
Informal Briefing on the Global Refugee Forum

Palais des Nations, Geneva – 13 May 2019

Summary of discussions

I. Introduction

1. The Global Compact on Refugees, affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, called on the High Commissioner for Refugees, in consultation with States and other stakeholders, to convene a periodic Global Refugee Forum for all United Nations Member States, together with relevant stakeholders, to announce concrete pledges and contributions (hereinafter ‘contributions’) towards of the objectives of the Global Compact.¹
2. On 13 May, the Office convened an informal briefing for UN Member States and other relevant stakeholders to prepare the Global Refugee Forum. It focused on the development of contributions and good practices in the lead-up to the Global Refugee Forum, and on the co-sponsorship arrangements.
3. Around 300 representatives from States, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, together with experts and refugees, participated in a constructive discussion.
4. This summary does not necessarily represent the views of individual participants or UNHCR, but reflects broadly the themes and understandings emerging from the discussion.

II. General discussions

5. The Global Refugee Forum was recognized not as a conventional pledging conference, but rather as a key opportunity to further the objectives of Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) by showcasing good practices, mobilizing contributions from many actors, and putting in place the architecture for the implementation of the GCR for the years to come.
6. The presentation on the development of contributions and good practices and on the six areas of focus for the first Global Refugee Forum – contained in the Guidance Note on Pledges and Contributions and Good Practices – was well received. The fact that contributions and good practices could be shared outside the six areas of focus was welcomed. Several participants noted that submitting and publicizing contributions and good practices early in the process would be instrumental in inspiring the development of joint pledges. Additional information was requested regarding the means by which the contributions and good practices would be announced at the Global Refugee Forum, and by which they would be tracked going forward.
7. The presentation of the concept of co-sponsorships was recognized as providing a useful vehicle for the development of strategic and impactful contributions and for the engagement of a broad set of actors in the preparations for the Forum. Several participants requested additional information on the co-sponsorship process, and on the engagement of other stakeholders – in

¹ Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Part II, Global Compact on Refugees (A/73/12 (part II), paragraph 7.

particular private sector entities, civil society organizations, and refugee communities – in the lead-up to the Global Refugee Forum, including through the co-sponsorship arrangements.

III. Follow-up

1. UNHCR continues to welcome feedback on the preparations towards the Global Refugee Forum. This can be sent to the Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team at hqgrf@unhcr.org.
2. The next preparatory meeting will take place on 25 June 2019, with a focus on the organizational arrangements and the structure of the first Global Refugee Forum.