



**Intergovernmental event at the ministerial level of Member States  
of the United Nations to commemorate the 60th anniversary  
of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 50th anniversary of the  
1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness  
(7-8 December 2011)**

## *State Pledges: Information Note*

### **1. Introduction**

A number of States have expressed an interest in using the intergovernmental event on 7 and 8 December 2011 to voluntarily undertake concrete commitments to improve protection and assistance for refugees and stateless persons, in the form of pledges.

At the request of States, UNHCR has developed guidance on the types of areas in which they might, where relevant, consider making pledges.<sup>1</sup> States have also requested a sample format in which pledges may be conveyed. A pledge form is attached for this purpose.

### **2. Formulating pledges**

It is suggested that pledges would be most useful if they are specific, action-oriented, forward-looking and to the extent possible, measurable. States may wish to make individual and/or joint pledges.

### **3. Submitting pledges**

States are invited to submit their pledges to UNHCR prior to the intergovernmental event, by sending the attached form to [pledges@unhcr.org](mailto:pledges@unhcr.org) by Friday, 2 December 2011. Sending pledges in advance of the event will facilitate the process of public announcement and dissemination. However, pledges will remain confidential until the event, unless States agree otherwise. A pledge stand will also be open at the intergovernmental event, where States may submit any remaining or additional pledges.

### **4. Announcing pledges**

It is likely that State representatives may wish to announce their Government's pledge(s) during the plenary sessions at the intergovernmental event. Following their announcement, UNHCR will make the pledges known publicly through internet dissemination and other media. It is also envisaged that after the event, all pledges will be compiled and made publicly available.

### **5. Further information**

Should you have any questions about the pledging process, or require any other assistance, please do not hesitate to contact UNHCR:

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<sup>1</sup> See *Additional Guidance Note to Support the State Pledges Process*, available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at <http://www.unhcr.org/4dee17b89.html>.

