## Concept Note on Meaningful Refugee Participation at the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR)

### 1. Introduction

This concept note was drafted by UNHCR's Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Service and the Refugee Steering Group[1] formed in January 2020 in consultation with the 2020 Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) Chair (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) and members of the ATCR community who participated in the Working Group on Resettlement (WGR) meeting held in Ottawa in February 2020.

The note is part of the overarching process of rethinking the ATCR in light of the *Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways* (hereinafter, the Strategy) and the increase in the number of actors engaging in resettlement and complementary pathways.

The note provides an overview of opportunities for refugee participation during the ATCR yearlong cycle of activities leading up to the annual gathering in Geneva. It aims to guide the ATCR community, State Chairs and NGO Focal Points in gradually unlocking opportunities for future engagements with refugees in the Consultations. It does not attempt to present exhaustive or definitive mechanisms for achieving refugee participation but presents a framework that can be used by UNHCR, future State Chairs, NGO Focal Points, refugees and members of the ATCR community according to their own capacity and available resources.

For this reason, a transition period of three years is envisioned for the ATCR community to develop its structure and resources to gradually include more meaningful refugee participation in the ATCR process. This period was established with a view to test and adapt different approaches to refugee participation, as well as to assess the feasibility of proposed activities.

The development of an evaluation process by UNHCR, State Chairs, NGO Focal Points and the Refugee Steering Group is envisioned by the end of each ATCR cycle to take stock of successes, challenges and shortcomings vis-à-vis the concept note. It is recommended that the evaluation is shared with and filled out by all members of the ATCR community as a means to register the progress made also at the national and regional level.

### 2. Background of consultations on resettlement and complementary pathways

The ATCR and the Working Group on Resettlement provide a multi-stakeholder, partnership environment for discussing all matters pertaining to resettlement: resettlement needs; reception and integration; operational challenges; and good practices. The consultations are not decision-making forums, but they have been the traditional venue and occasion to discuss progress, challenges, and strategies. Organized by a resettlement state Chair, a national NGO Focal Point and UNHCR, the ATCR has been held in Geneva since 1995.

The Working Group on Resettlement (WGR) was established under the umbrella of the ATCR as a means to prepare for the main event in June, and to maintain the timely exchange of information in a smaller setting, often focusing on specific topics such as integration and

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[1] The ATCR Refugee Steering Group was formed by more than 20 refugees representing national, regional and global refugee-led organizations and networks, including: Global Refugee-led Network (GRN), Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC), GCR Gender Audit Team, Network of Refugee Voices (NRV), Refugee Students GRF Delegation, Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR), Open Taste (Brazil), National Refugee Advisory and Advocacy group (Australia), Syrian Volunteers Network (Netherlands), Empower Youth (New Zealand), Danish Refugee Diaspora, UNIRE (Italy) and Réseau des exilés en France. Refugees working in refugee settlement and integration agencies were also represented, including through refugees working at AMES Australia, Catholic Social Service - Immigration and Settlement (Canada), Brotherhood of St Laurence (Australia), Asylum Access (United States), KEYS Job Centre.inc (Canada) and Saskatoon Open Door Society (Canada).

processing. As the WGR takes place in the country chairing the ATCR, it became an opportunity for showcasing local programmes and organizing field visits for participants.

Meetings limited to only states or NGOs have also been a mainstay of the ATCR, recognizing the need for stakeholders to have a space where sensitive issues can be discussed and for more candid exchanges. The ATCR itself is not a public forum. Participants are expected to bring expertise, skills and knowledge that contribute to the common goal of securing third country solutions for refugees. Ensuring meaningful refugee participation should neither diminish nor dilute these objectives.

The [Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways](#) envisioned the establishment of a Working Group on Complementary Pathways (WGCP) and pathway-specific task forces. As UNHCR is in the process of formalizing the structure and format of these groups in consultation with states and partners, different levels of refugee participation will also be explored more specifically in these discussions. It is envisioned that the processes for implementing meaningful refugee participation in the ATCR and in the realm of complementary pathways will focus on coordinated identification of refugee networks and key individuals for engagement in order to avoid gaps and duplicated efforts.

### 3. Meaningful Refugee Participation

UNHCR defines participation as *"the full and equal involvement of all members of the community in decision-making processes and activities that affect their lives, in both public and private spheres"*.[2] Participation enables actors to draw on the insights, knowledge, capacities, skills and resources of persons of concern; empowers women, men, girls and boys of different backgrounds to rebuild self-esteem and self-confidence; and helps people of concern cope with the trauma of forced displacement.[3]

Similarly, the Global Refugee-led Network (GRN) defines meaningful refugee participation as

> *..when refugees — regardless of location, legal recognition, gender, identity and demographics — are prepared for and participating in fora and processes where strategies are being developed and/or decisions are being made (including at local, national, regional, and global levels, and especially when they facilitate interactions with host states, donors, or other influential bodies), in a manner that is ethical, sustained, safe, and supported financially.[4]*

Adapting these concepts of participation to the ATCR context can entail refugee representatives playing a role in the planning and realization of the ATCR in active partnership with the state Chair, NGO focal point and UNHCR.

This is in alignment with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) , which recognized that *"responses are most effective when they actively and meaningfully engage those they are intended to protect and assist"*, and called upon relevant actors to *"develop and support consultative processes that enable refugees and host community members to assist in designing appropriate, accessible and inclusive responses."*[5]

The first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) benefited from an unprecedented contribution of more than 70 refugees from around the world. The role of refugees in preparing for and participating in the GRF has set an important precedent for all fora in which policies concerning the lives of refugees are discussed.

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[2] A Community-Based Approach in UNHCR Operations, Ch. 2, available at [https://www.unhcr.org/47f0a6712.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/47f0a6712.pdf)
[3] Ibid
[4] Meaningful Refugee Participation as Transformative Leadership: Guidelines for Concrete Action, available at [https://asylumaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Meaningful-Refugee-Participation-Guidelines_Web.pdf](https://asylumaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Meaningful-Refugee-Participation-Guidelines_Web.pdf)
[5] Global Compact on Refugees, para. 34

Contributing to these collective efforts, the Government of Canada the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), as the current ATCR State Chair and NGO Focal Point respectively, aim to establish meaningful refugee participation as a firm part of the ATCR.

The ATCR community has recognized the value of refugee participation in previous ATCR cycles. It has also acknowledged that refugee engagement contributes to solutions that are sustainable and more impactful, innovative forms of advocacy and the development of policies that are closer to the reality on the ground.

Refugee participation in the ATCR can also help ensure refugee communities receive accurate information on resettlement and complementary pathways opportunities, thereby helping manage expectations and mitigate the risk of fraud and exploitation.

### An Overview of Refugee Participation in the ATCR over the Years

In 1995, an evaluation of [UNHCR's global resettlement policy and practice in the 1990s](#) highlighted the need for UNHCR to improve dialogue and cooperation with resettlement States and non-governmental partners. In 2002, in recognition of the important role of NGOs in the resettlement process, the ATCR NGO Focal Point was established as the mechanism whereby NGOs may interact with each other in lead-up and follow-up to the ATCR.

In 2012, the Australian Chair, on the recommendation of the Refugee Council of Australia, acknowledging the successful involvement of refugees in past ATCR and WGR meetings, included five reserved places for refugees in the ATCR Participation Considerations:

> *These refugees have delegate status representing the 'refugee voice' as a designated category and additional to the designated Government and NGO positions from each country participating in the ATCR. The decision to include additional spaces for refugee representatives follows the successful involvement of former refugees in the WGR meeting in Melbourne in February 2012 and the active participation of former refugees in NGO and Government delegations or as speakers at past ATCR gatherings. It is clear that people who have been through the refugee resettlement process themselves and are closely connected to communities of resettled refugees bring valuable insights to our tripartite discussions about resettlement and settlement/integration issues.*

In the 2016 Participation Considerations document, the Netherlands and the Dutch Council for Refugees – ATCR State Chair and NGO Focal Point – further underscored the importance of promoting spaces for refugees to share their expertise in ATCR/WGR panels:

> *The ATCR/WGR Secretariat will make suggestions when drafting the agenda for possible participation of refugee representatives at specific panels or break-out groups to enhance their constructive contribution.*

In 2019, the ATCR Participation Considerations was again revised by the United Kingdom and the British Refugee Council to remove the cap of five refugee representatives and more strongly encourage States and NGOs to include refugees in their delegations:

> *The importance of the participation of refugees in the ATCR cannot be overemphasized. They represent the 'refugee voice' and their presence at the ATCR and its different WGR ensures that discussions and decisions around resettlement remain refugee-centered. It is hence strongly recommended that each country attending the ATCR include at least one refugee in their delegations in line with efforts to strengthen meaningful refugee participation in resettlement. Refugee delegates participating in the ATCR/WGR will be additional to the designated Government and NGO positions from each country.*

Under the UK Chairmanship, the UK Refugee Advisory Group (RAG) was also established to further formalize refugee participation and contribute to the planning and delivery of the 2019 ATCR, Working Group on Resettlement, and the first ever *ATCR Refugee Statement*.[6]

Building on this experience and witnessing the outcomes of refugee participation in the first GRF, UNHCR, the Government of Canada and the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) agreed to explore how refugee participation could be meaningfully implemented in the ATCR.

The CCR invited organizations to lead focus groups with refugees and former refugees. The purpose of these groups was to gather input from people with refugee experience on the issues related to resettlement and complementary pathways. The input also contributed to the drafting of the 2020 ATCR Refugee Statement. Ten focus groups were held, seven in Canada and three in Australia.

The present concept note proposes that the ATCR Community actively facilitate participation including by gradually increasing the attendance of refugee representatives from regional and global networks with a view to promote inclusive participation that is not fully dependent on State and NGO delegations.

### 4. Moving towards meaningful participation: The ATCR Refugee Advisory Group

The role of the ATCR community should be to facilitate discussions with refugees, and create opportunities for them to identify and put forward their priorities and recommendations, by:

- Creating spaces where refugees can convene to exchange information and coordinate their activities;
- Ensuring refugee attendance at the ATCR and WGR;
- Including refugees in decisions related to the planning of and themes for the ATCR;
- Identifying and collaborating with refugee-led networks and organizations;
- Sharing accurate information with refugees and refugee communities at large;
- Supporting capacity building initiatives, i.e. leadership and public speaking workshops.

States and NGOs are expected to take these actions forward based on their capacity and resources available. Mentoring programs, knowledge sharing, exchanges of best practices and technical support between countries and organizations working towards meaningful refugee participation is encouraged to enhance equal engagement of refugees in traditional and emerging resettlement countries.

Following the positive experience with the Refugee Steering Group (RSG) in 2020,[7] establishing a Refugee Advisory Group (RAG) for the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement would be a consistent approach and sustainable mechanism to making these activities a reality. The RSG should gradually transition into the RAG, which could play a liaison role between the ATCR community and refugee communities at large; coordinate refugee participation and statements at the annual and working group consultations; create spaces for refugees to engage in discussions on matters of their own concern related to resettlement and complementary pathways; and actively support the inclusion of refugees in a representative and non-discriminatory manner.

This concept note does not aim to be a Terms of Reference (ToR) of the ATCR Refugee Advisory Group. The ToR should be developed by the RSG in partnership with the ATCR community during the transition period, which will be essential to bring more clarity on the appropriate number of members and duration of membership, feasibility of activities and best means to ensure knowledge transfer between members. Nevertheless, key considerations to

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[6] 2019 ATCR Refugee Statement
[7] The RSG was formed with a view to guide the development process of this concept note and represent refugee voices during the transition period and formation of the RAG. For more details on the RSG, please see *Annex I: Concept Note Development Process*

inform the drafting of the ToR and ensure legitimacy, meaningfulness and sustainability of participation are highlighted in the following sections.

*Composition*

Engaging refugees in global processes in an inclusive and fair manner remains a challenge due to the significant diversity among refugee groups and the emergence of multiple refugee-led organizations (in the local, national, regional and global levels. However, this challenge should not prevent the ATCR community from championing the implementation of meaningful refugee participation by attempting to gradually overcome these challenges.

Refugees belong to many different nationalities, social and ethnic groups, and naturally have varying opinions and beliefs. Therefore, the RAG could never represent a comprehensive "global refugee perspective." Nevertheless, the group should strive to ensure that its members represent diverse views and include different nationalities, ethnicities and networks at varied levels of engagement (local, national, regional, global). It also envisions a rotation system that observes gender parity and includes LGBTI individuals, persons with disabilities, different age groups and varying geographic regions.

Members are expected to be based in a resettlement country and either have experienced resettlement/complementary pathways or have knowledge of related programmes and processes. The proposed composition of the RAG should include:

1. Members from **Global and Regional Networks**;
2. Members from **Local/National Networks;**
3. **Independent Advocates.**

Each member should have clear term limits and terms should be staggered to ensure knowledge transfer and preservation of institutional memory. Discussions with the RSG revealed that a balance between oversight exercised by the ATCR community and the independence of refugees to choose who will represent their voice in the RAG should be struck when defining the RAG membership.

It is proposed that Global and Regional Networks develop a mechanism to identify and propose representatives among themselves over the next three years, while independent advocates, local and national networks are identified and appointed by state Chairs and NGO focal points. This will ensure representation of refugees based in the state chairing the consultations.

All nominations should be approved jointly by the RSG/RAG, the state Chair, the NGO focal point and UNHCR to ensure that diversity of representation is observed. A non-exhaustive list of refugee-led networks and organizations can be found in Annex II.

*A Phased Approach (June 2020 – June 2023)*

The next ATCR cycles will be an opportunity to build refugees' capacity and develop structures within the ATCR to engage them in its activities. The Refugee Steering Group (RSG) should remain active and include new members as refugee networks, organizations and advocates become known by the ATCR Community.

The long-term goal is to capacitate refugee-led networks and advocates to organize themselves and decide independently which individuals will represent their voice every year, similarly to the NGO focal points. However, recognizing that refugee networks were recently established and are still developing coordination structures, the ATCR State Chair, NGO Focal Point and UNHCR will exercise oversight to ensure diversity and provide targeted support.

The RAG is not intended to become part of UNHCR, nor a fixed and complex coordination structure for refugees. State chairs and NGO focal points, with the support of UNHCR offices should have the flexibility to adapt processes to identify refugee-led networks and advocates according to their national context and capacity in their workplan for the ATCR cycle.

The ATCR community is encouraged to identify and share with state chairs and NGO focal points contact details of local/national refugee networks, organizations who could become members of the RAG.
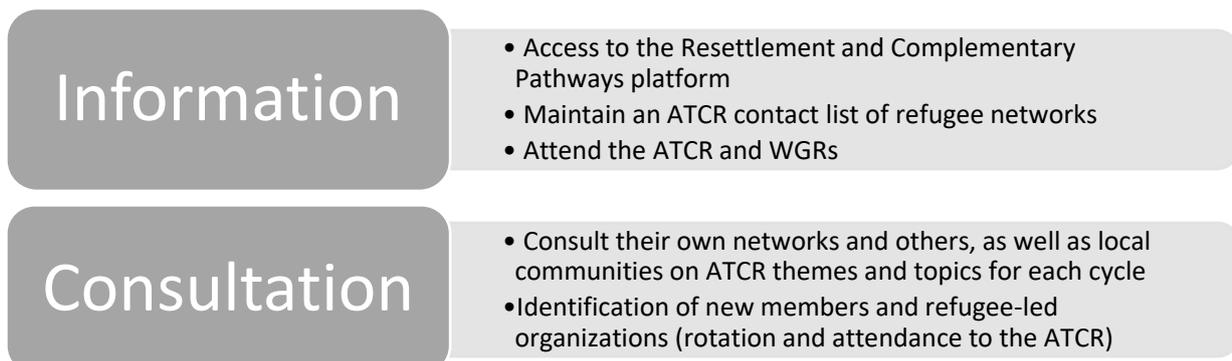
| | Phase I – 2020/2021 ATCR cycle | Phase II – 2021/2022 ATCR cycle | Phase III – 2022/2023 ATCR cycle |
|---|---|---|---|
| ATCR RSG/RAG | 1) Remain active and coordinate ideas for themes and refugee statement; 2) Document and report on its activities and share ideas to improve identification of members. | 1) Identify and prepare new members to engage in the ATCR; 2) Older members to capacitate new members; 3) Members to follow the same steps of Phase I. | 1) Follow the same steps in Phases I and II; 2) Present the RAG ToRs and a report on the implementation of the note, so that the process is documented |
| ATCR CO-CHAIRS | 1) Budget for refugee attendance and video conferencing platform; 2) Identify refugee networks/ advocates (national level); 3) Include RSG in ATCR planning decisions. | 1) Ensure enhanced AGD among RSG members; 2) Pilot mentoring of 1-2 RSG members and/or capacity building workshop; 3) New chairs to follow the same steps of Phase I. | 1) Stocktaking of challenges and opportunities since 2020; 2) New chairs to follow the same steps in Phases I and II; 3) Organization of a capacity building workshop for refugees. |
| ATCR COMMUNITY | 1) Include refugees in delegations; 2) Identify and share information on existing refugee networks; 3) ICMC to organize refugee networking event | 1) Follow steps 1 to 3, Phase I; 2) Explore alternative forms of funding for refugee attendance and engagement; 3) Volunteer to mentor RSG members. | 1) Agree on the way forward and RAG ToRs; 2) Follow the same steps in Phases I and II; 3) Report on refugee engagement in national programmes. |

During the three phases and at the end of each ATCR cycle, a stocktaking exercise and evaluation will be carried out by the RAG, state Chairs, NGO focal points and UNHCR.

*Key Principles for Engagement*

In the context of the ATCR, refugee participation may create valuable spaces for dialogue and learning between the ATCR community and refugees particularly on the improvement of information sharing in the process, so that it becomes more refugee friendly, and provision of feedback on concrete integration challenges in specific situations. Expectations should be managed, however, as decision-making on resettlement processes remains with states to ensure integrity and strategic use of resettlement.

Along these lines, the engagement opportunities for the RAG was categorized according to Arnstein's levels of participation[8] (see the diagram below). Arnstein's ladder of participation highlights the different forms of citizen engagement: from information and consultation to partnership/collaboration and empowerment. Information and consultation allow individuals to hear and be heard. Further up the ladder, partnership/collaboration and empowerment are levels with increasing involvement in decision-making processes, which allows individuals to collaborate as equals and engage in trade-offs with traditional power holders.

| Information | • Access to the Resettlement and Complementary Pathways platform<br>• Maintain an ATCR contact list of refugee networks<br>• Attend the ATCR and WGRs |
|---|---|
| Consultation | • Consult their own networks and others, as well as local communities on ATCR themes and topics for each cycle<br>•Identification of new members and refugee-led organizations (rotation and attendance to the ATCR) |

[8] Arnstein, Sherry R. "A Ladder of Citizen Participation," JAIP, Vol. 35,. No. 4, July 1969, pp. 216-224

| Collaboration | • Decide on ATCR themes together with the State Chair, NGO Focal Point and UNHCR<br>• Lead ATCR/WGR sessions and strengthen the role of refugee leadership, advocacy and partnership |
|---|---|
| Empowerment | • Organize Leadership Workshops and Refugee Statement under the umbrella of the ATCR<br>• Seek collaboration and feedback with States and NGOs at the national level, based on ATCR exchanges |

The ATCR is a long-standing global process in which key resettlement and complementary pathways stakeholders developed relationships of trust and solid partnerships towards their common goal of promoting refugee protection, resettlement and complementary pathways. It is critical that space for candid discussions that have proven to lead to improved resettlement processes and increased resettlement slots be preserved.

Existing spaces for States only meetings and NGOs only meetings should be preserved to enable coordination on specific subject matters and operational issues. Similar spaces for coordination should be created for refugees attending the ATCR. Therefore, refugee representatives like all members of the ATCR community should follow principles of **collaboration, respect and diplomacy** in their interventions.

Those taking the lead on specific sessions should plan accordingly and share concerns in a timely manner with the state Chair, the NGO focal point and UNHCR. RSG/RAG members will be accountable for their roles and responsibilities when engaging in the ATCR process. They will be required to document their experience, share their knowledge and contribute to the ATCR planning and delivery; as well as to report on their activities to the ATCR community at the end of each cycle and demonstrate efforts to maintain an inclusive and diverse composition.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities of the ATCR Refugee Advisory Group

The Refugee Steering Group (transition period) and the ATCR Refugee Advisory Group will bring together already existing global, regional and national networks as well as independent and local refugee advocates. The RSG, and later the RAG, is expected to gradually assume the following roles and responsibilities in the ATCR Process:

- Consult and follow up with their constituents, local communities and other networks, with a view to feeding back information to them after consultations;

- Ensure age, gender and diversity mainstreaming and knowledge of resettlement and complementary pathways matters in refugee representation over the years;

- Provide timely input at and follow up to ATCR/WGR planning meetings on themes for and format of the event in partnership with the state chair and NGO focal point;

- Delegate to specific members the responsibility of attending and organizing meetings, workshops, and videoconferences;

- Capacitate new members with support of the ATCR community, including by developing guidance, and translating or adapting ATCR materials;

- Identify networks and individuals to be included in the contact list and considered for membership in the RAG, observing the rotation mechanism to be defined in the ToR and with particular attention to less represented regions and countries;

- Document and report on activities, barriers to participation and how these were overcome, lessons learned, and processes carried out during each ATCR Cycle, with a view to reducing duplication and maintaining 'institutional memory';

- Report at the end of each ATCR cycle on its activities and expenditure of resources provided by members of the ATCR Community according to mandatory requirements;

- Coordinate and deliver the Refugee Statement by ensuring that diverse networks, organizations and advocates provide input, and are prepared for speaking in public.

These roles may be subjected to review due to the capacity of RAG/RSG members, the availability of resources from UNHCR, the ATCR community, state chair, and NGO focal point, and the development and implementation of innovative financial support mechanisms to refugee networks, which would allow for more engagement and compensation for assuming the complex roles and responsibilities listed above.

## 6. Resources and Support by the ATCR Community

Ensuring the completion of roles and responsibilities indicated above will require commitment and financial resources from the whole ATCR community. It is recommended that future ATCR State Chairs, NGO Focal Points and UNHCR:

I. Allocate resources dedicated to promoting refugee participation in line with this concept note, including to cover costs related to the attendance of RSG/RAG members to ATCR/WGR events;

II. Agree to include designated refugee members of the group in planning calls when discussing potential themes for and taking decisions on the ATCR and WGR;

III. Offer or support digital platforms that allow for members of the RSG and RAG to communicate with each other and other networks in order to share information and build relationships.

IV. Provide access to the "Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Digital Platform";

V. Seek additional support for enhancing core refugee representation from the private sector;

VI. Help the RAG to conduct a stocktaking exercise and evaluation at the end of ATCR cycles.

State chairs and NGO focal points should have the flexibility to choose from, test and adapt activities highlighted above according to their national context and capacity. Exchanges between States and NGOs on how to organize these actions are encouraged.

The role of the broader resettlement and complementary pathways community is also crucial to promote meaningful participation at the ATCR, particularly in the spirit of responsibility sharing and whole-of-society approach in the Global Compact on Refugees. It is envisioned that the community will:

I. Form a Contact Group to support UNHCR, the state chair and NGO focal point in implementing this note, including through funding, capacitation of the RSG/RAG and knowledge transfer on the ATCR and meaningful refugee participation;

II. Help refugees prepare to make contributions as participants, panelists, and facilitators at the various consultations, particularly at the national level;

III. Include refugee representatives in delegations and provide them relevant information on the ATCR (e.g. contextual guidance, ways of work, and protocol);

IV. Contribute to building the capacity for refugee participation including by mentoring refugees and fostering the organization of workshops, training, and networking events for refugees;

V. Explore how barriers to financial support can be removed, including through fiscal sponsorship opportunities and private sponsorship of refugee participants;

VI. Share expertise and information on efforts at the national level to strengthen and promote meaningful refugee participation;

VII. Identify opportunities to conduct a survey at the national level on existing refugee-led networks and prominent advocates; and to support national NGOs to develop training and information sharing mechanisms with a view to preparing refugees, including local and national networks, to engage in ATCR proceedings.

**Conclusion**

The rationale and need for more meaningful participation of people with a lived refugee experience are clear. And now is the time for charting the path towards a sustainable and long-term partnership of the entire resettlement and complementary pathways community.

The Refugee Steering Group, UNHCR and Government of Canada believe that this concept note will start a movement to support refugee-led networks to enhance their own coordination and engagement in global processes affecting them. Future state chairs, NGO focal points and the RSG are invited to take stock of the actions proposed herein, identify barriers and address challenges to refugee participation at the end of each ATCR cycle. A review of this concept note is expected in 2023, when the ATCR community is also encouraged to report back to the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF).

Evidence of the added value of the ATCR RAG to both the refugee and the wider ATCR community will be measured against the success in implementing the roles and responsibilities outlined in section 4 vis-à-vis the resources and support provided by the ATCR community.

## Annex I: The Concept Note Development Process

**The Refugee Steering Group (RSG)**

The RSG was convened in January 2020 and built upon the lessons learned from engaging refugees in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and past ATCR. RSG members included representatives from national, regional and global refugee-led networks who contributed to the GRF, as well as persons with lived refugee experience who deliver services to newly resettled refugees or are engaged in advocacy initiatives in local communities, particularly in Canada.

Members included persons with lived experience on community sponsorship, family reunion, humanitarian visas and education opportunities. It is worth mentioning that 10 refugee led organizations[9] were able to actively participate in the group in addition to others who joined independently. The number of members varied from 15 to 22 individuals throughout the process.[10]

While being resettled was not a criterion to be a member of the group, being in a resettlement country or in a country developing complementary pathways was important to ensure familiarity with the reality and policies of States participating in the ATCR. This was an attempt to balance inclusiveness with opportunities for meaningful exchanges on how meaningful refugee participation can be implemented in a fair and inclusive manner.

**The Development Process**

The development of this concept note included diverse consultations with refugees and the ATCR Community. UNHCR held ten webinars from January to June 2020 and one in-person meeting in the margins of the 2019 GRF with the RSG members to ensure they understood the context of the ATCR and identified means to implement meaningful participation.

During the consultations with the Refugee Steering Group, many ideas were discussed on how to promote sustainable engagement of refugees in the ATCR process, including through the creation of a Refugee Co-Chair, a Global Refugee Advisory Group or a National Refugee Advisory Groups (similar to the UK experience), and consultations with diverse networks.

These ideas were presented in the meaningful refugee participation workshop during the Working Group (WG) meetings in Ottawa (February). Participants noted that advanced levels of resource coordination and representativity standards would be needed to establish a Refugee Co-chair. The UK Refugee Council also reported on their experience in 2019 and highlighted the challenge of identifying and preparing refugees in such a limited amount of time (one-year ATCR cycle) in addition to carrying out their other obligations as NGO focal point. WG participants still welcomed the idea of including refugees in the planning and delivery of the ATCR and expressed interest in obtaining guidance on how to pursue this.
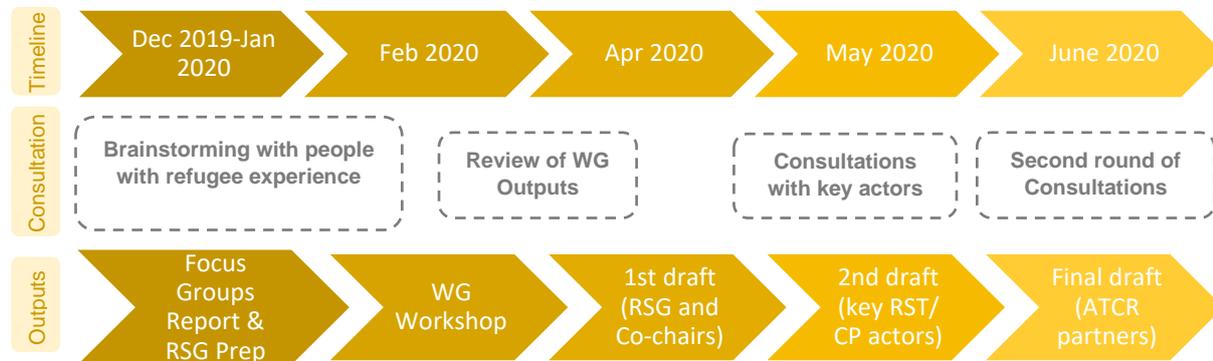
Approximately 100 stakeholders, including States, UNHCR, NGOs, CSOs, private sector, refugees themselves and other partners discussed the importance of refugee participation during the workshop. The Government of Canada played a crucial role to ensure meaningful refugee participation by financially supporting and promoting the participation of persons with refugee experience in the WGR.

During the Working Group, partners volunteered to support the drafting of the concept note and the rethinking the ATCR (Annex II). In May, the first draft of the concept note was shared with

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[9] APNOR, GRN, GYAC, NRV, GCR Gender Audit Team, Réseau des exilés en France, Network of Refugee Diaspora in Denmark, UNIRE, SYVNL and National Refugee Advisory and Advocacy Group in Australia.
[10] Members were based in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand and in the United States. An overview of the members can be found in Annex I.

this group of actors, who provided written feedback.[11] In June, a revised version of the concept note will be shared with these volunteers and other key stakeholders for validation. The final version of this concept note will be presented by the RSG to the ATCR Community during the last virtual meeting of the 2020 ATCR. See a process overview below:

| Timeline | Dec 2019-Jan 2020 | Feb 2020 | Apr 2020 | May 2020 | June 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Consultation | Brainstorming with people with refugee experience | Review of WG Outputs | | Consultations with key actors | Second round of Consultations |
| Outputs | Focus Groups Report & RSG Prep | WG Workshop | 1st draft (RSG and Co-chairs) | 2nd draft (key RST/ CP actors) | Final draft (ATCR partners) |

## Overview of RSG Members

| Name | Representation |
|---|---|
| Yasin Abdijama | Network of Exiled in France |
| Tehseen Ahmad | Rainbow Refugee |
| Wenasa Alaraba | WUSC Student (Student Refugee Program) |
| Zainab Al-Musawi | Saskatoon Open Door Society |
| Shaza Alrihawi | Global Refugee-led Network |
| Noor Azizah | GCR Gender Audit Team |
| Mohammed Badran | Syrian Volunteers Network (NL) |
| Apajok Biar | GCR Gender Audit Team |
| Arash Bordbar | Global Youth Advisory Council |
| Rez Gardi | Empower Youth (NZ) |
| Izdhar Gaib | Catholic Social Service, Immigration and Settlement (CAN) |
| Syed Hasnain | National Italian Network for Refugees and Exiled (UNIRE) |
| Joanna Ibrahim | Humanitarian Visa Recipient (BRA) / Open Taste |
| Sara Edwige Kobli | Danish Diaspora and Refugee-led Organizations |
| Sana Mustafa | Network of Refugee Voices / Asylum Access |
| Gabriel Ndayishimiye | WUSC Student (Student Refugee Program) |
| Anila Noor | New Women Connectors |
| Seconde Nyanzobe | KEYS Job Centre.inc |
| Najeeba Wazefadost | Asia Pacific Network of Refugees |
| Melika Yassin Sheikh-Eldin | National Refugee Advisory and Advocacy group (AUS) |
| Joseph Youhana | Brotherhood of St Laurence |

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[11] The following actors provided written feedback: Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, United Kingdom, EASO, UNHCR Country Operations, Refugee Congress USA, International Rescue Committee, Settlement Services International, Church World Service, Dutch Council for Refugees, HIAS and New Zealand Red Cross.

**Overview of Working Group Volunteers[12]**

| Country | Name |
|---|---|
| Argentina | Maria Gabriela Quinteros |
| Canada | Jean-Marc Gionet, Kripa Koshy |
| EASO | Malin Larsson-Grave |
| France | Mourad DerBak |
| Germany | Franziska Harsch |
| Netherlands | Afke Siezen |
| Sweden | Kerstin Lindblad |

| Organization | Name |
|---|---|
| Action LGBT+ with Immigrants and Refugees (AGIR) | Iyan Ayad |
| Association CeCler | Dominique Charmeil |
| British Refugee Council | Andy Hewett |
| Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) | Fikre M Tsehai, Michelle Ball |
| Capital Rainbow Refugee | Thomas Ndayiragije |
| Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR) | Ariane den Uyl |
| Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) | Melonee Douglas |
| Icelandic Red Cross | Nina Helgadóttir |
| IKEA Canada | Sonia Sangha |
| International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) | Walter Brill |
| International Rescue Committee (IRC) | Robin Dunn Marcos |
| Japan ICU Foundation | Aki Takada |
| Jumpstart - Refugee Talent | Mustafa Alio |
| Kobe Foreigners Friendship Center | Takayuki Oishi |
| Rainbow Coalition for Refuge | Sharalyn Jordar |
| Rainbow Refugee Society | Hikmat Termos |
| RefugePoint | Martin Anderson |
| Settlement Services International (SSI) | Yamamah Agha |
| Windmill Microlending | Jeni Piepgrass |

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[12] Volunteers from the meaningful refugee participation session and rethinking the ATCR session were merged, considering meaningful refugee participation is part of the process of rethinking the ATCR.

**ATCR/WGR**
**Annual Tripartite Consultations and Working Group on Resettlement**

**Annex II: Mapping of Refugee-led Networks and Organizations**

The ATCR Community is invited to include networks and their contact details in the lists below:

**National Level**

| | Country | Network/Organization |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Australia | Australia National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW) |
| 2 | | National Refugee Advisory and Advocacy group |
| 3 | | Queer Sisterhood Project |
| 4 | | The Independent Refugee Advisory Group |
| 5 | Brazil | Open Taste |
| 6 | Canada | Action LGBT+ with Immigrants and Refugees (AGIR) |
| 7 | | Capital Rainbow Refuge |
| 8 | | Jumpstart - Refugee Talent |
| 9 | | Rainbow Refugee Society |
| 10 | | WUSC Alumni Network |
| 11 | Denmark | COASTI |
| 12 | | Danish Diaspora and Refugee-led Organizations |
| 13 | France | Network of Exiled in France |
| 14 | Italy | National Italian Network for Refugees and Exiled (UNIRE) |
| 15 | Netherlands | FSAN (Somalian) Federation of Somali Associations in the Netherlands |
| 16 | | Stichting African Women Perspective |
| 17 | | Stichting Cultuur in Harmonie |
| 18 | | Stichting HIMILO |
| 19 | | Stichting Lemat |
| 20 | | Stichting Nieuwlander |
| 21 | | Stichting WIN / Women Initiatives Network |
| 22 | | Syrian Volunteers Network (SVNL) |
| 23 | | Yalla Foundation |
| 24 | New Zealand | Aotearoa Resettled Community Coalition (ARCC) |
| 25 | | Empower Youth |
| 26 | | Migration Advisory Group (New Zealand Red Cross) |
| 27 | | New Zealand National Refugee Association (NZNRA) |
| 28 | United Kingdom | VOICES Network |
| 29 | | Refugee Advisory Group (RAG) |
| 30 | | Refugee Women's Association |
| 31 | United States | Refugee Congress |

**Regional Level**

| | Region | Network/Organization |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Asia Pacific | Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR) |
| 2 | Europe | Diaspora Network Alliances |
| 3 | | G-100 Initiative |
| 4 | | New Women Connectors |
| 5 | | The European Coalition |

**Global Level**

| Network/Organization |
|---|
| Global Compact on Refugees - Gender Audit Team |
| Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC) |
| Global Refugee-led Network (GRN) |
| Network of Refugee Voices |