

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES



As the consultation process of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) concludes in Geneva, we urge UNHCR and Member States to integrate three key recommendations into the outcome document. Our recommendations build on previous suggestions made by this group to ensure the Global Compact will 1) enhance responsibility-sharing provisions; 2) build robust accountability into the GCR's objectives; and 3) apply to all refugee situations.

**Recommendation #1: mandate the first Global Refugee Forum to work with Member States and other stakeholders on a fair-share model that can make [responsibility-sharing mechanisms](#) equitable and predictable.**

It is important to remember that responsibility-sharing is a means to an end: to achieve better protection and solution-oriented outcomes for refugees, and to meet development needs of hosting communities. As such, responsibility-sharing is crucial to the success of the GCR. The final draft presents several responsibility-sharing arrangements, such as Global Refugee Forums, National Arrangements, Support Platforms, and Regional and sub-regional approaches. However, there is still no concrete mechanism nor specific and measurable commitment to share the responsibility for hosting, protecting and assisting refugees. The first Global Refugee Forum, to be held in 2019, should be mandated to work towards the development of a fair-share model that can achieve predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, under the leadership of two or more States and with the support of UNHCR.

**Recommendation #2: ensure civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders are actively involved in the establishment of a robust GCR [monitoring and accountability framework](#).**

We strongly support the reinsertion of language on accountability indicators in the final GCR document. We welcome the proposal to hold biannual high-level meetings between Global Refugee Forums, as they can help sustain momentum and highlight progress in achieving the objectives of the Global Compact. However, we still cannot find a shared definition of what the Global Compact will mean for refugees or their hosts. Going forward, it will be crucial to fully integrate refugees themselves, civil society, and other actors on a regular basis to develop a credible accountability system that includes a shared definition of collective outcomes, people-centred targets and key indicators of progress. Similarly, the proposed template for tracking pledges should be designed in a way that captures commitments and cooperation beyond funding. Good practices of inclusive, transparent and accountable national arrangements should also feature prominently at the Global Refugee Forums for stronger, evidence-based accountability.

**Recommendation #3: ensure application of the GCR in all refugee contexts.**

In the spirit of the New York Declaration, we firmly believe that a Global Compact on Refugees should be applied in every situation where there are large numbers of refugees. We strongly encourage States to make explicit references to national protection laws and norms emphasizing that the GCR can be applied to non-parties to the 1951 Convention and regional instruments.

Further, we urge States to acknowledge that most of protection gaps in today's world are suffered by people moving through irregular migratory routes. It is in mixed migration situations where refugees are often unable to access asylum rights and protection that we believe the GCR must provide a basis to reduce this protection gap. Hence, to be relevant, the GCR outcome document should allow for proper access to international protection and solutions in mixed situations.

We hope this set of core recommendations will be considered in preparation for the last round of consultations on 3-4 July 2018. As committed partners, we stand ready to provide additional insights to UNHCR and Member States based on our operational expertise and lessons learned.