

Wednesday. 9 December 2026, from 16:30-17:30
Auditorium A2, Maison de la Paix, Geneva

# Roundtable Discussion

**The shifting geopolitics of the global refugee regime:**
**Towards the 2027 Global Refugee Forum**

## Concept Note

### Topic

This event will bring diverse academic perspectives to reflect on the geopolitics of the global refugee regime in light of the outcomes of the 2026 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection and Solutions and looking ahead to the 2027 Global Refugee Forum. These global events are being held at a time of significant disruption in global politics and in the work of the global refugee regime.

While the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees turned 75 in 2026, several architects of the protection regime are calling for its end, while many others are retreating from core principles of protection. Likewise, funding support for the core institutions of the regime has experienced significant shocks as traditional donors have withdrawn or curtailed support, while the very prospect of collective action and multilateralism appears in doubt.

During this context, however, several key states have expressed both support for the regime and a willingness to engage in progressive forms of practice to enhance access to protection, solutions and self-reliance. The regime appears increasingly engaged with the meaningful participation of refugees, leading to responses that may be more efficient and effective, while UNHCR has launched an initiative to reduce by half the number of refugees in situations of protracted displacement reliant on international assistance by 2035. More generally, states such as Brazil, Canada and Kenya have launched the Partnership for Multilateralism to enhance international cooperation and to make the case for collective action in response to global issues of shared concern.

In light of the political and financial challenges confronting the regime, what are the prospects and opportunities for international cooperation and collective action leading to December 2027? How are the current geopolitics of the refugee regime understood in diverse global contexts? What evidence and experience from different regions might contribute to new opportunities for cooperation on the pursuit of protection and solutions in the coming years?

Join us for this roundtable discussion with academic perspectives from diverse global regions to reflect on these questions and consider possible approaches to navigate both challenges and opportunities in the coming year.

## Speakers

- Vincent Chetail, Professor of International Law and Director of the Global Migration Centre, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland
- Liliana Jubilut, Co-Chair of the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN) and Professor of the Post-Graduate Program in Law at Universidade Católica de Santos, Brazil
- Paula Banerjee, IDRC Research Chair on Gender and Forced Displacement, Gender and Development Studies (GDS) Program, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok
- Sawsan Abdulrahim, IDRC Research Chair, Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- Ishimwe Jean Marie, East Africa Regional Lead, Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT), Kenya (TBC)

## Moderator

- James Milner, Co-Chair of the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN), Co-Director of the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) and Professor of Political Science, Carleton University, Canada

**Global Migration Centre,** Geneva Graduate Institute
Maison de la paix
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2A
1202 Genève
globalmigration@graduateinstitute.ch

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