

Joint Statement by 2023 GRF Co-Hosts and Co-Convenors

Colombia, Japan, Jordan, France, Niger, Switzerland, Uganda and UNHCR extend our deep gratitude to the preceding co-convenors of the Global Refugee Forum – Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, Pakistan, and Türkiye. Your leadership has mobilized an impressive level of constructive engagement by all stakeholders in realizing the vision of the Global Compact on Refugees. We also commend all States and other actors for their sustained commitment over the last three years.

The momentum generated since the first Forum is truly impressive, and we have the opportunity with this next one to build upon it further. We recognize and appreciate the significant progress made by the international community in producing more than 1,600 pledges and many initiatives to advance the principle of burden and responsibility sharing central to the compact. We have seen global solidarity in action to ease the pressure on host countries, to enhance refugee self-reliance, to expand access to third-country solutions, and to support and facilitate the conditions for voluntary repatriation to countries of origin, in safety and dignity.

While we take pride in our achievements, we must also remain cognizant of the enduring gaps and areas in need of support in the world beset by unprecedented trends of displacement, with more than 103 million people displaced. Continuation of this alarming upward trend requires each one of us to respond earnestly to the call to do more – to go beyond the implementation of the existing pledges and initiatives – to truly bring the comprehensive approach to refugee situations to life.

This means that we need to reinforce and support comprehensive responses – whole-of-government approaches underpinned by a whole-of-society engagement. We need a reinvigorated commitment to finding solutions. It is essential that we diversify and broaden the base of support, strengthen synergies between humanitarian and development interventions, and identify innovative approaches to financing for refugee situations.

Pledges in support of comprehensive responses need to be additional and based on identified needs. We urge that commitments be concrete and quantifiable, building on progress made, advancing good practice, and capable of demonstrating meaningful impact in the lives of refugees and host communities. Pledges ultimately need to come together to advance the goals of the GCR – translating global, regional, and national commitments into focused, practical action and clear results in large-scale refugee situations.

The twenty recommendations from the High-Level Officials Meeting were identified as a result of our collective stocktaking. These recommendations show us the way forward as we prepare for the next Global Refugee Forum – here implementation of current pledges and cultivation of new ones are needed the most. We encourage all governments and other stakeholders to ensure that these remain the foundation of new, additional, high-quality commitments as we look ahead to the coming year.

Let us all recommit ourselves to get behind the Compact. It provides us with a blueprint to ensure that host communities get the necessary support and that refugees have access to protection, inclusion, and solutions in line with their needs. We all have a role to play in ensuring protection, assistance, and opportunity in exile, while never relenting in the search for solutions and the peace and safety that would remove obstacles to return.

Let us each play our part to make real and transformational improvements in the lives of refugees and their host communities. It is in our common interest, and more urgent than ever, that we promote and achieve sustainable solutions leading to peace and better future for all of us.

We thank you.