

Oral update on the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review

9 September 2025

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This December, two years after the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023, UNHCR will co-host the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review with Switzerland, alongside Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, and Uganda as Co-convenors.

The Global Compact on Refugees, affirmed by the UN General Assembly in 2018, remains our collective blueprint for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing in response to refugee situations. It is a non-binding and apolitical framework, which aims at:

- Easing pressure on host countries,
- Enhancing refugee self-reliance,
- Expanding access to third-country solutions, and
- Supporting conditions for safe and dignified return in countries of origin.

This second high-level officials' meeting under the Compact will be a pivotal moment to reflect together on achievements and assess progress against the Compact's objectives. Over 3,400 individual and nearly 50 multi-stakeholder pledges have contributed to innovative and whole-of-society responses to forced displacement. The GRF Progress Review will also help chart our course toward the next Global Refugee Forum in 2027.

In preparation for December, a series of stocktaking moments have taken place at country, regional and thematic levels. Two global preparatory meetings have already been convened in Geneva since January, enabling stakeholders to share updates on pledge implementation. The next preparatory meetings are scheduled for 16 September and 18 November, the latter coinciding with the launch of the third edition of the GCR Indicator Report.

The Indicator Report serves as the primary tool to assess the progress towards achieving the four objectives of the Compact. Building on insights from previous editions, the 2025 Report will draw on data from the 16 GCR indicators to provide a comprehensive analysis of both progress made and challenges encountered in implementing the Compact.

In light of the current environment, we will not approach this meeting as business as usual and policy priorities to be discussed will be adjusted accordingly. They will include further 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; and directing efforts to areas in need of further support, such as towards conducive conditions for sustainable returns in countries of origin.

Ahead of the event, stakeholders are encouraged to continue making pledges, in particular in support of the multi-stakeholder pledges and to submit progress updates on existing ones, which will help shape the programme and ensure a results-oriented event.

In the first quarter of 2026, UNHCR will issue an outcome document for the GRF Progress Review containing a summary of the event, an analysis of progress made in realizing the objectives of the GCR, the good practices shared, and a set of recommendations to guide us towards the Global Refugee Forum 2027.

Distinguished delegates,

The GRF Progress Review will be held from 15 to 17 December 2025 in Geneva. The three days will feature plenary sessions offering states and stakeholders the opportunity to make statements, interspersed with Spotlight Sessions on key policy priorities and themes. The GRF Progress Review will also feature parallel events and a broader ecosystem, focused on topics which are currently being developed in consultation with GCR stakeholders. Meaningful refugee participation, as well as participation of all GCR stakeholders, across all regions, will be a key priority for the event.

It is more critical now than ever to convene in solidarity with refugees and to reaffirm multilateral commitments. UNHCR remains committed to delivering a meaningful and impactful moment for reflection at the end of the year where we can discuss impact and results, as well as challenges to be tackled together. Tangible progress has been made, and we are approaching the next phase of preparation with strategic focus.

We look forward to engaging with you further during the September preparatory meeting -next week-, where we will present a more comprehensive overview and welcome your valuable insights.

Your continued support and guidance are deeply appreciated as we navigate this critical period.