



Event: Youth Leadership In Action: The Future We Cannot Afford to Ignore

Time and Date: 12 December 2023, 16:00-17:10 CET

Location: Graduate Institute, Meeting Room C1, Pétale 5, Geneva

Registration link: <https://forms.office.com/e/52PgiUHu1E>

Young people, including young refugees, are frontline responders in emergencies and protracted crises who are meeting the needs of their families and communities, often before the humanitarian and development actors are mobilized, and refugee response systems put in place. In the midst of pressing global concerns, this session centralizes the meaningful engagement of refugee youth within the Global Compact on Refugees processes and the Global Refugee Forum. Recognizing the value of hearing directly from young people, the event builds on the many initiatives and developments by partners and an increased momentum for the youth agenda in the UN System. This event invites a diverse audience, including government representatives, private sector leaders, donors, members of youth organizations, refugee-led networks, UN entities, development actors and other stakeholders, to engage in a dynamic dialogue. We encourage active participation, with opportunities for floor intervention to announce pledges and support for refugee youth in global humanitarian efforts.

Speakers and Panelists:

- **H.E. Mr. Ib PETERSEN**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Denmark
- **Dr. Felipe Paullier**, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs
- **Ruvendrini Menikdiwela**, UNHCR Incoming Assistant High Commissioner for Protection
- **Charlotte Slente**, Danish Refugee Council, Secretary General
- **Verena Knaus**, UNICEF Global Chief Migration and Displacement
- **Feras Othman**, Refugee Youth Delegate, Jordan
- **Bahati Mnyaci**, Change Agents Advocacy, CEO
- **Eugene Kongnyuy**, UNFPA Deputy Director of the Humanitarian Response Division
- **Ibrahim Sallet**, The Global Refugee Youth Network
- **Sedra Alshamaly**, Plan International, Youth Advocate

Expected Outcomes:

- Enhanced awareness and recognition of the pivotal role refugee youth can and do play in global humanitarian and development processes, targeted refugee responses at the local level that meet the needs of their communities, and in global policy advocacy and dialogue.
- Understanding different aspects of meaningful refugee youth inclusion, representation, and participation, especially through the lens of the Accountability to the Affected Population framework and Age, Gender, and Diversity framework and the 7 Core Action for Refugee Youth.
- A collective input to a roadmap on harnessing the potential of Global Refugee Youth Action, including clear and positive recommendations to support better, sustainable, youth-focused, youth-sensitive, and youth-led programming that creates ownership.

Call to Action:

- Galvanise support from relevant stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, refugee-led groups, and civil society partners, to bolster youth participation.
- Commit to the Youth Compact Pledge and its actions to ensure systemic inclusion of young people in all matters of concern.
- Create more youth-specific pledges that highlight the needs of refugee youth globally.
- Commit to funding for the Refugee youth-led networks, organizations, and actions.