

Special Summit on Refugee Crisis on September 19th 2016 NGO Engagement: A Review

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05/12/2016

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Introduction

On 19 September 2016, a Special Summit on the Refugee Crisis was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. In attendance were various Non-Governmental Organizations as well as UN Member State representatives. The Summit was held in order to provide a forum in which a discussion could be held on the ever more pressing issue of mass displacement. This is a matter which now affects most States, be they developed or developing, in the Global North, as well as the Global South.

The paper explores NGO participation and engagement at the Special Summit on the Refugee Crisis. It will also provide a brief analysis of some of the roundtables held during the day as well as the “High Level Civil Society Event of the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants”. This paper will examine various issues including the geographical diversity, scope of the issue of mass displacement, and the recommendations of participating NGOs to provide a better life standard for refugees around the world. The High-level Civil Society Event of the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016 hosted by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) will be the main focal point of the paper in terms of looking into substance, context, discussions and the NGO-state relations.

First, the paper provides a definition of global civil society by analyzing each component based on empirical indicators. Second, the paper considers how NGO participation has changed over time by giving background information on the involvement of NGOs at the United Nations conferences throughout the previous years. This paper ultimately seeks to show that NGO engagement at global meetings and summits has the potential to have consid-

erable democratization effects at the international level; an analysis of the Special Summit on the refugee Crisis of September 19th provides the framework for this argument.

In addition, the paper answers the following questions: which NGOs are most influential in the refugee crisis, which NGOs were chosen to present in the special summit, and what the substance of their work and speeches are. Moreover, the paper sheds light on the power of consultative status by analyzing the number of NGOs with either Special or General consultative status.

According to the recent UNHCR study (The UN Refugee Agency), the number of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and asylum seekers across the globe has reached a record of 65.3 million at 2015 which is the highest statistics ever recorded after the Second World War. The fact that they would make up the 21st biggest country if we combine all the forcibly displaced people that moved either inside or outside of their country due to persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations, is a proof that the Refugee Crisis is one the most crucial issues of our generation.

“We are facing the biggest refugee and displacement crisis of our time. Above all, this is not just a crisis of numbers; it is also a crisis of solidarity.”(Ban Ki Moon, United Nations Secretary General)

The conflict in the Syria, which entered its fifth year in 2015, garnered a great amount of attention globally due to the immense refugee flow of 4.9million, which accounted for more than half of new refugees in 2015. (UNHCR, 2015, *Global Trends*). The paper focuses on the attention garnered from the NGOs regarding the issue at hand.

Part 1 Definition of Global Civil Society

Many scholars research the impacts of NGO's broadly global civil society from different perspectives. In order to better analyze the democratizing capacity of global civil society, it is crucial to understand the components of the term "Global Civil Society".

The term "Global" is one of the easiest words to find its empirical indicator in defining the global civil society. It is necessary to further investigate to ensure that the social relations between non-governmental organizations are global. As Wapner stated, "complex network of economic, social, and cultural practices" forming global civil society is widespread enough that non-state actors from all over the world are involved in the interactions (Wapner 1995:313). The term "global" can only be achieved if there are enough representatives from various geographic regions, backgrounds and cultures.

Furthermore, the civil perspective of global civil society is defined by both regularized and open non-state actors engaging globally. The level of civil society's engagement can also be measured by the ability of an NGO to reach out to other states and other NGOs. Although the number of NGO engagements in the international arena is crucial, it doesn't necessarily indicate that there is an effective discussion and information exchange going on between NGOs and that states and intergovernmental organizations are allowing NGOs to be involved in the decision making process. The fact that all the NGOs are getting kicked out of the room during any decision making process is just an indicator of the state's unwillingness to compromise their sovereignties.

Determining the degree of civil society's engagement can be measured by discussing whether the relationships between NGOs are effective in the democratization process in the international arena. The relationship between NGOs and states play an important role when analyzing NGOs' engagement in global governance. An increase in relations and engagements between the states and non-state actors would facilitate the transition towards world governance.

The social component of Global Civil Society encompasses the synergy, the quality of the cooperation as well as the degree of sociability and mutual understanding between the non-governmental actors. As Lumsdaine discusses in each relationship both parties "may care how they are regarded by others" beyond simple interest calculations (Lumsdaine 1993:25). This makes both parties establish expectations towards each other amongst other ethical and mutual understandings while they operate together for a specific cause.

After having a basic understanding of the components of Global Civil Society, the paper will be tackling several issues regarding the global composition of the panel, engagement of civil society and the quality of the social relations between NGOs and relations between NGOs and states at the Special Summit on Refugee Crisis.

To empirically determine the degree to which the civil society organizations at the Special Summit on Refugee Crisis are globally composed, the paper will highlight the geographic diversity of the NGOs that participated at the summit by going through the United Nations Document for "Accepted NGO's". Furthermore to assess the quality of the "civil and social" relations at the Summit, the paper will be analyzing the statistical data of NGOs that attended the conference and the number of NGOs that had consultative status. One of the main topics is the content of the speeches made by the NGO's and the global civil society organizations. These statements provide a clearer understanding of the overall interaction

between the organizations and the non-state actors and whether they established a shared framework amongst them.

Figure 1: Definition of Global Civil Society

Term	Definition	Empirical Indicator
Global	Geographically diverse and Number of NGOs from balanced representation	Number of NGOs from different world regions
Civil	Regularized participation in global interactions; NGO access to global forms of governance	Procedures and repertoires
Society	Existence of social regard; expectations; shared substantive understandings	Substantive understanding mutual behavioral and shared frames

(Friedman et Al, 2016, *Sovereignty, Democracy, and Global Civil Society State-Society Relations at UN World Conferences in Global Politics*)

The graph by Friedman is a great representation to summarize the definitions of the components of Global Civil Society as well as their empirical indicators which will be used and frequently referred to throughout the paper.

Part 2 NGOs: Then and Now

Although The United Nations Charter approved the participation of NGOs in UN conferences, it does not elaborate on a particular role for them in the work of the General Assembly, the Security Council or the International Court of Justice.

There were only 41 NGOs that got the status in 1946 after the United Nations was founded; whereas by 1992 more than 700 NGOs had obtained consultative status. Furthermore, with the increased number of NGOs with consultative status, 3,000 accredited NGOs gained access to the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, an increase of 2,500 percent in twenty years (Fraser 1987; United Nations 1996c)

Between the late 1960s and 1990s, the number and the level of engagement of NGOs at the United Nations conferences started to increase immensely. There were around 300 NGOs participating at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. (Morphet 1996:144, footnote 35). With the expansion of the nature and objectives of NGOs, along with the involvement of more NGOs from developing world, the number of NGOs that were represented at the Rio conference was 1400. (Weiss, Forsythe, and Coate 1997:239).

In the 1990s, this image started to transform drastically. NGOs are currently engaged in different activities ranging from the private aid allocation to policy suggestions about environmental factors. Private donations accounted for more than 60 percent of the estimated \$26.9 billion worldwide budget of international humanitarian and development nongovernmental organizations for 2005 (Gatignon 2007, 6, 37–51). Private money raised and allocated by transnational NGOs such as CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Médecins Sans Frontières, and World Vision thus increasingly enables the delivery of services and investments in

health, education, and infrastructure in poor countries.(Buthe, Major, Souza, 2012,The Politics of Private Foreign Aid)

In 2000 the UN High Commission for Refugees' (UNHCR) budget was \$1 billion, most of which was disbursed through competitive INGO contracts. (Rekacewicz, Philippe, 2001, How the Burden of the World's Refugees Fall on the South). It is not just United Nations or UN entities that trusts NGOs with their private aid allocations, a lot of governments also turn into INGOs when they are allocating their resources. USAID, for example, disburses 25-30 percent of its budget through private groups, as do the governments of Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, and the European Union (EU). (Smillie, Ian, 1997).

The NGO Forum at international UN conferences definitely has a positive impact on the NGO engagement in the international level. It invites NGOs and the other organizations of civil society from all over the world to express their views about environment, women, human rights, debt, health, microcredit. At least 600 Non-Governmental and civil society organizations, including about 250 NGOs from least developed countries, participated in the NGO Forum and the UN Conference.¹

NGLS's 20th Anniversary Conference on The United Nations, NGOs and Global Governance: Challenges for the 21st Century that was held in Geneva in 1995 facilitated the transition of NGOs to UN system as well. NGOs requested UN to be more straightforward and reliable, with less layers of bureaucracy towards achieving democratization. Furthermore they mention that they want to observe an efficient multilateral system with an opportunity to freely debate in the international arena.

¹ Retrieved from: http://www.un.org/events/ldc3/conference/e-press_kit/ngo_forum.pdf , 30.11.2016

As NGOs become more involved in the global civil society, they have started to raise their voice more and more on various subjects in the international arena. One of the ultimate ways to advocate internationally is to get the consultative status with ECOSOC. As stated by resolution 1996/31: "... Consultative arrangements are to be made, on the one hand, for the purpose of enabling the Council or one of its bodies to secure expert information or advice from organizations having special competence in the subjects for which consultative arrangements are made, and, on the other hand, to enable international, regional, sub-regional and national organizations that represent important elements of public opinion to express their views". (ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, part II, paragraph 20)

When an NGO is granted the consultative status with ECOSOC, they can attend and make written and oral statements at international conferences and events, as well as organize side events, enter the United Nations premises, and have opportunities to network and lobby with official government delegations and other NGO representatives.

As of 2016 the total number of NGOs that have achieved a consultative status within ECOSOC has surpassed 4,500 and, based on the daily influx of new applications to the NGO Branch, the sharp increase isn't likely to slow down anytime soon. The more NGOs cooperate and exchange information and ideas amongst themselves, the more they feel obliged to apply for consultative status

Today, NGOs have an increased role in global politics. Although they still do not participate in the formal decision making process, they are seen as the guarantors for the member states to implement the treaties they ratified. New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is another example of effective NGO and member state collaboration. The High Level Panel is considered to be the start off point for making sure that the member states implement the articles that they have ratified.

Part 3 Special Summit on Refugee Crisis

After the adoption of Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the United Nations organized the first Special Summit on Refugee Crisis at United Nations on 19 September 2016. Most of the member states, observers, and global civil society organizations participated in the high level meetings, round table discussions and the side events (see Appendixes A and B for the complete list of roundtable discussions and side events).

During the various side events, several issues were addressed. Their themes ranged from developing a safe environment for all refugees that are currently settling all around the world, to working to satisfy the human rights of displaced children. These events were interactive sessions involving panelists from government entities, the United Nations and global civil society members (see Appendix A for a full list of organizations).

There were six roundtables which took place during the Summit. In these, few Non-Governmental Organizations and global civil society participants had an opportunity to speak and raise their concerns (see Appendix B). Some of the roundtable discussions stood out amongst the others in terms of the depth to which they discussed the relevant issues regarding the refugee crisis. During one roundtable discussion in particular, the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) , that has been playing an important role in the aid allocation for the refugees stood out. Francesco Rocca, the vice president of IFRC and President of Italian Red Cross, emphasized the significance of access to information for any refugee.

Access to information for refugees is especially vital during the decision making process of the family or of an individual, considering the fact that reliable information can facilitate their routes and give them the opportunity to make safe, life-saving decisions. Trustworthy information can be useful, not only during their journeys, but also throughout their resettlement.

tlement processes. If the communities know what their rights are, they can easily defend themselves against certain policies.

Mr. Rocca urged the member states to acknowledge the fact that well-managed resettlements can contribute significantly to the growth and the sustainable development of the local communities. He furthermore encouraged the world leaders present at the event to bolster the resilience of the communities that are in need of aid and increase the support for both local actors and host communities.

To achieve these goals, both member states and local communities need to have solid intentions to battle abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking by allowing secure and legal ways for the migrants to relocate. In the event that these conditions cannot be guaranteed by governments, the risky practice of refugee smuggling and the dangers posed to the refugees involved will not stop in the near future. The onus is on the governments to mitigate and eliminate the illegal and often fatal dangers which refugees constantly face during their plight.

Another statement that stood out at the roundtables was the speech of AFFORD. Mr. Gibril Faal, Chairman of Trustee of African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), made a statement on the recent actions and progress of implementation of plans for protecting the civil rights of refugees and migrants. He argued that the issue was complex; in that it did not arise from the fact that people do not know how to protect the civil rights of refugees and migrants, but rather that it stems from a lack of desire on the part of States to fulfill their responsibilities. Worse still, Mr. Faal stated, a select few member states are in fact inclined to adopt counterproductive policies which cause further harm to refugees and migrants.

Faal remained vague on the issue of counterproductive policies by not naming and shaming specific countries or considering the shortcomings of any country in particular.

However, he urged all states to make a shift towards emphasizing implementation of the New York Declaration. He argued that the shift would enable State and non-state actors to innovate and create options and opportunities that lead to better results and conditions for refugees and migrants, as well as the communities and countries that host them.²

The High Level Civil Society event of the United Nations Summit for Refugees and migrants, which might also be referred as the panel throughout the paper, is the main focal point of this paper. However all the aforementioned roundtables and side events provide a framework to have a better understanding of the nature and the gravity of the issue on hand. This Summit is another example of how the global issues of the 21st Century should be tackled comprehensively from several different points of view. Solving the problems currently faced by our society requires the engagement of all relevant actors, through the promotion and development of cooperation between the NGOs, inter-governmental organizations, and Member States.

The High Level Civil Society event provided a meaningful opportunity for engaging panelists from all around the world, most significantly, refugees from Syria, who gave moving speeches on the unparalleled experiences they had to endure. Their survival stories and the issues they still face were conveyed to the participants. Speakers coming from refugee backgrounds, however, focused not only on how they have been disadvantaged by circumstance, but also on how they were able to overcome adversity and transform themselves into agents of the Global South.

The panel allowed young girls as well as large international organizations to raise their voices and speak to the representatives of Member States regarding the ongoing refugee issues. Most of the NGOs and refugees that were given the opportunity to engage raised their

² Retrieved from :<http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/7660808/statement-by-afford.pdf>, 29.11.2016

concerns about education in safe learning atmospheres, concerns about resettlement, adaptation to their new lives, child protection, child labor, family detention, border control policies, mental health of the refugees as well as other severe issues.

Overall the presenters discussed the negotiated outcome document of the Summit. The issue of whether the global civil society could have a larger role regarding the process of improving the lives of refugees and migrants was addressed. The roles of Member States, the United Nations and the NGOs were also evaluated. Moreover, some key issues such as child labor, family detentions, and domestic worker's rights as well as general issues regarding the education, human rights issues and the border control policies were introduced by engaged members of civil society.

During the opening ceremony, two young refugees spoke about their experiences. Ms. Yusra Mardini, a Syrian refugee, told the audience of her journey while fleeing Syria. She had to swim for three hours in the Aegean Sea in order to push her boat to shore with 20 other refugees on board. She went on to become a swimmer as part of the Olympic Refugee Team during the 2016 Summer Olympics held in Rio de Janeiro. Additionally, Lana, an eleven year-old Syrian refugee living in Jordan, was connected to the Summit via live videoconference. She shared her dream of attending school, expressing herself via a video sent by "Save the Children" to UN-NGLS in July.³

The event took off with Winnie Byanyima, a speaker from Oxfam who provided compelling statistics about the current shared responsibility of the Syrian Refugee crisis in the world. She stated that: "The six richest countries that make more than 50 per cent of global economy are hosting less than nine per cent of all the refugees and asylum seekers".

³ Retrieved from : <https://unnngls.org/index.php/80-home/2763-high-level-civil-society-event-of-the-un-summit-for-refugees-and-migrants>, 17.11.2016

She also mentioned that paradoxically, developing countries are currently hosting 86 per cent and Africa, which provides the 2 per cent of global economy is hosting 25 per cent of all the refugees and migrants.

These statistics demonstrate that the countries from Global North are failing to respond to the issue of refugees by not allowing them to resettle in their countries, and thus not complying with their historical, economic, political, and humanitarian responsibility to provide a haven for displaced peoples. Furthermore the fact that the developing countries are hosting more than 86 per cent of all refugees and migrants leads to a situation where these nations are in need of even more resources from wealthier countries.

Most of the speakers, including Salim Youssef Salama from the Palestinian League for Human Rights and Mina Jaf representing Women Refugee Route urged all the present Member States to take action and invited all the countries as well as the international community to implement their promises on the outcome document of the Special Summit.

Oscar Chacon, a former refugee from El Salvador and a representative of Alianza Americas, remarked on the severe consequences of separating a young child from their family and how this can have a long-lasting negative impact on that child's life. He also mentioned the common problem of parents who find themselves in detention and must leave their children, which occurs even in developed nations such as the United States.

Sabah, from The Syrian League for Citizenship, spoke about the exorbitant travel costs displaced families face when attempting to send their children to school. Such costs often arise from the lack of an appropriate education system at the refugee camps. She stated that this issue is especially common in Lebanon, where families are forced to make their children to work rather than go to school, due to the lack of protection and income which they require. This is an issue which will be especially harmful to young women and girls in

the long-run. The lack of equal education for women and girls is a global problem, and the fact that girls from displaced families do not have access to education will lead to yet another generation of women that is not able to compete with men at the professional level, which will have a negative impact on the global economy. Not to mention the political and humanitarian implications of not providing education for refugee and migrant children.

Zrinka Bralo, Chief Executive of Migrants Organize focused mostly on the issue of political stability as well as the roles of the governments on this matter. She spoke largely on the family detentions in the United Kingdom, especially those of pregnant women, who are often held at detention centers for the sake of “administrative convenience”. Unfortunately, there continues to be little judicial overview of such detentions. Bralo also emphasized the tragic situation of domestic migrant workers regarding the restrictions they face when attempting to leave their employment due to visa restrictions in the UK. These workers are unable to quit their jobs because doing so would render them illegal immigrants, essentially trapping them in potentially unfavorable, precarious, or cruel working conditions.

This issue is explored by Leghtas in 2012. The British government recently introduced a system by which migrant domestic workers’ visas are tied to their employers while they are living in the United Kingdom. “If these employers are abusive, it forces the domestic workers to choose between staying and enduring the abuse, or leaving and becoming undocumented migrants” (Leghtas, APRIL 22, Dispatches: A Chance to Protect UK’s Migrant Domestic Workers).

The fact that United Kingdom, as a developed country representing Global North in the world, changed their refugee laws and only allow refugees to stay for a period of 6 months after they quit their job if they do not find new employment, proves that there is still much to be done in terms of respecting migrants and refugees basic human rights and decen-

cy. Based on the case of United Kingdom, it also raises the question whether Global North is doing a good job fulfilling their responsibilities to mitigate the issue on hand.

One of the other interesting speakers was Dolores De Rico from, the Canadian Council for Refugees from El Salvador. De Rico mentioned the psychological and mental health impacts of refugees who have been forced to live through difficult life experiences. De Rico stated that some of the refugees committed suicide because they had lost hopes for their future. This is one of the most severe and unexpected impacts a crisis can inflict on a human being. Both De Rico from the Canadian Council for Refugees and Colin Rajah from Migrants Rights International mentioned the difficult conditions that refugees and migrants are currently experiencing regarding the border control policies. The fact that some borders are open for refugees and closed for migrants, results in a situation that is not inclusive for everyone who is a victim of this crisis.

Yusra Mardini's sister, Sarah Mardini, expressed her thoughts as a representative of "She is Syria". She created a documentary focusing on the current situations of female refugees, such as what they have been through while they were fleeing from their countries and how their transitions into new countries have been.

Documentaries, photos, and videos such as this can be some of the most influential tools to raise awareness on this current issue. The power of visual media is proven by many scholars to be the most impactful way to influence people, as it can facilitate the humanization of the issue on hand by giving images of people, in this case strong women who have been through a lot yet still enjoy life. Mardini specifically mentioned during the meeting that she hates being called a refugee or an immigrant and that she just wants to be seen a human being.

Anayora Khatun, from Save the Children, discussed the severity of child labor and child trafficking as well reunification of children with their families. She has now helped reunite more than 180 trafficked children with their families, prevented 35 child marriages, rescued 85 children from child labor and registered 200 out of school children into schools. Khatun leads a movement against trafficking initiated by girls like her and have helped gather information about trafficked children, trace traffickers and mobilize the support of adults in order to reunite children with their families.⁴

The issue of child labor has been mentioned by several speakers. When the families aren't provided with the necessary tools to establish a stable income mechanism, they force their children to contribute to the family's income. This often times prevents the child to get the education they deserve. Member states and international organizations need to find durable and sustainable solutions to address the root causes of the economic situations of the refugee families. If the family establishes a stable income mechanism, the amount of child labor and the child trafficking will decrease exponentially.

Luis Canales, from the Center for Migration Studies emphasized the importance of education and the role of governments to ensure that every student is given an equal opportunity; and both Luis Canales and Hadia Zarzou, a Masters student in California from the Syrian Community Network, focused on the necessary change to the sympathetic term "Syrian Refugee" and how all these young generation should be seen as the future lawyers, teachers, doctors, messengers of peace and not just as people who cry for help.

Changing the perspective of both the local communities and international arena should be seen as a necessity for the member states when they are implementing the articles

⁴ Retrieved from: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1B8WW3_eIXtKE-9imsbYR59pqz0CkU22K55fRcU3KQ9s/pubhtml#, 17.11.2016

of the New York Declaration. This goal, which would help combat xenophobia, exploitation , and any unequal treatments towards refugees, can only be achieved through education and its right implementation methods.

Eni Lestari, chairperson from International Migrants Alliance, focused on the right of education for temporary refugees. Lestari stated: “My experience as a domestic worker in Hong Kong has made it clear to myself that treating migrants as second- or even third-class people or as mere commodities to trade as cheap labor opens the floodgates for all sorts of abuses to happen. There can be no essential improvement in the condition of migrants for as long as we are not seen as people, as workers, and as women with rights,” , which was one of the highlights of her speech. Lestari urged the governments to allow temporary refugees to have access to either high school or university education.

“Women Now for Development Syria”, a Syrian non-governmental organization based in Paris that works within Syria and cooperates with local partners, grassroots organizations, civil society activists, international NGOs, and other partners to consolidate women’s roles in Syrian communities by enhancing their social, economic and cultural participation⁵; and “Women's Regional Network”, an NGO assisting in the conflict areas of Afghanistan Pakistan and India raised their concern regarding 8 million Syrian IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), and how the outcome document is lacking the protection rights for the internally Displaced Persons. They insisted that same guidelines should also be applied to Internally Displaced People.

⁵ Retrieved from: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1B8WW3_eIXtKE-9imsbYR59pqz0CkU22K55fRcU3KQ9s/pubhtml#, 17.11.2016

Further Analysis and Conclusion

The panel was a reflection of how the system should be transparent, with the free stream of information amongst states and global civil society organizations. NGOs are the actors that nowadays play important role towards world governance. As observed in the panel, they discuss domestic policies beyond a state's limits and contrary they convey worldwide issues to the national and local grounds. Whether, they are discussing the unequal treatment for domestic worker's rights in England or shedding light to family detentions around the world, they are changing the traditional diplomacy towards global governance.

A handful of NGOs were pressuring states out of their comfort zones which is an empirical indicator that there was a clear NGO-state split during the panel at some points. Ms. Byanyima from Oxfam applied pressure to the six wealthiest countries when she stated that they have so far only agreed to host less than 9 per cent of all the refugees and asylum seekers. Byanyima was also praising developing and least developed countries when she mentioned that developing countries are currently hosting 86 per cent of displaced people, while Africa (which provides only 2 per cent of global economy) has been hosting 25 per cent of all refugees and migrants.

Zrinka Bralo, Chief Executive of Migrants Organise was another representative from global civil society, who was pushing for the domestic worker's right in the UK challenging their sovereignties.. While she was also shedding light on the unnecessary family detentions especially pregnant moms, Migrants Organise was naming and shaming the government of UK.

Eni Lestari from International Migrants Alliance was another voice that was naming and shaming the government of Hong Kong regarding their policies for temporary refugees and how they lack access to education and the consequences for it.

There are few global civil society organizations such as Women's Regional Network, an NGO who has been operating at Afghanistan Pakistan India, regarding human rights violations and Women Now for Development Syria, that discuss that the New York Declaration is missing articles regarding the rights of IDPs.

Although New York Declaration mentions and acknowledges the IDPs at article 3, 13 and 20, not all the articles apply for IDPs which limits the right they have. While discussing the outcome document, both Women Now for Development Syria and Women's Regional Network were challenging the member states. They weren't specifically naming and shaming but they were mentioning the missing articles in the overall framework, which proves there was a NGO- state split on the subject of IDPs during the panel.

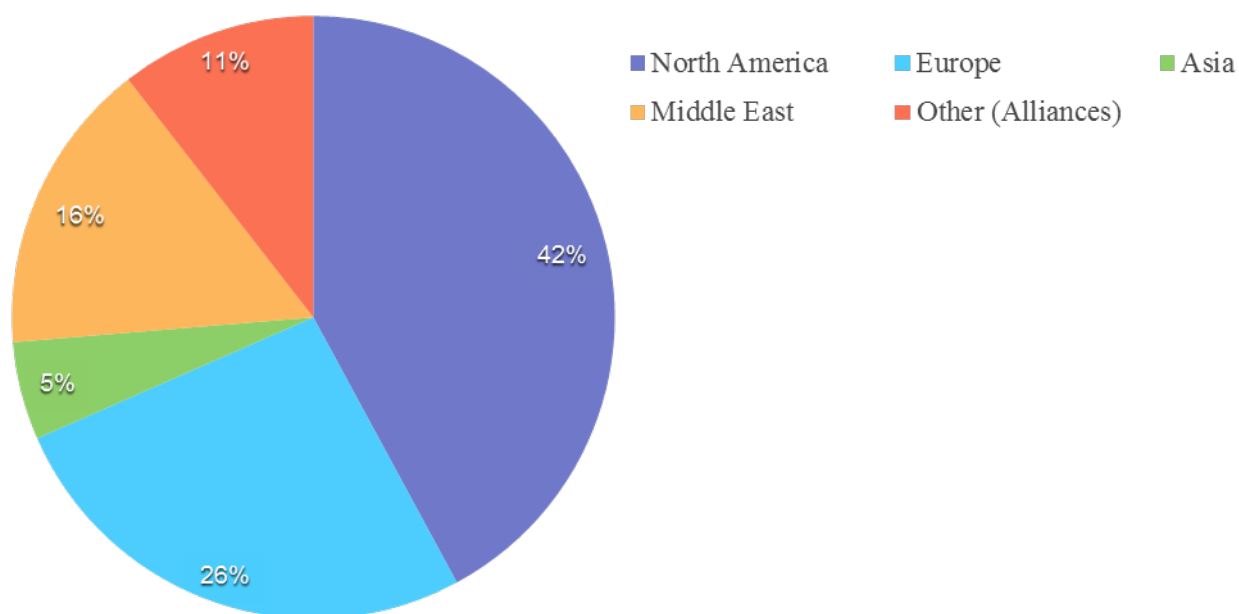
Although there was a NGO-state split regarding the IDPs, NGOs shared a similar framework and agreed upon that all the problems that the refugees and migrants are facing are linked to each other. The lack of financial resources, accesses to education, child labor, child marriage, family detentions seem to be the social and economic causes for most of the difficulties that they have been encountering.

In the overall picture, to support the thesis of having a shared framework, no matter where the NGO came from, all the NGOs were simply requesting the governments to change their policies and take in action according to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants despite the fact that several NGOs were pushing the states out of their comfort zones.

Although NGO engagement seems civil and social, the question of “whether the panel was global enough?” still remains unanswered. The geographical distribution of NGOs that participated at the High Level Event seemed to indicate that the panel was not globally representative.

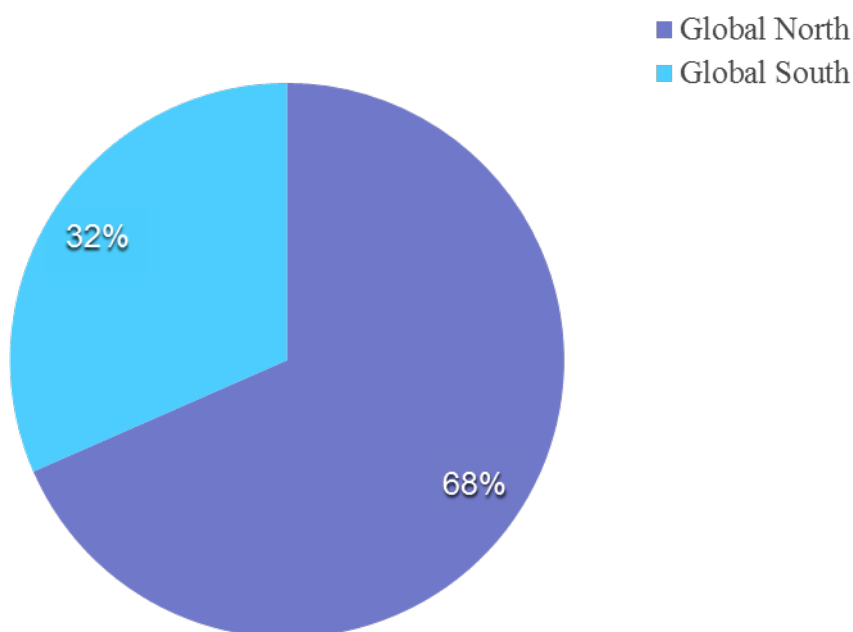
To further analyze Figure 2, there were a total of 19 NGOs or refugees that spoke at the High Level Panel (See Appendix C). Eight of them were from North America, and 5 from Europe (Paris, London, Greece and two from Switzerland). The rest of the NGOs were from Myanmar, Lebanon or Syria, including organizations operating in more than one country.

Figure 2 :Geographic Composition of NGOs



Considering the fact that more than 68 per cent (13 out of 19) of the countries that spoke at the High Level Panel were from Global North, doesn't provide enough proof that there was equal representation in the panel (See Figure 3). Furthermore the fact that there was so little representation from Global South raises the question whether the selection of the participating NGOs was democratic or there was just no demand coming from Global South

Figure 3 : Global North- Global South Comparison



due to economic reasons. However there is no further proof regarding how democratic the selection process was.

The scale of the NGOs was widely diverse. There were big NGOs that were operating worldwide such as Save the Children Center for Migration studies , both based in New York City with General Consultative Status as of 1993 and Special Consultative Status as of 2001 respectively , Oxfam America, with Special Status as of 1993 operating in more than 90 countries, UNICEF Ireland , Migrants Rights International (MRI) with Special consultative status as of 2001 based in Switzerland and International Migrants Alliance, first ever global alliance of migrants, refugees and displaced peoples and their families as well as small sized NGOs.

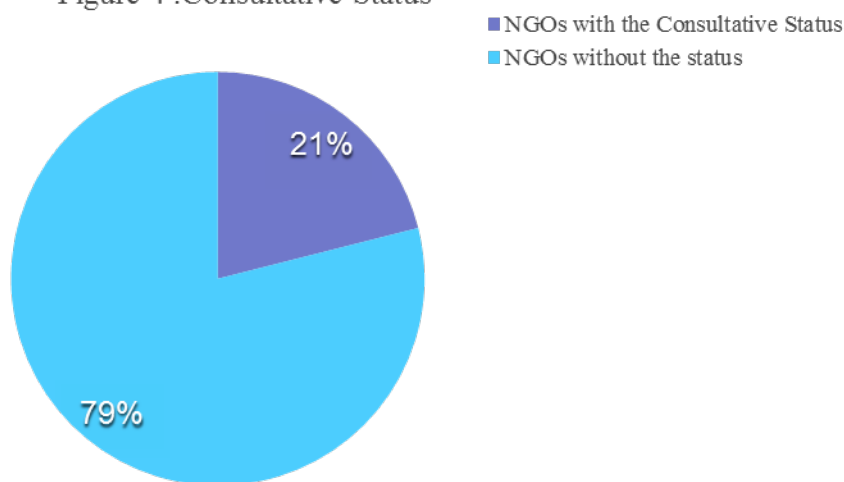
Furthermore the diversity on the European side was limited to, Migrants Organise Ltd from London, Migrants Rights International (MRI) and RET (Refugee Education Trust) both

from Switzerland ,Women Now for Development Syria, a Syrian NGO based in Paris as well as The European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW) that operates in 16 countries.

Although the lack of geographic diversity was an issue among the NGOs, there was nevertheless a wide variety of panelists and participants from all over the world operating in Syria. Ms. Yusra Mardini, was presented as an individual person of agent and not as a survivor who cries for help. Both Yusra and Lana are great examples for changing the perspectives of local communities, member states and institutions that a refugee shouldn't be seen as a liability to the society but as human beings, citizens who can do well to their communities.

One of the other aspects of the analysis is the power of the consultative status given to the NGOs. Around 20 per cent (4 out of 19) of the total NGOs participated at the High Level Panel had either special or general status including: Save the Children General 1993 ,Oxfam America Special 1993 , Migrants Rights International (MRI) Special 2001 , Center for Migration Studies Special 2001.

Figure 4 :Consultative Status



The reason for the lack of consultative status can be due to several of the reasons aforementioned below:

1. They simply weren't aware of the consultative status and its benefits
2. They were lacking resources to apply and follow up with the process which is unlikely considering the convenience of the application process, but if they were missing files and didn't respond at the time frame, their applications may have been incomplete.
3. They weren't registered or they didn't have a certificate of establishment issued by a government 2 years ahead of their date of application, which is likely considering the nature of the NGOs participated and the their date at their proof of enrollment wouldn't allow them to apply

Consultative status with ECOSOC didn't play an important role for this specific panel because the panel was organized for the global civil society organizations to attend. Although it wasn't significant for the time being, if the NGOs want to make speeches and give written statements to member states and engage in the upcoming United Nations conferences, it was important to further analyze the underlying reasons for not having the consultative status with ECOSOC.

Although it is empirically difficult to analyze the impacts of NGOs on the member states, the panel seems to be the kick-off point for the execution of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and towards achieving the sustainable development goals and establishing common grounds for the Agenda 2030.

It is yet to wait and observe whether the member states will take action according to the Declaration and all of these speeches from global civil society, whether it's a big NGO

operating in 30 countries, or a young girl with great dreams looking to do great things in her life, will help the transition of traditional diplomacy towards a global governance.

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Appendix A: Side Events about the Refugee Crisis ⁶

“One United People - A Dialogue on Refugee Resettlement and Faithful Welcome” organized by the Episcopal Migration Ministries, that helped nearly 5000 migrants to establish their new lives peacefully in 30 communities around the United States.

“Creating global change through Humanitarian Training on sexual orientation, gender identity & gender expression” organized by ORAM and Columbia University Teachers College, ORAM specializes in the protection of exceptionally vulnerable refugees, including LGBTI refugees. ORAM’s essential work enables the international community to protect exceptionally vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers and safeguards the integrity of the international refugee protection system.⁷

“I’ve Moved, My Rights Haven’t” organized by War Child, an non-governmental organization, established in the UK in 1993 that helps children in conflicted areas

“Business Leads in Education in Emergencies: Driving Innovation and Partnerships Global” organized by Business Coalition for Education, brings the business community together to accelerate progress in delivering quality education for all of the world’s children and youth.⁸

“Conrad N. Hilton Foundation’s Humanitarian Symposium and Prize Ceremony” organized by Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, an American not for profit foundation, founded in 1944.

6

Retrieved from: <http://refugees-migrants-civilsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/List-of-events-around-the-HLS-as-of-2-September-2016.pdf> , 17.11.2016

⁷ Retrieved from: <http://oramrefugee.org/> , 28.11.2016

⁸ Retrieved from : <http://gbc-education.org/mission/> 28.11.2016

Appendix B Roundtable Discussions⁹

1) Trustee of African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) at Round Table 3 on: “International Action and Cooperation on Refugees and Migrants and Issues Related to Displacement”.

2) Foni Joyce, a refugee living in Kenya from Women Refugee Commission at Round Table 1 on: “Addressing the root causes of large movements of refugees”.

3) President of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Round Table 4 on: “Global Compact for Responsibility Sharing for refugees, respect for international law”

4) Vice President of IFRC and President of Italian Red Cross at Round Table 5 on : “Global Compact for safe, regular and orderly migration: Towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve full respect for the Human Rights of Migrants”.

5) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Henry Schein, Inc. at Round Table 6 on: “Private Sector’s role in addressing the vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants on their journey from their countries of origin to their countries of arrival”.

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Retrieved from <http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/summit-statements>, 17.11.2016

Appendix C: Total List of Refugee and Migrant Speakers at the High Level Event¹⁰

- Winnie Byanyima - Oxfam
- Salim Youssef Salama - Palestinian League for Human Rights, Syria
- Oscar Chacon - Alianza Americas
- Zrinka Bralo – Migrants Organise
- Sabah Hallak - Syrian League for Citizenship
- Mina Jaf - Women Refugee Route
- Dolores De Rico - Canadian Council for Refugees
- Sarah Mardini - She is Syria
- Maria Alabdeh - Women Now for Development Syria
- Zaynab Ali Abdi - Malala Fund
- Anoyara Khatun - Save the Children
- Luis Canales - Center for Migration Studies
- Hadia Zarzou - Syrian Community Network
- Deborah Valencia - DIWATA and Melissa, Greece
- Colin Rajah - Migrants Rights International, Global Coalition on Migration
- Eni Lestari - International Migrants Alliance
- Women's Regional Network Afghanistan, Pakistan and India
- NweOo - Women's League of Burma

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Retrieved from: <https://unnngls.org/index.php/80-home/2763-high-level-civil-society-event-of-the-un-summit-for-refugees-and-migrants>, 17.11.2016