

Towards a global compact on refugees: Roadmap on the formal consultations process

Background

1. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016,¹ called for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in consultation with States and other stakeholders, to develop a global compact on refugees.
2. As outlined in UNHCR's roadmap towards a global compact on refugees,² the global compact on refugees to be proposed by the High Commissioner will consist of two complementary parts:
 - (i) the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF), as agreed by States in Annex I to the New York Declaration; and
 - (ii) a programme of action that sets out measures, to be taken both by States and other relevant stakeholders, to underpin the CRRF, support its application and, ultimately, ensure the more equitable sharing of the responsibility for responding to large movements of refugees.
3. The global compact on refugees will be informed by the outcomes of a process that has been pursued in cooperation and consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, in a number of interconnected areas, including through:
 - (i) the application of the CRRF in specific countries and situations;
 - (ii) a series of five thematic discussions, held in the second half of 2017; and
 - (iii) a stocktaking of progress made and lessons learned that identified good practices in refugee responses, actions that are required to bring about the type of response envisaged in the New York Declaration, and areas for future development.
4. As set out in the New York Declaration, the High Commissioner will include the global compact on refugees in his annual report to the General Assembly in 2018, so that it can be considered by the General Assembly during its seventy-third session, in conjunction with its annual resolution on UNHCR.

Formal consultations

5. In line with UNHCR's roadmap towards a global compact on refugees, a series of formal consultations on the draft programme of action will be convened in the first half of 2018. The formal consultations are the last step in the development of the global compact on refugees before it is proposed by the High Commissioner in his 2018 annual report to the General Assembly. The schedule is as follows:

Formal consultation 1: 13-14 February	Formal consultation 3: 10-11 April	Formal consultation 5: 12-13 June
Formal consultation 2: 20-21 March	Formal consultation 4: 8-10 May	Formal consultation 6: 3-4 July

¹ See A/RES/71/1. Further information is available from www.unhcr.org/newyorkdeclaration.

² The roadmap and other background information is available from www.unhcr.org/refugeecom pact.

6. The formal consultations, which will be co-chaired by a member of UNHCR's Executive Committee Bureau, together with UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, will be held in private and will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.
7. The zero draft of the global compact on refugees will be shared with States and other relevant stakeholders by the end of January. Following each formal consultation, UNHCR will share a revised draft of the global compact on refugees, reflecting the key outcomes and suggestions received, which will serve as the basis for the next formal consultations. The expected outcome at the end of the formal consultations is a non-binding document, reflecting a consensus among all UN Member States.
8. Invitations to participate in the formal consultations will be extended to all Member and non-Member Observer States of the United Nations. Specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has established a working relationship will be invited as observers. Non-governmental organizations that have obtained consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or which are a member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), may be invited as observers.
9. Written contributions to the process continue to be invited from all stakeholders and may be sent to refugeecompact@unhcr.org for posting online at www.unhcr.org/fr/writtencontributions.
10. The preparations of the formal consultations will be led by Mr. Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection. Focal points within UNHCR are: Ms. Ellen Hansen (hansene@unhcr.org), Senior Policy Adviser to the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, and Mr. Johan Cels (cels@unhcr.org), Head, Governance Service.
11. Further information on the formal consultations, including an organizational note with registration details, will be made available in due course on the following website: www.unhcr.org/formalconsultations.

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