

Statement to announce UN common pledge 2.0 in closing plenary of HC Dialogue, December 2022

It is my great pleasure to announce that the UN family will present a **UN Common Pledge 2.0** at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. This pledge is inspired by and builds on pledges made by the UN Secretary-General and the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator in 2019 (and echoed in a sister pledge announced by UNICEF's Executive Director on behalf of the UN development group).

The UN Common Pledge 2.0 is focused on refugee inclusion and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. It will see the UN family draw more systematically on all its various capacities and areas of expertise to better support refugee hosting countries to strengthen and extend their national systems to include refugees. For example, leveraging UNICEF's capacities to support local schools in refugee hosting areas so that refugee children and host community children can learn together, side by side. Leveraging the capacities of the International Telecommunications Union, to get refugee hosting areas better connected. The International Labour Organisation to enhance refugees' access to decent work – so that they can contribute economically to the communities that host them. And the list goes on – I can't possibly do justice here to all the many strengths that the 20+ UN entities participating in the pledge will bring to this collective effort.

Even more exciting: the UN common pledge 2.0 offers a fantastic opportunity for UN Country Teams to develop, strengthen and make further real progress on refugee inclusion through country-specific, collective commitments, under the leadership of Resident Coordinators. And the uptake has been impressive so far – requests to know more are coming in daily from UN Country Teams in all regions.

The co-creation process for the Pledge is co-led by DCO, OCHA and UNHCR, and will kick off with an Innovation Lab in January 2023. The lab will convene UN focal points (country and global level) and other stakeholders, along with an expert group of refugees, to start defining measurable goals under the pledge. News and updates will be posted on the UN common pledge page of the GRF digital platform.