

**Global Refugee Forum 2023**  
**Plenary Debate**  
**Statement of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

**Geneva, 13 - 15 December 2023**

**Mr. Patrick Ritter, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein in Geneva to the United Nations**

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**Check against delivery**

Dear High Commissioner Grandi,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the tapestry of our interconnected world, there is a part of human life that demands our immediate attention – the challenges faced by over 114 million individuals who have been forced to leave their homes due to the ongoing impact of war, persecution, violence and human rights violations. On the occasion of the Second Global Refugee Forum, we gather as states in a crucial dialogue about the lives of those who have been forcibly uprooted, seeking safety and protection. Undoubtedly, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, "Leave No One Behind", has taken on renewed urgency in view of our staggering reality. In this context, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to our co-hosts, UNHCR and Switzerland, and the co-conveners for their tremendous efforts in bringing us together for this forum.

Seven decades since its adoption, the 1951 Refugee Convention stands as a crucial pillar of international law. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) provides a valuable framework to complement the Convention's principles, recognizing the need for a collaborative and forward-looking response.

Liechtenstein acknowledges its responsibility, remains committed to assuming its fair share and thus echoes the growing imperative for collective action. In the past, Liechtenstein participated in resettlement programs and, even though not legally bound to do so, also in the EU's relocation program. Last year, Liechtenstein spent more than 3.9 million Swiss Francs on Refugee and Migration Assistance Projects abroad. Moreover, all pledges made in 2019 have been fully implemented. Looking ahead, we are pleased to announce our latest joint pledge today:

The Liechtenstein Government will continue to fund the recently launched second phase of its Language Learning Programme for refugees in Türkiye, totalling up to more than 1.1 million Swiss Francs. The charitable foundation "Liechtenstein Languages" and RET International are our implementing partners. In short, the Programme uses an innovative approach and teaches Turkish and English language skills to refugees residing in Türkiye, facilitating their integration into society, their interaction with authorities and their access to essential services, such as health care and employment opportunities.

Between 2023 and 2025, this project will provide Turkish language courses for more than 4'000 individuals. On top of this, an additional 20,400 individuals, including family members, are expected to benefit from this initiative. As a result, this joint pledge aims at supporting communities in the area of education, fostering local integration and advancing the GCR objectives and in particular the GCR objectives to ease pressure on host countries and promote increased self-reliance among refugees.

In addition, we are proud to report about two good practices that we have submitted to the Forum: Firstly, the establishment of a so-called Learning Hub designed to facilitate the seamless integration of Ukrainian pupils into Liechtenstein's education system upon their arrival. Secondly, the concept of a so-called Integration Dialogue, an annual event aimed at enhancing integration and fostering mutual understanding among all involved parties, especially civil society and NGO participants.

We are confident that these contributions could serve as a model for other initiatives and remain committed to helping those in need.

I thank you.