoming humanitarians, and the difficulties they face. The survey can be found here. It will be open until July 15. The results will be anonymised and shared ahead of World Humanitarian Day this year held on August 19. If you have any questions, please contact Belinda Gurd (gurd@un.org).

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**Vacancies**

**Junior Communications Officer**

ICVA is seeking a junior communications officer to be based in Geneva. For more information see the vacancy notice. Deadline for applications: 22 July 2019

**Accounting & Administration Officer**

ICVA is seeking an accounting & administration officer to be based in Geneva. For more information see the vacancy notice. Deadline for applications: 19 July 2019.

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**Mark your agendas**

**July 1:** Refugee Legal Empowerment convening, Geneva  
**July 1-3:** Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR), Geneva  
**July 3-5:** UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva, Geneva  
**July 4-6:** Fifth Meeting of Experts of Member States in Charge of Education on the Implementation of the Djibouti Declaration on Education for Refugees, Returnees and Host
Communities

**July 15-16**: Grand Bargain Localization Workstream Africa Regional Conference: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**July 15-16**: Grand Bargain Localization Workstream MENA Regional Conference: Amman, Jordan

**August 12**: 70th anniversary of Geneva Conventions

**August 19**: World Humanitarian Day, honouring women humanitarians

**August 27-28**: Grand Bargain Localization Workstream Asia-Pacific Regional Conference: Jakarta, Indonesia

**September 12-30**: 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, New York

**September 18-19**: UNHCR 76th Standing Committee Meeting, Geneva

**September 23**: UN 2019 Climate Summit, New York

**September 30 to October 9**: 74th Session of the UN General Assembly – General debate, New York

**October 7**: 65th Anniversary Nansen Refugee Award, Geneva

**October 7-11**: UNHCR 70th Executive committee meeting

**October 15-16**: IOM’s International Dialogue on Dialogue on Migration, Geneva

**October 15-16**: World Humanitarian Action Forum, Istanbul

**November 7-8**: IASC OPAG meeting

**November 14**: Third preparatory meeting for Global Refugee Forum, Geneva

**November 20**: 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

**November 25-29**: Global Forum on Migration, Quito, Ecuador

**November 26-29**: IOM – 110th Council, Geneva

**December 5**: IASC Principals meeting

**December 5**: UNHCR Pledging Conference, Geneva

**December 9-12**: 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent - "Act today, shape tomorrow", Geneva

**December 17-18**: 1st Global Refugee Forum, Geneva