

We welcome your feedback – please send any questions or comments on this concept note by sending a message to hqgcr@unhcr.org. This is a living document that will continuously be updated in the lead-up to the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025, the second high-level officials' meeting in the GCR process.

Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025

Concept Note

Introduction

This concept note sets out the preliminary proposed arrangements for the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025, the second high-level officials' meeting in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) process, which will take place from 15 to 17 December 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) aims to: (i) ease the pressures on host countries; (ii) enhance refugee self-reliance; (iii) expand access to third-country solutions; and (iv) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.¹ It further sets out a series of arrangements to facilitate engagement and support for these objectives. Key among these arrangements are the Global Refugee Forums (GRF) and the high-level officials' meetings.²

The "Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025" (GRF Progress Review) will build on stocktaking efforts at the country, regional, and global levels to examine progress, strengthen accountability for pledges made, and mobilize renewed efforts toward the four objectives of the Compact. The discussions will also be informed by the findings presented in the third GCR Indicator Report to be released in November 2025, which will provide a data-driven overview of trends and impact.

Priorities for the GRF Progress Review in 2025 include:

- Expanding support for refugees and the countries who receive them;
- Advancing implementation of pledges made as part of the Global Refugee Forums, including through the multi-stakeholder pledge framework;
- Identifying and directing efforts to the areas in need of further support.

In line with the event [roadmap](#), the GRF Progress Review will also focus on accelerating the matching of pledges with resources and actors, while mobilizing new and enhanced support for ambitious policy commitments aimed at protection, inclusion, and durable solutions. It will serve to gather key recommendations and outline the path forward in preparation for the Global Refugee Forum 2027. It will also be an important milestone in collective efforts to strengthen meaningful refugee participation in the GCR process and events.

¹ See GCR, para 7

² See GCR, paras 17-19.

Where and when will be the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025?

The GRF Progress Review will take place at the Geneva International Conference Center (CICG) in Geneva, Switzerland from 15 to 17 December 2025. The meeting will be convened at the level of senior officials and include the participation of United Nations Member States, together with senior representatives of relevant stakeholders in the GCR process. It will be co-hosted by UNHCR and Switzerland and co-convened by the co-convenors of the GRF 2023, namely Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan and Uganda.

Who will be invited to participate in the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025?

United Nations Member States and other stakeholder groups involved in the GCR as part of the multi-stakeholder and partnership approach will be invited to attend the event in-person at the CICG.³

All stakeholders and GCR initiatives are encouraged to involve refugees and refugee-led organizations (RLOs) throughout the GCR process, including in pledge implementation, and to include refugees and RLOs as a part of their delegations to the event. An independent delegation of refugee representatives and RLOs will also be invited to the event based on current engagement in the GCR process and in alignment with the principles of transparency and diversity of participation.

Programme for the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025

The event will center around plenary sessions featuring statements of impact and “spotlight” sessions on key cross-cutting policy priorities, with space ensured through a variety of modalities for multi-stakeholder interventions and dialogue, showcasing high-quality pledges, including matched pledges, and good practices, as well as regional and stakeholder diversity. Additional event modalities will include:

- Parallel side events – The primary ways for GCR stakeholders to engage in side events is through the multi-stakeholder pledge framework – no call for proposals will be issued.
- Speaker’s corner, which will feature persons with lived experience of forced displacement or statelessness.
- Linked events, which are organized independently by GCR stakeholders off-site. Specific guidance for stakeholders wishing to organize linked events off-site will be issued in due course.

The total number of events will be limited due to the prevailing budgetary constraints. Given the limitations, the programme will be designed to ensure regional and stakeholder diversity and balance within a limited number of events by highlighting alignment across the GCR objectives and multi-stakeholder pledges.

Further information on the logistics and protocol will follow in an information note to be issued in fall 2025. UNHCR shared thematic priorities emerging through internal and external consultations at the June 2025 preparatory meeting for the GRF Progress Review, where UNHCR also updated on pledge progress and event preparations (see the [recording and PowerPoint presentation](#)). The third preparatory meeting in September will be an opportunity to further consult on the programme. The fourth preparatory meeting in

³ See GCR, sect. 3.2, para. 3, for a list of stakeholder groups.

November will feature the launch of the third GCR Indicator Report and an update on programme and logistics for the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025.
