

**Eighty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
8-10 March 2022**

**Agenda item 5
Oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection
Challenges**

Talking Points for the AHC-P

I am pleased to brief you today on the preparations underway for the 2022 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, which will be held on 7 and 8 December.

We would like to use this year's Dialogue to advance discussions and initiatives in the area of development cooperation to support protection, inclusion, and solutions. This is an area that holds a lot of promise and where further concerted efforts are needed.

- Development actors play a vital role in displacement settings, from prevention to the onset of an emergency through to solutions.
- The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) reaffirms the role of development actors as part of a multi-stakeholder and partnership approach to addressing displacement and ensuring comprehensive responses.
- Strengthening development cooperation is essential to advancing burden- and responsibility-sharing in support of the objectives of the GCR.
- A number of important pledges were made at the last Global Refugee Forum in 2019 to enhance development cooperation in displacement contexts, providing us with a strong foundation upon which to build further.
- We have an opportunity now, with the next Global Refugee Forum fast approaching in 2023, to consider how we can advance in this area in support of the GCR objectives.

In recent years, a number of key actors have expanded their efforts to enhance development cooperation in displacement and stateless contexts –

- from multilateral development banks, to bilateral development agencies, international financial institutions, the United Nations and other

international organizations, the private sector, parliamentarians, academia, local authorities, civil society and refugee-led organizations, among others.

- We have seen many donor governments put displacement on the agendas of their development agencies.
- Similarly, a number of major host governments have included displacement considerations in their national development planning.

UNHCR also has been closely engaged in these efforts.

- The High Commissioner's recently launched [strategic directions for 2022 to 2026](#) include accelerating efforts to mainstream development engagement from the outset of responses to displacement.
- The High-Level Officials Meeting, convened last December to take stock of progress towards the GCR objectives, emphasized the importance of strengthening development cooperation in support of inclusion and solutions.
- The [GCR indicator report](#), issued last November, made recommendations to advance development cooperation and increase official development assistance to support the GCR objectives.
- And an [evaluation](#) of UNHCR's engagement in humanitarian-development cooperation, released last September, set out key recommendations upon which we can build.

Building upon these initiatives, the Dialogue will consider how development cooperation in support of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees, stateless persons and their host communities can:

- First, strengthen protection as a global public good, including through policy development and support;
- Second, facilitate inclusion in national and local services at all phases of displacement, recognizing that local solutions and inclusion are key enablers of long-term durable solutions (return, resettlement, or local integration); and
- Third, foster solutions, including by supporting the conditions for voluntary and sustainable return.

Participants in the Dialogue will reflect on lessons learned and consider how policy approaches, promising practices, multi-stakeholder and partnership arrangements, and the integration of humanitarian and development assistance can contribute to these efforts.

The Dialogue will (1) put forth recommendations and (2) advance initiatives at the global, regional, and national levels for strengthening development cooperation in displacement and statelessness contexts.

- These recommendations will also inform the cultivation of pledges and initiatives for the next Global Refugee Forum in 2023.

Building on arrangements similar to the last Dialogue in 2020 as well as the High-Level Officials Meeting last December, the Dialogue will be informed by a series of virtual roundtables that will be held during the fourth quarter of the year.

- These roundtables will focus on a set of common questions as they relate to specific displacement situations where development cooperation can advance protection, inclusion, and solutions.
- The roundtables will stimulate reflection on successes, learnings, challenges, and opportunities in these situations.

Building on the outcomes of the situational roundtables, the Dialogue will pursue the discussions on the common questions at the global level at an event on 7 and 8 December.

- The event will be chaired by the High Commissioner and will be livestreamed to ensure a broad audience.
- We hope to convene the Dialogue in person in Geneva, the situation permitting.

We think this is an exciting opportunity for all of us to build on the rich experience and learnings we have amassed in recent years.

Development cooperation right in displacement contexts is absolutely central to what we are working together to achieve with the GCR for all of the people we serve, and we are counting on your feedback, insights, and engagement as we work to refine the concept further in the months ahead.