



Virtual Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees Summary

16 June 2022, 15:00-17:00 hrs CEST

The second virtual quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was held on Thursday, 16 June 2022, bringing together States and other stakeholders to provide an update on the implementation of the GCR and the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The session, moderated by Ms. Karin de Gruijl, Chief of Secretariat, Governance Service, was opened by the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ms. Gillian Triggs, and was followed by an update on preparations for the next Global Refugee Forum and High Commissioner’s Dialogue, by the Head of the GCR Coordination Team, Ms. Perveen Ali, and the Senior Policy Officer on the GCR Coordination Team, Mr. Ziad Ayad. The session was followed by interventions from the floor.

Opening Remarks by Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ms. Gillian Triggs

Ms. Triggs spoke about the release of the [2021 Global Trends Report](#), which announced that the number of forcibly displaced has surpassed 100 million people, when compared to 84 million last year. As the magnitude of forced displacement has increased every year over the past decade and now stands at the highest level on record, there is a need to focus on addressing root causes and identifying sustainable solutions.

Since the adoption of the 1951 Refugee Convention, the number of forcibly displaced people has increased 50-fold from around 2 million in 1951, to more than 100 million people today, growing further in the context of the most recent crisis in Ukraine. Ms. Triggs spoke to the strong demonstration of international solidarity and responsibility sharing by the countries and communities that so generously host those not only crossing international borders in search of asylum but also displaced internally. The viability of the refugee protection regime has been reconfirmed by the war in Ukraine as well as recent policies in the European Union, Columbia, Cote d’Ivoire and others. She outlined the criticality of the GCR, given that the poorest, low-income countries continue to host a disproportionately large share of the world’s displaced people, both in terms of their population size and the resources available to them. The GCR was affirmed to help ensure that the countries shouldering the largest responsibility are adequately and effectively supported, and as stressed by the High Commissioner, similar levels of engagement, funding, and solidarity provided for Ukraine be applied to all other crises around the world.

In the context of the normative principles of refugee law, Ms. Triggs expressed concern with the use of externalization by some States as well as the practices by some 32 countries that have closed their borders to asylum-seekers in the context of the pandemic. While the GCR embraces a multi-stakeholder and partnership approach in strengthening responsibility sharing, governments remain at the centre of the refugee response. The first expression of responsibility sharing is ensuring access to asylum, and this must be upheld alongside providing support for major hosting countries.

Ms. Triggs spoke to the collective achievements made since the GRF in 2019, despite the challenges, and the fact that updates have been received on almost 60 per cent of all pledges made; of those received, the vast majority are either in progress or fulfilled. She outlined some examples of strong fulfilled pledges, such as those of the Jordan River Foundation Social Enterprise, the European Chamber (CCI) network, the League of Arab States, Türkiye, Nigeria, the International Bar Association, the Great Step Initiative, the Amal Alliance, Kiva, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network. She commended the solidarity in the context of Ukraine and stressed the need to ensure that other acute and protracted crises are not neglected. Ms. Triggs reiterated both the importance and impact of multi-stakeholder engagement in bringing the GCR to life for refugees and host communities and called on all partners to be bold and forward-thinking, and to continue to invest in responsibility sharing.

Related to pledge mobilization towards GRF 2023, Ms. Triggs spoke to the invaluable role of multi-stakeholder engagement, including NGOs, civil society, faith-based organizations, refugees and refugee-led organisations, and others in refugee responses. She noted that the next 18 months will be dedicated to implementing current pledges and mobilising new ones in a manner that is focused on quality over quantity, building on the momentum from GRF 2019 and showcasing progress made. She outlined that [the 20 high-level recommendations](#) and associated actions made at the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) will serve as the foundation for pledge development.

Ms. Triggs spoke to the forthcoming High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges focused on strengthening the role of development cooperation in advancing protection, inclusion, and solutions for refugees, internally displaced people, stateless people, and returnees. She explained that while it will serve as an important policy dialogue, it also offers an opportunity to strengthen or craft development initiatives. She referred to the ongoing engagement with global and regional development actors, including the international financial institutions, in the context of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, stressing the value of collaboration with these groups to support refugees and host communities.

[Update on Preparations for the Global Refugee Forum and High Commissioner's Dialogue](#)

Ms. Ali provided an update on the [roadmap leading up to the next GRF in 2023](#) outlining the envisaged chronology of events and milestones since the release of [the HLOM Outcome Document](#) in Q1 2022 and the forthcoming release of official pledging guidance and development of the various regional, thematic, and stakeholder specific pledge cultivation strategies.

Mr. Ayad provided an update on the **state of pledge implementation** noting that of the 1,630 pledges, some 930 updates have been provided, 259 of which were made this year (109 were first-time updates). Of the updates received, 24 per cent of pledges are fulfilled, 69 per cent are in progress, and seven per cent are in the planning phase. Of the updates received, some 40 per cent had reported being age, gender, and diversity (AGD)-sensitive. Mr. Ayad commended the various regions in terms the submission of updates with 76 per cent of global pledges having been reported, followed by Europe and MENA at 60 per cent. He reaffirmed the importance of pledge submissions, including those received outside of the semi-annual reporting period, to inform analysis, maintain momentum, and inspire future pledging.

Mr. Ayad stressed that **pledge mobilization** will be driven by the 20 recommendations made at the HLOM, the lessons learned, and progress to date. He called for an increased focus on coordinated, multi-stakeholder joint pledges as well as high-quality concrete individual pledges. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for a stronger distinction between new, additional pledges and good practices and existing programmes.

Mr. Ayad then outlined some **considerations for developing new pledges**, including that high quality pledges would be new, additional, quantifiable/measurable, multi-stakeholder, impactful/needs-driven, prioritise matching, innovative, meaningfully involving refugees, AGD-sensitive, and coordinated around common priorities. In this same regard, Mr. Ayad referred to regional, thematic, and stakeholder-specific pledge and initiative development plans over the next 18 months. He emphasized that these plans will be developed jointly with States and other stakeholders and will be updated on a rolling basis as priorities evolve. There is a need for upscaled work in terms of **matching** financial, material, and technical pledges with host country policy pledges, building on a UNHCR assessment of existing matches, which garnered several lessons learned. UNHCR will be focused on facilitating pre-matching and ex-post facto matching also through the launch of a dedicated matching portal aimed at systematizing and digitizing matching opportunities.

Ms. Ali then provided an overview on **plans for multi-stakeholder mobilization** towards pledge development, based on lessons learned from the six co-sponsorship groups in 2019, building on the more than 20 strategic initiatives currently underway, developing new groups of friends where needed (for example in health), and involving cross-cutting themes such as child rights, AGD, and meaningful refugee participation in pledge development. She noted that these initiatives would be focused mainly on joint pledges and the mobilization of support. Periodic opportunities for exchange and briefings will be organised to enable the initiatives to provide an update on progress and make calls to action. To initiate this process, a call for expressions of interest in development of pledges around particular themes would be made in Q2 this year by way of a simple form on the Digital Platform. Based upon these responses, stakeholders would be invited to join initiatives or groups to develop targeted roadmaps for pledge development by theme/initiative, including by engaging cross-cutting reference groups.

Ms. Ali then provided an update on **preparations for the High Commissioner's Dialogue** aimed at discussing, in a more informal setting, emerging protection issues and working jointly towards solutions. This year's event, which will be held on 07-08 December in-person in Geneva, will focus on development cooperation. In the lead-up to the Dialogue, from September to October, a series of small preparatory roundtables on specific displacement/statelessness situations will be held in each of the regions to discuss challenges, good practices,

and identify opportunities. The outcomes of the discussions will be brought to Geneva to inform the Dialogue in December to help identify practical solutions and initiatives. The Dialogue will be focused around three themes: early action (enhancing development cooperation at the onset of an emergency), inclusion (the role of development cooperation in facilitating inclusion in national systems), and solutions (role of development cooperation in unlocking different forms of solutions). The question of protection will be cross-cutting throughout. A series of spotlight sessions, side-events, innovation labs, and exhibitions are planned to be held during the Dialogue linked to these three themes.

Interventions from the Floor and Closing Remarks

Interventions were made by Germany, Mexico, Switzerland, the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, the European Network on Statelessness, the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN), the Global Refugee-led Network (GRN), the Global Refugee Youth Network, the Great Step Initiative, Humanity First Canada, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, and a refugee representative from Kakuma.

Interventions:

- welcomed the continued focus on development actors and working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, inquiring about the role of peace actors
- welcomed enhanced engagement in terms of matching, also in the context of gender-based violence, and inquired about the interface between the 20 recommendations from the HLOM and pledging priorities
- spoke to a recently issued report around the topic of mobility, stressing that human mobility could be part of the solution, as evidenced by the situation in the Ukraine
- commended the recently launched NGO Reference Group and efforts towards multi-stakeholder engagement, reiterating the importance of regional institution being more closely involved in pledging
- expressed appreciation for the processes leading up to the next GRF including the Dialogue and inquired about the MIRPS and process for follow-up
- spoke to the importance of reinforcing collaboration with refugee-led organizations as well as the meaningful participation of refugees both in processes and events in the context of the GCR and GRF, emphasising that refugees need to be involved in both design and solution identification
- reaffirmed the importance of higher education as well as the need for more efforts around the recognition of documentation
- spoke to the work being done in the area of academia in line with paragraph 43 in the GCR and expressed hope the GAIN network will expand further with more Sérgio Vieira de Mello (SVDM) Chairs aimed at promoting South-South Dialogue and cooperating with people with lived experiences
- reiterated the importance of complementary pathways and encouraged that matching be focused on urgent themes and regions

In response, Ms. Triggs strongly reaffirmed the need for effective meaningful refugee participation, stressing UNHCR's commitment in this area. She commended the strong messaging around education, referring to the

work that has been done by the SVDM Chairs and is keen on seeing a better linkage between the Global North and South. She reaffirmed the importance of ensuring more refugees have access to higher education and noted we need to do much more in this area. In terms of documentation, she took note of criticality both in terms of education and employment.

In terms of root causes and the role of peace actors, she reaffirmed UNHCR's work in this area and the importance of ending conflicts in the displacement context as well as related consequences including gender-based violence, trafficking, and the impact on children. Ms. Ali complemented by noting that this will be discussed at the Dialogue with the view of more matching in terms of peace-building support.

Ms. Triggs acknowledged the strong support for matching, calling for more engagement in this area also in the form of joint pledges. Ms. Ali stressed the need for more multi-stakeholder engagement in terms of matching, at all levels, and elaborated further on the NGO Reference Group, calling on partners to use these networks to advance their contributions towards GCR and GRF implementation. Ms. Triggs spoke to the fact that UNHCR's Global Strategic Priorities almost all have strong protection components, and all are directly relevant to the Compact.