

## Ninety-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee

24-26 March 2026

### Oral update on the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review and implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees

1. The Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025 took place from 13 to 15 December 2025 in Geneva. It was co-hosted by Switzerland and UNHCR, and co-convened by Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, and Uganda, together with UNHCR. Serving as the principal stocktaking moment to review implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees at the midway point between the 2023 and 2027 Global Refugee Forums, the Progress Review facilitated the assessment of progress toward the Compact's four objectives; reviewed implementation of pledges made since 2019; identified gaps to be addressed; and set strategic direction toward the next Global Refugee Forum in 2027.

2. The event brought together approximately 1,500 participants, including 260 individuals with lived experience of displacement or statelessness, representing the highest level of participation by refugee and stateless delegates in any meeting held in the context of the Global Compact on Refugees to date, at approximately 17.5 per cent. The event saw representation from a broad range of actors, including Member States, local authorities, civil society, refugee-led organizations, international financial institutions, academia, the private sector, and faith-based actors, reflecting the whole-of-society approach called for in the Compact.

#### I. Key developments and findings

3. Stakeholders acknowledged significant progress since the first Global Refugee Forum, including with respect to expanded inclusion of refugees in national systems, strengthened protection frameworks, the emergence of transformative multistakeholder pledges, and broadened engagement across sectors. The number of pledging entities has more than doubled since 2019, and the Compact's indicator framework supports more systematic monitoring across 16 indicators.

4. At the same time, the event underscored that progress remains uneven and increasingly fragile. Declining predictable and flexible financing, rising operational pressures on major refugee-hosting countries, and growing political polarization threaten recent advances in inclusion, self-reliance, solutions, and asylum system integrity. National systems are already under strain as a result of conflict, climate impacts, and economic pressures, with insufficient responsibility-sharing to meet growing needs.

5. Stocktaking undertaken ahead of the event found that many pledges, particularly host-country policy pledges, require additional financial, technical, and political support to achieve intended outcomes. Since the second Global Refugee Forum in 2023, pledging entities have reported financial disbursements of at least \$2.6 billion; however, pledge matching remains inconsistent, and significantly upscaled support is needed to maintain support for host countries. The multistakeholder pledge framework, launched in 2023, was highlighted as among the most effective mechanisms for advancing policy change and joint implementation, especially when anchored in national systems, oriented in support of sustainable responses and self-reliance, and supported by clear governance structures.

6. The third indicator report released in November 2025 identified improvements in legal access to work, education, and freedom of movement; expansion of complementary pathways; and growth in locally-anchored partnerships. However, it also highlighted persistent barriers to self-reliance; a decline in resettlement in 2025, following a record high in 2024; limited support for return and reintegration; and continuing gaps in nationally-generated inclusion data. The report reiterated the need for strengthened national statistics systems and more predictable financing for data collection and analysis.

## II. Whole-of-society engagement

7. Local governments, academia, faith actors, and private sector partners presented evidence of growing institutionalization of GCR commitments within their respective systems. Local authorities underscored the need for direct, flexible financing to sustain inclusion at the municipal level. Academic partners reported progress on research and scholarship opportunities for displaced scholars. Faith networks launched new community-based protection initiatives and financing instruments. Private sector engagement expanded through employment pathways, digital protection initiatives, and innovative finance mechanisms, with calls to strengthen safeguards and alignment with national systems.

8. Meaningful participation of forcibly displaced and stateless persons continued to deepen following the GRF 2023. Refugee speakers contributed to all spotlight sessions and side events; seven State delegations included refugee advisers; and RLOs co-led or contributed to multistakeholder pledges. A joint evaluation following the Review noted progress in access and representation, while underscoring the need to strengthen influence in decision-making at national and global levels

## III. New commitments announced

9. More than 30 new pledges were announced during the event, including financial commitments, policy reforms, and thematic support across protection, education, gender equality, digital protection, and durable solutions. New commitments included high-quality pledges from States, private foundations, and philanthropic organizations, alongside additional pledges from refugee-led entities.

## IV. Conclusion: looking toward the Global Refugee Forum 2027

10. During the event, participants identified priority actions to shape the Global Refugee Forum 2027, including strengthening the pledging framework, consolidating multistakeholder pledges, scaling up targeted matching, deepening the engagement of development actors, reinforcing meaningful participation, and strengthening national data systems. Recommendations will be set out in the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review outcome document, which will be released soon and published on the Global Compact on Refugees webpage.

11. The Progress Review reaffirmed that the Compact remains a central framework for coordinated international responses to forced displacement. In the context of the UN80 and humanitarian reset initiatives, the Compact was recognized as an important enabler for shifting from parallel humanitarian delivery systems to nationally-anchored, inclusive and more sustainable responses. There was broad acknowledgment that approaches must evolve and that progress will require concerted efforts from all actors. The event provided a clear foundation for accelerated and outcome-oriented implementation in the lead-up to the Global Refugee Forum 2027.

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