

Joint Statement by Global Refugee Forum 2019 Co-Hosts and Co-Convenors

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf **the Republic of Costa Rica, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Türkiye, the Swiss Confederation, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.**

Since the inaugural Global Refugee Forum in 2019, we have been pleased with the collective momentum that has been built. We appreciate the work of governments and other stakeholders in actualizing the Global Compact on Refugees through comprehensive responses, implementing many of the commitments made, and advancing high-impact good practices.

As we pass the mantle on to the next cohort, we would like to share the following reflections:

The state of global displacement, surpassing 103 million people, speaks volumes, as do the challenges – from a climate emergency growing at an alarming pace, to the pandemic exacerbating difficult human and socio-economic realities, to acute and protracted conflicts keeping far too many people uprooted. Long-term investment in prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts and facilitating solutions is urgently needed.

The Global Compact on Refugees has provided a blueprint for sharing the burden and responsibility through a whole-of-society approach, fostering refugee self-reliance, and facilitating durable solutions. It helped to encourage and operationalize these efforts, including through the Global Refugee Forum.

Notable progress has been made since the first Forum. 1,600 pledges are now recorded, the majority of which are in progress. In spite of the challenges since 2019, this level of engagement has proven the unshaken commitment by 614 pledging entities from 133 countries, 481 organizations, and 15 stakeholder groups.

While a number of pledges have been fulfilled, we need to implement the remaining pledges made. We also encourage States and other stakeholders to be bolder and more ambitious in developing new pledges and commitments next year. We echo UNHCR's call to prioritize quality engagement over the quantity of pledges. We must continue to focus on impact and the areas that still require our attention.

The impacts of the pandemic and the global economic crisis make the task ahead more challenging, particularly for low and middle-income countries hosting the majority of the world's refugees. We need to remain focused on the most vulnerable. Global support for refugees and host communities must and will continue – through comprehensive responses underpinned by current pledges brought to fulfilment, and propelled by the development of new, impactful joint commitments to advance the vision of the GCR in refugee situations.

Since the first GRF, there has been a growing call to address root causes of conflict and cooperate through the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. As we have heard over the past two days, much progress has been made in development cooperation in displacement contexts. The regional support platforms launched in 2019 also have galvanised attention and support. Yet more can, and must, be done to ensure that old crises are resolved, and new ones do not become protracted.

We are pleased by the growing commitment to ensure that host countries' policy pledges are supported financially, materially, and technically. We remain hopeful that the next GRF will be an important platform for new matches to be announced and implemented. We encourage States and other actors to redouble their efforts to match pledges – to demonstrate burden and responsibility sharing at the heart of the GCR.

It has been an honour serving as co-hosts and co-convenors in the context of the first GRF, and we reaffirm our sustained commitment and support. We wish the next cohort of co-convenors and co-hosts much prosperity in their leadership of the next Global Refugee Forum.

Thank you.