

Fourth Informal Briefing on the Global Refugee Forum (14 December 2020)
NGO Statement

- Dear Chair,
- Thank you for giving another opportunity to NGOs to express, collectively, their perspectives on the follow-up to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), one year after its first iteration.
- NGOs welcome the agenda item on the progress under the six thematic areas of focus.
- Under Protection Capacity, we recognized the recent progress on the Asylum Capacity Support Group made through the release of various concrete documents, notably explaining the working modalities. We also welcome the opportunity to engage on this mechanism at the recent UNHCR-NGO Asylum/Refugee Status Determination virtual retreat.
- Although the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed challenges this year and will certainly continue for the next year, NGOs call on all stakeholders to effectively implement their pledges made under Protection Capacity, Solutions and in the other areas.
- On access to Solutions specifically, NGOs would like to highlight the importance of ensuring pledges related to local integration and local solutions are realized. ICVA and NGOs are ready to engage in such efforts.
- Furthermore, NGOs also continue to call on the resumption of the resettlement departures of refugees and call for more countries to join and increase support to meet the goals of the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.
- We would like to take the opportunity to welcome the recent Strategy's Global Action Plan and the detailed related Actions.
- NGOs would also welcome information on what concrete proposals exist to ensure the monitoring and implementation of statelessness pledges as part of the GRF review process, as well as how this can be more visibly integrated and mainstreamed as part of dialogue on protection systems and root causes in particular. NGOs also note next year's anniversary of the 1961 Statelessness Convention as an opportunity to celebrate progress on statelessness and work that still needs to be done to meet objectives under UNHCR's #IBelong campaign and the ten-year Global Action Plan.
- Additionally, NGOs acknowledge that the Support Platforms recently launched new initiatives, namely: the Two-Sudan Initiative (Intergovernmental Authority on Development Support Platform); the San Salvador city Declaration in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework Support Platform); and the high-level consultation in the lead-up to the 2020 Afghanistan Conference (Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees Support Platform).
- Following that progress, we would like to know which mechanisms are in place at national and regional levels to ensure exchanges between the Support Platforms and civil society? Moreover, at global level, how can civil society further engage and inform itself on the work of the Support Platforms, in addition to the informal GRF briefings and the Global Compact on Refugees Digital Platform?
- As pledges must continue to be implemented and progress measured next year, in addition to the approach of burden- and responsibility-sharing, NGOs would like to recall the importance of pledges ensuring an age, gender, and diversity, including disability, sensitive approach, which will also facilitate the meaningful participation of forcibly displaced populations and host communities in all their diversity.
- We would like also to reiterate our eagerness to know more about the roadmap for the follow-up on pledges and contributions, ahead of the December 2021 mid-term review.

NGOs are indeed ready to support “the mid-term review of progress, facilitate regular stocktaking, and sustain momentum¹”.

- Thank you.

¹ §104, Global Compact on Refugees.