

## The Global Refugee Forum: Pledges and Contributions Preliminary Considerations

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) states that: “A periodic Global Refugee Forum, at ministerial level, will be convened for all United Nations Member States, together with relevant stakeholders, to announce concrete **pledges and contributions** towards the objectives of the global compact...and to consider opportunities, challenges and ways in which burden- and responsibility-sharing can be enhanced...”<sup>1</sup> The first Global Refugee Forum will be convened on 17 and 18 December 2019.

The purpose of this Note is to set out preliminary considerations for developing pledges and contributions in the context of the Global Refugee Forum.

### What is a pledge or contribution?

Pledges and contributions are guided by the objectives of the GCR, which are to: i) ease 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.

Pledges and contributions could be made at the national, regional, or global level, and could include:<sup>2</sup>

- financial, material, and technical assistance
- resettlement places and complementary pathways for admission to third countries
- other actions that States have elected to take at the national level<sup>3</sup>

Pledges and contributions could also build upon previous or current commitments and processes.<sup>4</sup>

The actual content of the pledges and contributions would be informed by the thematic areas set out in the GCR.<sup>5</sup>

### Who can make a pledge or contribution?

- UN Member States and non-member observer States
- Relevant stakeholders (humanitarian and development actors, financial institutions, UN organizations, international and regional organizations, local authorities, cities, parliaments, civil society organizations, faith-based actors, private sector, academics, sports organizations, refugees, inter alia)

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<sup>1</sup> GCR, A/73/12 (Part II) ('GCR') [17].

<sup>2</sup> GCR, [18].

<sup>3</sup> Such as measures taken by States to strengthen their own laws, policies, and systems for asylum, inclusion in national services, development planning, etc. While relevant for countries hosting large number of refugees and protracted refugee situations, the GCR also inspires areas for all States to strengthen their own systems for asylum and services, and these also could be announced as pledges.

<sup>4</sup> For example, at the global level, see the previous commitments made at the 2011 Ministerial Event:

<https://www.unhcr.org/4ff55a319.pdf> and at the 2016 Leaders' Summit:

[https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/public\\_summary\\_document\\_refugee\\_summit\\_final\\_11-11-2016.pdf](https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/public_summary_document_refugee_summit_final_11-11-2016.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> These thematic areas are reproduced in the Annex to this Note.

## How can pledges and contributions be formulated?

Good practice shows that pledges and contributions are most effective when they are realistic, forward-looking, impactful, specific, and action-oriented.

Pledges and contributions could be presented as:

- **Individual** pledges or contributions made by States or other stakeholders
- **Joint** pledges or contributions by States and other stakeholders towards a common theme or situation (e.g. refugee access to education in a particular situation could be facilitated through a combination of funding, policy development, and technical assistance by different actors)
- **Matching** pledges or contributions (for example, in the case of financial commitments, every amount pledged could be matched in the same amount by a specific donor)

## How will pledges and contributions be tracked?

- A pledges and contributions tracking tool will be developed for the GRF.
- A concept note for this tracking tool will be shared in advance of the GRF.
- The tracking tool could also be used to track pledges made at other events in 2019, such as the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in October.

## What are the next steps?

- UNHCR is available to support States and other stakeholders at any stage in the process of developing pledges and contributions.
- Other regional and global events and processes in 2019 can assist States and other stakeholders to reflect upon key issues that they could address through pledges and contributions at the GRF.
- Further guidance on pledging and contributions will be issued in early April 2019.
- Note that the Global Refugee Forum will also be an opportunity to showcase good practices.

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## ANNEX

Pledges and contributions would be informed by the thematic areas set out in the GCR, such as:

- Introduction, GCR, Part I:
  - International refugee protection regime
  - Climate, environmental degradation, and natural disasters
  - Reducing disaster risks
  - Prevention and addressing root causes
  - Alleviating poverty and providing development assistance
- The arrangements for burden and responsibility sharing, set out in the GCR, Part III.A.2-3:
  - National Arrangements
  - Support Platforms
  - Regional and sub-regional approaches
  - Funding and effective and efficient use of resources
  - A multi-stakeholder and partnership approach
  - Data and evidence
  - Global Academic Network
- Areas in need of support, set out in the GCR, Part III.B:
  - Early warning, preparedness and contingency planning
  - Immediate reception arrangements
  - Safety and security
  - Registration and documentation
  - Addressing specific needs
  - Identifying international protection needs
  - Asylum Capacity Support Group
  - Education
  - Jobs and livelihoods
  - Health
  - Women and girls
  - Accommodation, energy, and natural resource management
  - Children, adolescents and youth
  - Food security and nutrition
  - Civil registries
  - Statelessness
  - Fostering good relations and peaceful coexistence
  - Support for countries of origin and voluntary repatriation
  - 3-year resettlement strategy
  - Complementary pathways for admission to third countries
  - Local integration
  - Other local solutions