

Global compact on refugees: from Draft 1 (9 March) to Draft 2 (30 April)

Summary of main changes

1. In line with the iterative approach, UNHCR has taken into account statements made at the formal consultations as well as written submissions.
2. The main changes have been highlighted below. Specific text changes and references requested by delegations have been incorporated throughout the document, to the extent possible. Some of these proposed changes are not necessarily in the sections indicated, but for overall coherence purposes have been accommodated elsewhere in the text.
3. Generally, a number of footnotes have been deleted, as requested by some delegations.
4. Age, gender and diversity considerations have been further strengthened throughout the text, including references to those with disabilities.

Introduction

5. The basis on which refugees flee their homes has been more explicitly grounded in international and regional law and instruments, as applicable.
6. A new section has been included entitled “Guiding principles”, as requested by some delegations, including more precise references to relevant human rights instruments, as well as the humanitarian principles (A/RES/46/182 and others) and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The non-political and fundamentally humanitarian nature of the global compact is emphasized. Language from the annual UNHCR “omnibus” resolution has been used both to acknowledge the contributions made by non-parties to refugee instruments, while also calling for States to consider acceding to these instruments or removing reservations.
7. The objectives of the global compact (now para 7) have been modified to reflect para 18 of the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF).

Part A (Mechanisms for burden and responsibility sharing)

8. It is clarified that in implementing these mechanisms, efforts will be made to avoid duplication; at the same time these mechanisms must necessarily go beyond “business as usual”.
9. The proposed global refugee summits have been renamed “the Global Refugee Forum”. The review and stocktaking aspects of these events has been strengthened (also in Part IV), and it is clarified that they would be co-hosted and co-convened by States, together with UNHCR. Their periodicity has been changed to accommodate those who think every three years is too short, and five years too long.
10. More detail is proposed on the functioning of the Support Platforms (removing “global” from the name to reflect their context-specific nature), as well as on regional and subregional approaches. It is emphasized that national arrangements are determined by host countries. The reference to solidarity conferences has been streamlined, emphasizing that this is one tool of many that may be available to Support Platforms. The reference to country or region-specific compacts has been removed in the interests of simplification and clarity.
11. Funding: the section on contributions by the private sector has been particularly strengthened.
12. “Multi-stakeholder approach” has been amended to also include partnerships, with more detail added on humanitarian and development actors, the UN system, national parliamentarians, and the role of UNHCR; as well as clarifying that local actors are to be supported consistent with national arrangements.

13. Data and evidence: references to data protection and data privacy have been strengthened, and further detail provided on the process envisaged for “measuring impact” the impact of hosting refugees.

Part B (Areas in need of support)

Introduction

14. The chapeau has been strengthened to ensure that easing pressure on host countries (and not adding to them) is a key objective of the compact as a whole, and that all support measures are on request of a host country and are not intended to be prescriptive.

Reception and admission

15. Many sections have been strengthened and adjusted to reflect comments from delegations.
16. The primacy of State responsibility in the safety and security section has been emphasized.
17. The basis on which refugees flee their homes is explicitly grounded in international and regional law and instruments, where these are applicable.
18. The scope of group-based protection has been clarified, and it is noted that this option is available where considered appropriate by the State. Further detail has been included on the asylum capacity support group, while this overall section has been shortened.

Meeting needs and support communities

19. The chapeau has been redrafted to better explain the links between the 2030 Agenda and the global compact, in light of the views expressed by some delegations.
20. There are two new sections on children and social cohesion, as requested by some delegations. The quality of both health and education has been emphasized.

Solutions

21. The chapeau further clarifies the relationship between the solutions section and Part A (the mechanisms for burden and responsibility sharing).
22. The section on voluntary repatriation has been adjusted, emphasizing that it draws on good practices, past experience and the realities of effecting voluntary repatriation under conditions that will ensure safety, dignity and sustainability. Support for countries of origin would be provided on their request. The good practice of using tripartite agreements in some circumstances is noted. References to cash assistance for returnees and age and gender-responsive support have been included.
23. Resettlement: the scope of the three-year strategy – which will also include other pathways for admission – has been clarified; and it is noted that the numerical targets are good practices for which contributions are encouraged. Coherence is sought with existing multilateral resettlement architecture.
24. The local solutions section has been adjusted to include age and gender considerations, and reference to social cohesion.

Follow-up and review

25. The supportive and catalytic role of UNHCR in mobilizing follow-up to the global compact is clarified.
26. Explicit reference is made to participation of refugees in the Global Refugee Forum.

UNHCR
30 April 2018