



## Virtual Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees Summary

24 November 2022, 15:00-17:00 hrs CET

The fourth virtual quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was held on Thursday, 24 November 2022, bringing together States and other stakeholders to provide an update on the GCR and preparations for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The session, moderated by Ms. Anne Keah, Head of the Governance Service, was opened by the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ms. Gillian Triggs, followed by an update on preparations for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum by the Head of the GCR Coordination Team, Ms. Perveen Ali. Subsequently, aMs. Dominique Hyde, Director of UNHCR's Division of External Relations, presented on the United Nations Common Pledge 2.0, and Mr. Jan Herec, Public Affairs Leader at the INGKA Group presented on the work of the INGKA Group in support of the GCR. Interventions were then made from the virtual floor.

### Opening Remarks by Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ms. Gillian Triggs

Ms. Triggs began by expressing appreciation to all participants for their continued engagement in advancing the GCR objectives, the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, and preparations for the next GRF, which is confirmed to take place from 13-15 December 2023 in Geneva, with an advance day for linked events on 12 December. It will be co-hosted again with Switzerland and co-convened with Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, Niger, and Uganda to ensure good balance between regions and host and donor countries. She also thanked the previous co-convenors, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, Pakistan, and Türkiye for their leadership roles and contributions for the first GRF. It was noted that a handover ceremony from the previous co-convenors group to the new group will take place as part of the upcoming High Commissioner's Dialogue on 8 December.

Ms. Triggs recognized the advancement that has been made through the GCR arrangements towards durable solutions and equitable burden and responsibility sharing, despite the unprecedented number of displacement and emergencies around the globe. She updated that more than 1,000 pledge updates have been received by almost 700 pledging entities representing 133 countries and 567 organizations from 7 regions and 15 stakeholder groups. She recognised many of the fulfilled pledges and good practices from various stakeholder groups towards inclusion, solutions, and self-reliance, including from Colombia, Uganda, Rwanda, Jordan, and Germany as well as non-State actors from NGO Coaches Across Continents, INGKA Group, and Microsoft Philanthropies.

In terms of progress made towards pledge matching, Ms. Triggs announced the official launching of the [Matching Portal](#), which is designed to facilitate and ensure host country policy pledges are adequately supported financially, materially, and technically. A recent match between the Republic of Korea, through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and Burundi in support of the voluntary repatriation of

Burundian refugees from Tanzania was highlighted as a good practice, contributing to one of the key objectives of the GCR to support conditions for voluntary return.

Ms. Triggs underscored the importance of reinforcing the commitment to burden and responsibility sharing by States and other stakeholders through the next GRF to actualize the objectives of the GCR. To do so, it will be critical to address some key challenges and gaps, including limited progress towards solutions, development action, additionality of funding, and broadening the base of support. The upcoming High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges will focus on development cooperation, the results of which will be foundational to the preparations for the next GRF to advance early development interventions in displacement situations.

Finally, Ms. Triggs noted that a successful GRF will include current pledges being fulfilled and new joint pledges developed that are additional, quantifiable, needs-driven, impactful, and pre-matched, taking whole-of-government approaches complemented by multi-stakeholder and partnership approach, and ensuring meaningful refugee participation.

#### **Update on Preparations for the Global Refugee Forum**

Ms. Ali recalled the purpose of the GRF as outlined in the GCR to focus on stocktaking, pledging, and learning in support of comprehensive responses and ultimately the GCR objectives. The GRF will provide opportunities to stocktake on the progress towards the four GCR objectives, including through pledge reporting and the GCR indicator report; implement current pledges and develop new ones jointly that are high-quality and pre-matched in support of the [20 recommendations from the High-Level Officials Meeting](#); and share good practices, opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned to inform future action. All of these are undergirded by the multi-stakeholder and partnership approach and meaningful refugee participation.

In terms of the status on pledges, Ms. Ali briefed that out of total 1,685 pledges made since the first GRF, over 1,000 pledges were updated with progress reports. A quarter of the pledges have been reported as fulfilled, and 323 new pledges were submitted since the first GRF, 58 of which are submitted in 2022 alone. Statistics also showed that States are 11 per cent more likely to report progress than non-state actors, and it would be important to ensure progress reports from all pledging entities to hear about the challenges and give visibility and communicate their work with others.

Ms. Ali noted that statelessness, protection capacity, and solutions were the three areas of focus that received the most pledges, and these areas were linked to the themes from the first GRF. For the next GRF, there will be more GCR-related themes against which to assess the progress. The analysis of the statistics also showed that many pledges were made at the global level, and it would be critical to match them with specific refugees and statelessness situations.

The GRF roadmap for pledge mobilization is well underway, including through the various GCR initiatives. There will be three formal preparatory meetings which will be a key opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to share their views and suggestions for the vision and programme for the GRF and to update on their plans for pledges and initiatives. Quarterly informal briefings will also be organized next year to continue

to update on the progress being made on pledge cultivation and initiatives, make calls to action, and update on the GRF modalities. These will not only build the political engagement and high-level awareness in the process, but also facilitate the planning and shaping of the GRF programme. The next GCR indicator report is planned to be launched in November 2023.

Ms. Ali noted that the newly launched [Pledge Matching Portal](#) will be a first step for any stakeholder to engage in the pledge matching process. Host country policy pledges will be featured on the Matching Portal, and host countries may update their pledges or submit new policy pledges through this portal. Other stakeholders can indicate their interest through the portal in supporting those policy pledges with financial, material, technical, or other form of support. UNHCR will then facilitate the process of formalizing the match.

Ms. Ali also announced that a call for [refugee expressions of interest](#) was launched to facilitate meaningful participation of refugees and refugee-led organizations in the GRF process. Refugees are encouraged to apply to be part of the GRF preparations process, join the [existing initiatives](#), [submit good practices](#), and to engage at the local level by contacting [local UNHCR offices](#). UNHCR's [Advisory Board of Displaced and Stateless Persons](#) is another entry point that serves as formal consultative mechanism to develop GRF programme.

### **Update on UN Common Pledge 2.0**

Ms. Hyde provided an overview on how the United Nations Common Pledge made at the 2019 GRF by the United Nations Secretary-General committed the whole United Nations system to systematically include the needs and rights of the displaced people in their analysis, policies, and programmes – and to work together with governments and local communities to facilitate refugee inclusion in the national systems. A stocktaking exercise in 2021 demonstrated that 15 UN entities had stepped up their efforts to promote refugee inclusion; and saw these entities agree on ten ways in which they can provide stronger and more systematic, technical, and programmatic support at national and sub-national level to include refugees in datasets, plans, and budgets.

Ms. Hyde then described how, under the co-leadership of UNHCR, OCHA and DCO, the UN family is developing a 'UN common pledge 2.0' in advance of the 2023 GRF. This pledge will retain the focus on promoting the inclusion of refugees in national systems, but will also incorporate new strengths, such as a country level element whereby UN Country Teams can define commitments relating to their context under the pledge; and the use of measurable targets to be able to assess progress and define what success looks like, for which costing of resources is required.

A timeline was presented on the co-creation process within the United Nations family, which requires involving key stakeholders, including refugees, through their meaningful, participation at global and country level. Refugee hosting countries and their communities, international financial institutions, and humanitarian and development actors, including donors, are other key stakeholders to support this process.

An example from Türkiye was shared on how refugee and host community women were able to develop marketable skills through a programme by International Labour Organization to access labour market benefiting both refugees and host communities. Ms. Hyde underlined how initiatives like these, of which there are many, with other UN entities supporting in areas such as education, agriculture, health, employment, etc.

have added to the evidence that it is not only possible to include refugees in national systems, but also beneficial to do so, since it enables refugees to contribute economically and socially, in the communities that host them.

### Update on GCR initiatives by INGKA Group

Mr. Herec introduced the INGKA Group and its initiatives to enable long-term positive impact for refugees, including through inspiring the private sector to employ refugees by training and hiring refugees as their workforce at IKEA through the Skills for Employment Program, improving awareness and perception of refugees amongst its staff, customers and neighbourhoods, and engaging policy decision makers in advocacy and policy change.

Mr. Herec noted that by having companies committed to refugee integration, it can change the narrative as well as the perception of refugees in societies, while increasing diversity in the labour market, and fostering innovation of companies and their financial performance. He expressed commitment of the INGKA Group to continue delivering its commitments towards the next GRF and to work towards new commitments and pledges.

### Interventions

Interventions were made by the Governments of Iran, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Uganda, as well as the European Network on Statelessness, Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, Global Refugee Youth Network, NaTakallam, ORCD Afghanistan, Plan International on behalf of the AGD Group of Friends, and Refugee Youth Education Hub.

Interventions:

- called for mobilizing the initiatives to make the GRF successful
- highlighted the GRF as a great opportunity to boost the further implementation of the GCR by mobilizing not only financial, technical, and material support but also policy and regulatory improvements
- suggested broadening the scope of pledges by promoting human right-based approach in line with the GCR's considerations on security, human trafficking, forceful recruitment, and by engaging the new relevant stakeholders
- expressed hope to see the continued implementation of the existing pledges and the development of new one
- referenced the 20 recommendations from the High-Level Officials Meeting as the basis of new pledges for the next GRF
- underlined the importance of taking a needs-based approach to make concrete advancement to improve the lives of refugees and host communities
- highlighted the importance of reinforcing the principle of burden and responsibility sharing as a collective accountability to effectively respond to the global crises of today while ensuring no one is left behind
- reconfirmed commitment to refugee protection
- inquired about the matching process and how UNHCR anticipates its role in facilitating the matching

- requested for more detail guidance on the pledging process and information on the expected outcome of formal preparatory meetings
- shared concerns with regard to meaningful participation of refugee-led organizations and refugees at the GRF and called for improvement in terms of ensuring balance on the representation of the different groups and refugee nationalities as well as efficient logistical support
- reiterated that 2023 GRF is an important opportunity to call for action to end statelessness and to uphold equal nationality rights for all, and inquired what plans are in place in this regard
- suggested ensuring children and youth are covered under the list of areas of focus for pledging
- wished to learn more about the measuring impact process in the lead-up to the next GRF
- pushed for continued implementation of the existing pledges on statelessness
- noted that in 2024, there will be a new initiative, the Global Alliance to End Statelessness by 2030, which will seek to accelerate solutions to statelessness through a collective multistakeholder approach, and pledging will be a central part of the initiative
- inquired if formal and informal meetings can be streamlined in the preparation process
- expressed appreciation for the High Commissioner's recent visit to capital to meet with refugees, private companies, parliamentarians, and government officials, which will facilitate effective preparation for the next GRF
- highlighted its work in many countries with regard to ensuring meaningful refugee participation in policy and decision-making processes and to include refugees as members of the delegation for the GRF to participate and contribute in substantial ways and welcomed new partnerships
- noted the three objectives of the AGD Group, which are to showcase progress on intersectionality and highlight impact through AGD joint pledges, enhance integration of AGD approach in all GRF pledges, and to enhance quality and quantity of pledges promoting refugees' access to services and protection regardless of age, gender, and diversity

Ms. Ali responded as follows:

- UNHCR will be available to facilitate the discussions between stakeholders around matching policy pledges. The Pledge Matching Portal will serve as the first step to show what financial, technical, and material support is needed to fulfil a policy pledge, and stakeholders can also indicate their interest on the pledges they would like to support. It is hoped to see concrete examples of matches being materialized in the lead-up to the next GRF engaging different stakeholder groups who can contribute in various ways.
- UNHCR stands ready to discuss bilaterally with any governments and other actors country-specific roadmaps for GRF and priorities to strategize together.
- On the formal preparatory meetings, the purpose is to provide an opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to share views and suggestions for shaping the political ambition and the outcomes together and reflecting them in the GRF modalities and programme.
- The call for expression of interest for refugees and refugee-led organizations aims to facilitate balanced participation of diverse groups of refugees with a variety of expertise and experience to concretely contribute to the GRF pledges and outcomes.
- Much progress has been made on the topic of statelessness since the first GRF and the related pledges are all reflected now on the Pledges Dashboard and Pledge Matching Portal, and efforts will continue to ensure their implementation along with other pledges towards inclusion, protection and solutions.

## Closing Remarks

Ms. Triggs expressed appreciation to all the interventions made. She took note of the suggestion made by Switzerland on broadening the scope of pledges considering other human rights issues, such as trafficking and forced recruitment, but also in terms of policy reforms and adjustments towards more equitable responsibility sharing in the context of the GRF. She also thanked and noted on the comment from Jordan expressing support for ensuring concrete and precise pledges for the next GRF. She further noted the comment from the Refugee Youth Education Hub on the logistical challenges on invitations and visas and agreed to look into this issue to better facilitate the participation in relevant meetings. The important work of the NaTakallam in supporting resettled refugees was also acknowledged and appreciated. Statelessness was an important area of focus of the first GRF and will also feature as a high priority at the next one. Ms. Triggs thanked Japan for strengthening its role and expressed her anticipation for the upcoming Protection Dialogue, which she will attend in Japan. She took note of the comment made by Iran on assessing impact and gaps and assured to revert on the question along with the GCR Indicator Report, which is planned to be issued in November 2023. Finally, Ms. Triggs expressed thanks to R-SEAT and Plan International for raising an important point on ensuring meaningful refugee engagement.