



## Informal Briefing on co-sponsorship arrangements for the first Global Refugee Forum Summary

### I. Overview of the role of co-sponsors and the process

Mr. Daniel Endres, Director of the Global Refugee Forum, opened the meeting by introducing the UNHCR focal points who will coordinate the co-sponsorship groups for each area of focus:

- **Arrangements for burden and responsibility sharing:** Mr. Daniel Endres, Director of the Global Refugee Forum, and Ms. Perveen Ali, Head of the Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team
- **Education:** Ms. Ita Sheehy, Senior Education Advisor, Division of Resilience and Solutions
- **Jobs and livelihoods:** Mr. Ziad Ayoubi, Senior Livelihoods Officer, Division of Resilience and Solutions
- **Energy and infrastructure:** Mr. Jaime Bourbon de Parme, Senior Advisor on the Private Sector, Division of External Relations
- **Solutions:** Mr. Mamadou Dian Balde, Deputy Director Division of Resilience and Solutions, and Mr. Emad Aziz, Senior Resettlement Officer, Division of International Protection
- **Protection capacity:** Ms. Shahrzad Tadjbakhsh, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection

Ms. Perveen Ali, Head of the Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team, provided an overview of the role of the co-sponsors and the process:

- States and other stakeholders that wish to assume a special role in the preparations for the Global Refugee Forum [GRF] may serve as co-sponsors for one of the six areas of focus, focusing their expertise on contributing to the achievement of a broad alliance of support for mobilizing contributions in the key areas of focus in the first GRF.
- Co-sponsors could be engaged in a range of different and creative ways based upon their respective capacities. They could:
  - **Lead by example:**
    - through high-level participation at the GRF,
    - by making contributions towards the objectives of the GCR through financial support, material support, technical expertise, or programmes for resettlement and/or complementary pathways, or other actions, such as policy development, and/or
    - by demonstrating recent good practices and significant contributions that they have made.

- **Encourage States and other stakeholders** to participate at a high level in the GRF, to make contributions and share good practices in the key areas of focus of the first GRF. Co-sponsors could, for example:
    - use their networks to support outreach and advocacy efforts, broaden the base of engagement, and convey key messages related to the GRF, including specific asks and objectives for their area of focus.
    - convene consultations or other events on their topic in the lead-up to the GRF to discuss areas for possible cooperation and develop coherent and impactful contributions that could be announced.
    - share good practices in their responses to refugee situations that highlight needs, challenges and opportunities, inspire the development of contributions, and encourage others to lend their support.
  - **Play a role in shaping the programme** of the GRF, for example through support for organizing panels, side events, or exhibitions related to the area of focus that they are co-sponsoring.
- UNHCR has extended an open invitation to all States and other stakeholders who wish to co-sponsor a particular area of focus.
  - UNHCR will encourage a balanced representation of regions within the groups of co-sponsors.
  - States and other stakeholders may contact UNHCR at [hqgrf@unhcr.org](mailto:hqgrf@unhcr.org) to indicate their interest in becoming a co-sponsor.
  - Confirmed co-sponsors will be listed on the UNHCR Global Refugee Forum website.
  - In addition to refugee networks who may wish to become co-sponsors, selected refugee representatives will also be engaged as a part of each of the co-sponsorship groups.
  - UNHCR will play a facilitating role to help ensure alignment of activities around common objectives, coordinated engagement, and information sharing in the lead-up to the Forum.
  - The focal points will aim to convene the first meetings of the co-sponsorship groups within the coming month.
  - Ideally, co-sponsorships would need to be confirmed in time for the second preparatory meeting to ensure that there is sufficient time to work together towards common objectives for the Global Refugee Forum.

## II. **Introductions to each area of focus for co-sponsorship by UNHCR focal points**

Each of the UNHCR focal points set out the main objectives and possible outcomes around which it is envisioned that co-sponsors within each group would organize:

### **Arrangements for Burden and Responsibility Sharing**

Mr. Daniel Endres, Director of the Global Refugee Forum

## Objectives

- Secure **funding and the effective and efficient use of resources** through strengthening the humanitarian development nexus in refugee responses, expanding the base of financing beyond traditional donors, and identifying opportunities to continue maximizing the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of funding
- Develop **regional and sub-regional approaches** to protect, assist, and find solutions for refugee situations and galvanise support for host communities.
- Ensure **reliable, comparable, and timely data** for evidence-based policies, programmes, and investments that improve socio-economic conditions for refugees and host communities.
- Promote **prevention and addressing root causes**, in line with ongoing efforts in the areas of prevention, peace, security, sustainable development, migration, and peacebuilding.

## Education

Ms. Ita Sheehy, Senior Education Advisor, Division of Resilience and Solutions

### Objectives

- **Inclusion:** Include refugee children and youth in national education systems to ensure that these communities, and those that host them, benefit from increased access to the full cycle of quality primary and secondary education. This will be achieved by including refugees in national and provincial sector plans, programmes and budgets; by leveraging broader partnerships for technical and financial support; and through stronger engagement with civil society and the private sector for innovation and improved education quality for all.
- **Access:** Increase access to accredited tertiary education, and eliminating systematic policy barriers. This will succeed through a combination of access to university studies; technical and vocational education and training programmes; the expansion of scholarship and loan schemes; equitable admissions and fees akin to that of nationals; and the expansion of certified blended learning programmes.
- **Emergency Response:** Provide timely and amplified educational responses in emergencies that strengthen local education systems and facilitate refugee inclusion. This will be achieved through accelerated flexible funding mechanisms; enabling policies; contingency provisions and incorporation in Education Sector planning; strengthening national surge capacity; and aligning humanitarian response with sustainable capacity strengthening in collaboration with development actors.

## Jobs and Livelihoods

Ziad Ayoubi, Senior Livelihoods Officer, Division of Resilience and Solutions

### Objectives

- **Legal Framework:** Support legal change and development of policies that give refugees access to the labour market both legally and in practice. This includes access to work permits, freedom of movement, documentation and ID, recognition of foreign certification or quick issuance of new documentation, access to government services, and access to affordable

financial services and skills development. Private and public service providers, such as Training Institutes and financial institutions, may commit to include refugees in their services.

- **Investment:** Contribute to a higher GDP and job creation. Employ refugees and nationals, considering them in supply chains, and offer them apprenticeships and training opportunities. Governments may support private sector investment by creating business friendly environments, de-risking investment, creating preferential trade agreements, and support to specific sectors.
- **Development Investment:** Development actors, humanitarian organizations, and donors may invest additional resources in local economic development in refugee hosting countries to ease pressure. This includes supporting local and national economic development plans, developing specific sectors and value chains, and implementing poverty alleviation programmes using, for example, microfinance and the Graduation Approach.

## Energy and Infrastructure

Mr. Jaime Bourbon de Parme, Senior Advisor on the Private Sector, Division of External Relations

### Objectives

- **Energy:** Ensure that refugees and host communities have access to sufficient amounts of safe and sustainable energy for domestic and productive uses, including through support for the strengthening and expansion of national energy infrastructure.
- **Environment:** Find solutions to 'dirty diesel', CO2 emissions, plastics, open solid waste burning in refugee hosting areas. Advocate for the inclusion of refugees in climate change resilience and adaptation programming, in particular by international financial institutions and relevant funds (Climate Fund).
- **WASH:** Construct water infrastructure that allows settlements to become connected to a water supply network to avoid water trucking.
- **Health:** Facilitate the inclusion of refugees in national health systems through health infrastructure and national insurance systems.
- **Shelter:** Provide adequate shelter in which refugees can live safely and in a dignified manner.
- **Connectivity:** Facilitate internet connectivity for refugees and host communities.

## Solutions

Mr. Mamadou Dian Balde, Deputy Director Division of Resilience and Solutions

Mr. Emad Aziz, Senior Resettlement Officer, Division of International Protection

### *Voluntary repatriation and local solutions*

### Objectives

- **Voluntary repatriation:** Support countries of origin to remove obstacles **to return, to** enable favourable conditions for voluntary repatriation, and to receive and reintegrate returnees, for example through civil documentation; social cohesion; adequate housing and land; social protection; repatriation cash grants; and good practices around the recognition of nationality

for children born in country of asylum and addressing specific needs of older refugees, refugees with disabilities and youth for safe and dignified return. Specific potential return situations could include e.g., Burundi, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan.

- **Local Solutions:** Support local integration and **local solutions** initiatives, and strengthen the capacity of relevant State institutions, local communities, and civil society to support the local integration process. Specific situations with local integration/local solutions potential could include e.g. Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Senegal, Liberia, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ethiopia.

### **Potential Outcomes**

- Contributions towards the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action; the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework ('MIRPS'); the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees; and the Abuja Action Statement on the Lake Chad Basin.
- Contributions to countries of asylum implementing out-of-camp policies and settlement approaches for refugees.
- An announcement from development actors that their development support will target returnees, hosting communities, and areas of return.
- Support on local integration by states and cities with extensive integration experience, to others aiming to locally integrate refugees but who require technical and financial assistance.
- Support to states to fulfill pledges made in 2011 and 2016.

### ***Resettlement and Complementary Pathways***

#### **Objectives**

- Expand the base of actors involved in resettlement and complementary pathways.
- Expand the size, and scope of resettlement and complementary pathways.
- Maximize the protection impact and quality of resettlement and complementary pathways.

#### **Potential outcomes for Resettlement**

- Establish resettlement programmes in new countries.
- Expand the size of existing resettlement programmes.
- Secure financial and technical support for the establishment or expansion of resettlement programmes in other States.
- Expand the diversity and responsiveness of national resettlement programmes.
- Promote welcoming and inclusive societies that can support the integration of resettled refugees.

## **Potential outcomes for Complementary Pathways**

- Establish or expand humanitarian admission, humanitarian visa, and community-based sponsorship programmes.
- Open up existing or establish new protection-sensitive employment or education pathways for refugees.
- Facilitate refugees' access to family reunification processes and establish expanded family reunification programmes.

## **Protection Capacity**

Ms. Shahrzad Tadjbakhsh, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection

### **Objectives**

- Strengthen early warning and preparedness systems to enhance protection capacity and response, including community resilience.
- Strengthen state justice, social welfare, security, civil registration and asylum/RSD institutions to identify and address the needs of refugees
- Provide support to legislative institutions to strengthen their framework on asylum/statelessness

### **Potential outcomes**

- Government-led plans to strengthen host-area emergency preparedness and absorption are protection sensitive and supported with financial, material or technical assistance.
- Age, gender and diversity disaggregated data informs assistance and protection programmes, including national development plans
- The Asylum Capacity Support Group supports states to ensure national asylum/RSD systems operate with fairness, efficiency, adaptability and integrity.
- National capacities for reception including for the establishment of open reception and transit areas sensitive to age, gender, disabilities and other specific needs are strengthened.
- Alternatives to detention based on appropriate legislation including non-detention of children are provided.
- Refugees have access to civil status systems including birth, marriage and death registration, and housing, land, and property registration and are provided with relevant documentation.
- Access to justice, security institutions and community-oriented policing are strengthened and inclusive of refugees. Legal aid and assistance programmes are in place.

- Programming for the protection of persons with specific needs is in place, including SGBV, Child Protection and programmes for persons with diverse sexual orientation, disabilities, survivors of torture, persons with medical needs and older persons
- Refugee led-initiatives are supported and refugees and host communities participate in national and local plans and initiatives
- Systems for accountability to refugees and affected communities are established
- The 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol (refugees) as well as 1954 and/or 1961 Convention (statelessness) are ratified/acceded.

### III. Discussion

During the informal briefing, a number of States and organizations expressed interest in becoming co-sponsors for specific areas of focus. The following States and organizations confirmed co-sponsorship:

- Egypt – Burden and Responsibility Sharing Arrangements (with a focus on prevention and root causes)
- Morocco – Protection Capacity, and an intention to organise an event on public-private partnerships on Solutions
- Norway – Education, Energy and Infrastructure (with a focus on green responses)
- Algeria – Education
- Finland (specific co-sponsorship group tbd) (with a focus on disability inclusion)
- UNICEF – Education, Protection Capacity
- UN Women – Education, Protection Capacity (with a focus on gender)
- World Health Organisation – Energy and Infrastructure (with a focus on health)
- Save the Children – Education