



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

The Global Refugee Forumⁱ Concept Note

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) states that: “A periodic Global Refugee Forum, at ministerial level, will be convened for all United Nations Member States, together with relevant stakeholders, to announce concrete pledges and contributions towards the objectives of the global compact...and to consider opportunities, challenges and ways in which burden- and responsibility-sharing can be enhanced...”ⁱⁱ The first Global Refugee Forum will be convened on 17 and 18 December 2019.

Objectives of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF)

The GCR envisions a number of objectives for the GRF, which can be grouped into three main streams:

1. Pledging in support of the GCR

- **UN Member States and relevant stakeholders** (international and regional organizations, financial institutions, the private sector, civil society, academia, inter alia) will announce pledges and contributions towards the objectives of the GCR, which are to: i) ease pressures on host countries; ii) enhance refugee self-reliance; iii) expand access to third country solutions; and iv) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **Pledges** may take the form of “financial, material and technical assistance; resettlement places and complementary pathways for admission to third countries; as well as other actions that States have elected to take at the national level...”^{iv} Pledges could be made either individually or jointly with other actors.
- Pledges may be guided by the GCR, Part III.B (‘Areas in need of support’).
- A **pledging template** will be developed in early 2019 to support the pledging process.

2. Exchanging and building upon good practices

- States and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to **exchange good practices and experiences**, both with respect to specific country or regional situations, as well as at a global level.^v
- The exchange, as well as the further development of pledges, would be supported by a **digital platform** developed by UNHCR to facilitate the sharing of good practices.^{vi}

3. Stocktaking, following-up, and assessing progress towards implementing the GCR

- The **first** GRF in 2019 will be dedicated to receiving pledges and contributions.
- Subsequent Forums, beginning in 2023, will provide an opportunity both to make new pledges and to take stock of the implementation of previous pledges and progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the GCR.^{vii}
- The following tools will be developed for the first GRF:
 - A report on **measuring the impact** of hosting, protecting, and assisting refugees^{viii}
 - **Indicators** for the assessment of progress against the objectives of the GCR^{ix}
 - A system to **track implementation** of pledges and measure the impact of the GCR^x
- The GRF will also be an opportunity for an update on progress towards the following initiatives set out in the GCR:
 - Activation and activities of the **Support Platforms**^{xi}
 - Establishment of the **Global Academic Network** on refugee issues^{xii}
 - Establishment of the **Asylum Capacity Support Group**^{xiii}
 - Development and implementation of the **Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways** for 2019-2021.^{xiv}

Outcomes

- The key [outcome documents](#) would include a Ministerial Communiqué and a written report providing an overview of all pledges and a summary of the discussions.

Organizational arrangements

- The GRF is scheduled on [17 and 18 December 2019 in Geneva](#). It will be convened every four years at the ministerial level thereafter,^{xv} with high-level mid-term review meetings in between.
- [Ministers](#), the [Secretary-General](#) of the United Nations, as well as [relevant stakeholders](#), including [refugees](#), will be invited to participate.
- A series of [preparatory meetings](#) with States and relevant stakeholders will be convened in advance of the GRF.
- The GCR notes that “[f]orums will be co-convened and [co-hosted](#) by one or more State(s) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’.^{xvi} Modalities for co-hosting arrangements will be determined.
- [Modalities](#) for pledging, good practices, stocktaking, and engaging the whole of society in the GRF will be developed in consultation with States and the relevant stakeholders, including refugees.^{xvii}

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ⁱ The Global Refugee Forum is mentioned in the following paragraphs of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR): [17], [18], [19], [23], [26], [30], [48], [62], [86], [101], [102], [103], [104], [106].

ⁱⁱ GCR, A/73/12 (Part II) (‘GCR’) [17].

ⁱⁱⁱ See GCR, [7].

^{iv} GCR, [18].

^v See GCR, [103].

^{vi} See GCR, [106].

^{vii} See GCR, [19], [103].

^{viii} In accordance with [20] of the 2017 ‘omnibus’ resolution on UNHCR: UN General Assembly, A/RES/72/150. See also GCR, [48].

^{ix} See GCR, [102].

^x See GCR, [103].

^{xi} See GCR, [26].

^{xii} See GCR, [43].

^{xiii} See GCR, [62].

^{xiv} See GCR, [91], [95].

^{xv} Unless otherwise agreed by the General Assembly: see GCR, [17].

^{xvi} GCR, [17].

^{xvii} “The global compact on refugees envisages that the Global Refugee Forum will be a multi-stakeholder event, with particular mention being made of the ‘meaningful participation of refugees, including women, persons with disabilities, and youth’” GCR, [106].