

# Guidance and Sample Commitments

12 April 2019

## 1. Guidance

As background to the High-Level Segment on Statelessness of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, this document provides guidance to States and other stakeholders on the process of making voluntary commitments which will concretely address statelessness. States and other stakeholders are invited to deliver such commitments on the occasion of the High-Level Segment on 7 October 2019, which will mark the mid-point of the [#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness in 10 Years](#). Regional organizations, international organizations, members of civil society and private sector participants are also invited to make commitments.

### 1.1 Criteria for commitments

Recognizing that the environment for addressing statelessness will differ among regions and countries, it is requested that commitments elaborated be **specific, concrete, measureable** and **time-bound**. This will ensure that action to address statelessness in the remaining five years of the #IBelong Campaign will be meaningful while also tailored to national and regional specificities.

Commitments need to be:

- **Specific.** Every commitment would relate to the implementation of one of the 10 Actions<sup>1</sup> of the [Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014 – 2024 \(Global Action](#)

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<sup>1</sup> The Global Action Plan to End Statelessness establishes a guiding framework of 10 Actions to be undertaken by States, with the support of UNHCR and other stakeholders to: resolve existing major situations of statelessness; prevent new cases of statelessness from emerging; and better identify and protect stateless populations. Sample commitments for States relating to each of the 10 Actions can be found in Part 2 of this document.

[Plan to End Statelessness](#)), or some other specific action to identify and protect stateless persons or reduce or prevent statelessness.

- **Concrete.** Every commitment would lead to a substantive or tangible outcome.
- **Measureable.** It would be possible to assess whether commitments have been fulfilled.
- **Time-bound.** Every commitment would aim to be implemented within a specified time period, where possible, bearing in mind the remaining five years of the #IBelong Campaign – that is, by the end of the year 2024.

Commitments of financial support to UNHCR towards addressing statelessness are also welcome.

Parts 2 of this document set out examples of the types of commitments that meet the criteria above.

## 1.2 Submission and announcement of commitments

- Commitments from States, regional bodies, international organizations, civil society and private sector organizations may be delivered to [hqpledges@unhcr.org](mailto:hqpledges@unhcr.org) in advance of the High-Level Segment on Statelessness, using the forms available online ([www.unhcr.org/ibelong/high-level-segment-statelessness](http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/high-level-segment-statelessness)). For States, these forms should be submitted under cover of a note verbale.
- **Commitments from States and other stakeholders are strongly encouraged to be submitted in English or French, which are the working languages of the Executive Committee Secretariat.**
- Commitments may also be delivered in hard copy directly to UNHCR's Statelessness Section Desk during the High-Level Segment on Statelessness on 7 October 2019 in the Assembly Hall at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
- Delegations making interventions in the context of the High-Level Segment are invited to announce their commitments then. Any other stakeholders wishing to make commitments are invited to submit their commitments in writing in advance of the High-Level Segment. All commitments will be acknowledged and recorded in a publication commemorating the High-Level Segment on Statelessness.
- As preventing and ending statelessness also contributes to the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, **all commitments delivered on the occasion of the High-Level Segment on Statelessness will also be recorded in the outcome document of the Global Refugee Forum**, which will be held on 17 and 18 December 2019.

All commitments to address statelessness delivered on the occasion of the High-Level Segment on Statelessness and at the Global Forum on Refugees will be part of the follow-up to the Global Refugee Forum.

## 2. Sample commitments by States

These sample commitments may be modified, adapted or supplemented to suit the context and requirements of the particular country situation. UNHCR is available to support States at any stage in the process of developing commitments to be delivered at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness.

### 2.1 Sample commitments to prevent statelessness

- By [year, no later than 2024], [name of State] commits to introduce a safeguard in its nationality law to grant nationality to children born on the territory who would otherwise be stateless. (Relates to Action 2 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness.)
- [Name of State] commits to introduce a provision in its nationality law within the next [number of months, before 2024] to grant nationality to children of unknown origin found in their territory. (Relates to Action 2 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness.)
- [Within number of years, before 2024], [name of State] commits to introduce reforms to the nationality law to allow women and men to confer their nationality to their children on an equal basis.<sup>2</sup> (Relates to Action 3 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. This sample commitment also relates to the reduction of statelessness.)
- [Within number of years, before 2024], [name of State] commits to introduce reforms to the nationality law to allow women and men to transmit their nationality to their spouse on an equal basis.<sup>3</sup> (Relates to Action 3 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness.)
- By [year, no later than 2024], [name of State] commits to simplify and improve access to birth registration procedures, including late birth registration to ensure universal birth registration. (Relates to Action 7 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness.)

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<sup>2</sup> Where possible and in accordance with law, it is recommended that such a commitment be made with retroactive effect.

<sup>3</sup> Same as above.

- By [year, not later than 2024], [name of State] commits to ensure that particular groups which are entitled to nationality under law but that cannot acquire documentary proof of nationality are able to do so, by improving access of such persons to individual nationality documentation services. (Relates to Action 8 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. This sample commitment also relates to the reduction of statelessness.)
- [Name of State] commits to accede to and fully implement the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness by [year, not later than 2024]. (Relates to Action 9 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. This sample commitment also relates to the reduction of statelessness.)
- Over the remaining years of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness, [name of State or regional or organisation], commits to work with UNHCR to raise awareness and foster common understanding about statelessness, and to urge States that are yet to accede to one of both of the UN statelessness conventions to do so before the year 2024. (Relates to Action 10 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. This sample commitment also relates to the reduction of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons.)
- [Name of State], commits to implement its obligations under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a manner that is inclusive of stateless persons on its territory.

## 2.2 Sample commitments to reduce statelessness

- By [year, not later than 2024], [name of State] commits to undertake the necessary law, policy and administrative reforms to grant or confirm nationality of all stateless persons and their descendants living in its territory since [insert historical date]. (Relates to Action 1 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness.)
- By [year, not later than 2024], [name of State] commits to simplify the procedures and reduce the requirements for naturalization (for instance, by reducing the required number of years of residence or by eliminating application fees) to make it easier for stateless people to acquire nationality. (Relates to Action 6 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness.)

## 2.3 Sample commitments to protect stateless persons

- By [year, not later than 2024], [name of State] commits to establish a dedicated statelessness determination to identify stateless persons within the territory, grant them protection status and facilitate their naturalization. (*Relates to Action 6 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. This sample commitment also relates to the identification of stateless persons and to the reduction of statelessness.*)
- [Name of State] commits to accede to and fully implement the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons by the end of [year, no later than 2024]. (*Relates to Action 9 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness.*)

## 2.4 Sample commitments to identify stateless persons

- By [year, not later than 2024], [name of State] commits to undertake and publish a qualitative study to better understand the situation of stateless groups and individuals living in its territory with a view to finding a solution to their situation. (*Relates to Action 10 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. This sample commitment also relates to the reduction of statelessness.*)
- By [year, not later than 2024], [name of State] commits to undertake and publish a comprehensive survey to identify the number of stateless persons living in its territory with a view to finding a solution to their situation. (*Relates to Action 10 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. This sample commitment also relates to the reduction of statelessness.*)
- [Name of State] commits to include a question or questions in its next national census to identify stateless persons living in its territory. (*Relates to Action 10 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness.*)

## 3. Types of commitments by other stakeholders

Entities other than States may make commitments in areas of their competence and work where they may advance the identification and protection of stateless persons or the prevention and reduction of statelessness, also in accordance with the criteria for commitments outlined above. A non-exclusive list of the types of commitments that other stakeholders may make include:

- commits to conduct or support research on stateless persons to improve the availability of data on statelessness.
- commits to provide or support legal assistance to stateless persons.
- commits to mainstream statelessness into the organization's work on [children's rights][women's rights][minority rights] [non-discrimination][rule of law][human rights][sustainable development][legal identity] [etc.].
- commits to financially support States' implementation of commitments made to address statelessness.
- commits to financially support UNHCR's work on statelessness.
- commits to financially support other stakeholders work on statelessness.
- commits to conduct fundraising campaigns to support activities that aim to protect stateless persons and to end statelessness.

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