

Summary of the Third Quarterly Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees

18 October 2023, 15:00-17:00 hrs. CEST

The Third Quarterly Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees was held virtually on 18 October 2023 to brief on preparations for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and to exchange on the multi-stakeholder pledges. The session was opened by the Head of the GCR Coordination Team, who presented on the GRF 2023 programme, protocol, and logistics. This was followed by a demonstration of the new pledge submission form, and interventions from the floor where governments and stakeholders updated on pledges under development.

Summary of opening remarks by Ms. Perveen Ali, Senior Policy Advisor and Head, GCR Coordination Team

Ms. Ali provided an overview of the state of play, as well as the pledging process overall, referring to the several multistakeholder pledges that are emerging, which would serve to advance the eight key outcomes of the GRF. Ali provided a summary of some of the thematic, stakeholder, and situational pledges under development and referred participants to the [dedicated multi-stakeholder pledge page](#) where essential information on the pledges, objectives, and leadership can be found, also reaffirming UNHCR's readiness to support. The page also displays a calendar of meetings planned for the various multi-stakeholder pledges.

Ms. Ali noted that the GRF 2023 programme and important information notes for States and multi-stakeholders can be found on the dedicated GRF 2023 [webpage](#). She reiterated that, due to space restrictions in the venue, delegations are advised to plan that no more than three to five members of their delegation be present on the premises at any given time, where possible, to ensure that participants can meaningfully participate in the high-level events and/or the plenary space and public areas.

Ms. Ali reaffirmed the importance of sharing good practices during high-level parallel events and the Speaker's Corner, as well as on the GCR Digital Platform. She also presented a number of key points related to logistics and protocol, recalling that the plenary will follow United Nations General Assembly rules whereby States would speak followed by interventions by other stakeholders, with multi-stakeholder pledge announcements interspersed throughout. Statements in plenary will be limited to three minutes. Lastly, Ms. Ali reminded that the second GCR Indicator Report will be launched on 17 November 2023 at 10:00 hrs CET, and the final informal briefing will be held the same day at 15:00 hrs CET, focusing on protocol and logistics.

Demonstration of the new pledge submission form by Mr. Radu Barza, Associate Information Management Officer, GCR Coordination Team

Mr. Barza demonstrated the [new pledge submission form](#) for the GRF 2023, which provides an opportunity for pledging entities to indicate the multi-stakeholder pledge(s) that their individual pledge supports, where applicable. A video demonstration of the pledge submission process is being uploaded online. It was confirmed that the matching of pledges can be indicated during the pledge submission process in the form.

Interventions from the Floor

A number of interventions were made from the floor by States and other stakeholders to update on multi-stakeholder pledges under development and to make calls to action.

Ms. Kristine Salle of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines presented on behalf of the [Multistakeholder Pledge on Ending Statelessness](#) to inform that while the #iBelong campaign to end statelessness will conclude next year, we are still far from fully realizing the aspirations of the global action plan to end statelessness. She invited stakeholders to join the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, to be launched next year, and to become a global champion of this alliance and a solution-seeker.

Ms. Siobhán Mullally, Special Rapporteur on Trafficking of Persons, especially Women and Children, spoke to the pledge under development on [the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Victims of Trafficking](#), particularly among refugees and asylum-seekers. The pledge highlights effective prevention mechanisms and protection services ensuring refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons do not become victims of trafficking, and integrated protection services are provided to those who are victims of trafficking, building on the GCR and the Global Compact on Migration.

Ms. Zainab Hussaini from Skateistan presented the pledge on [Sport for Protection and Inclusion](#). She outlined the five key areas where stakeholders can support refugees, as part of this pledge: promoting enabling policy environments, promoting inclusive and safe sport and play, providing opportunities for enhanced participation of athletes, using targeted communication, evidence, and advocacy, and strengthening partnership and coordination efforts. Several stakeholders have already made commitments in these key areas, and mobilization efforts remain ongoing.

An intervention was also made by Ms. Karina Ambartsoumian-Clough on behalf of the multistakeholder pledge on [Advancing Localization in Displacement Stateless Responses](#). Since the last informal briefing, 25 members of the working group have developed examples of commitments that stakeholders can make in cooperation with local actors. She explained that access to funding for local actors remains essential, and there are extensive outreach efforts in this regard.

Ms. Martha Marrazza from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America presented on behalf of the [Economic Inclusion and Social Protection](#) multistakeholder pledge, outlining that the goal is to galvanize concrete commitments from multiple stakeholders to advance self-reliance of refugees and other forcibly displaced and stateless persons as well as host communities. Over the next four years, stakeholders will aim to expand inclusive laws and policies, to address structural barriers to economic inclusion and social protection, and work to access finance and financial services, entrepreneurship, training in protection systems and other issues. Economic inclusion and social protection are mutually reinforcing and contribute to development opportunities for refugees and host communities. She invited stakeholders to participate in a virtual briefing on **2 November at 15:30 CET** (information available both on UNHCR and RSRI website). The United States of America will also be engaging in a number of other multi-stakeholder pledges, including on Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence, Resettlement, Rohingya Refugees, and Climate Action.

Ms. Elise Porby from the Permanent Mission of Canada presented on behalf of the multistakeholder pledge on [Community Sponsorship](#) to expand community sponsorship programmes globally. The Community Sponsorship Framework provides a comprehensive entry point for governments, community organizations, and other actors to pledge initiatives that increase the number, scale, and diversity of community sponsorship programmes globally. This includes pledges to introduce new sponsorship programmes, grow existing sponsorship programmes, link communities to sponsorship programmes for other pathways for protection, and engage a wider set of actors in community sponsorship programmes. It also includes a new proposal for a global sponsorship fund that will be able to provide financial support to groups to support sponsorships. She confirmed that there will also be an online pledging workshop for community sponsorship organizations that will be held in the coming weeks.

Ms. Anita Anastacio from the LEGO Foundation spoke to their efforts in **Early Childhood Development** (Enhancing refugee self-reliance and wellbeing through quality, holistic and gender transformative early childhood development), to call for better financing and encouraged others to support the pledge.

Mr. Ishida Toshifumi from the Permanent Mission of Japan presented the [Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus](#) multistakeholder pledge, which encompasses various development cooperation and peace-related activities. It contributes to the promotion of a whole-of-society approach given that it is no longer

sustainable to solely rely on humanitarian assistance when dealing with the needs of over 100 million displaced individuals. Stakeholders are invited to join the pledge.

Ms. Cinthia Fasani from Miles4Migrants spoke on behalf of the [Family Reunification](#) Multistakeholder Pledge to make family reunification a universally accessible reality. She called for more support and advocacy and confirmed the pledge will be launched on 24 October.

Ms. Andrea Nunez-Flores from Save the Children spoke on behalf of the Alliance for Child Protection and Humanitarian Action, on behalf of the [Child Rights](#) pledge, to ask stakeholders to champion and strengthen a focus on children and their protection within their pledges and to incorporate a child protection lens in pledges and commitments towards education, gender-based violence, food security, social protection, and mental health and psycho-social services.

The United Nations Network on Migration Secretariat spoke on behalf of an emerging pledge on [Developing Comprehensive Responses to the Protection Challenges Faced by Refugees and Migrants Moving by Sea](#). It focuses on clear and fundamental recommendations, with the main pillars including the announcement of a shared legal framework to better define rescue at sea operations and the rights of those in distress; the announcement of national capacities not only in terms of assets but also the development and the adoption of a standard operating procedures with a focus on protection; and the sensitive post-evacuation phase, urging a better defined and agreed normative operational framework.

United Nations Habitat presented on behalf of the [Housing, Land, and Property](#) pledge, which focuses on five areas: restitution of housing, land, and property, particularly for those forcibly evicted and those whose properties have been damaged, destroyed, or illegally sold or transacted; documentation of house and land property rights; comprehensive strategies to access land and housing in areas of displacement and also areas of return and third location; and leveraging technical and material support for these initiatives.

Ms. Hannah Cooper of Oxfam International presented on behalf of the **Meaningful Refugee Participation** pledge from the GRF 2019, which currently has 40 signatories, including refugee-led organizations, governments, foundations, and NGOs, and is focused on ensuring refugees and stateless persons are able to meaningfully participate in the decisions that affect them and their lives. The pledge has specific indicators on accountability, participation, and sustainable resourcing. Additional signatories are being sought for the pledge running up to the GRF 2023. They are working with the Global Refugee-Led Network to support pledge leads interested in ensuring indicators around meaningful participation are included in their specific pledges to ensure participation is truly a cross-cutting issue.

Other interventions were made focusing on the GCR, the GRF programme, pledge submissions process, and queries related to select multi-stakeholder pledges.