

Virtual informal consultation on the proposed programme for the 2021 High-Level Officials Meeting

28 April 2021

ICVA's intervention

- Thank you for the opportunity to express perspectives on the proposed programme for the 2021 High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM).
- We welcome the announcement of the launch of the GCR Indicators Report on 16 November, an important tool to review of the Global Compact on Refugees and its impacts. This will give time for stakeholders to develop their analysis of the Report before the High-Level Officials Meeting.
- We also noted several new pledges have been registered on the Dashboard and we appreciate the process is ongoing as well as the launch of the Asylum Capacity Support Group portal and of the mid-term review for the 3-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.
- On the roadmap leading to the HLOM: we see with great interest the four roundtables between November and December as well as the three priorities on 1) broadening the base of support, 2) implementation of pledges and 3) areas in the need of support. However, on the priority 2, implementation of pledges, and "increase opportunities for solutions - resettlement, complementary pathways, and voluntary repatriation¹" -, we would emphasize the need to focus on **all** solutions, including **local integration and local solutions**. In particular given the fact that the outcomes of those roundtables will inform the plenary of the High-Level Officials Meeting.
- On the areas in need of support, NGOs reiterate their eagerness to provide inputs, particularly when it comes to identifying and addressing specific challenges, opportunities, and gaps. Today we also highlight that "***the centrality of protection also guides the overall application of the global compact***²" on refugees in a context, to quote the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, where "*COVID-19 has severely tested international standards of refugee protection*³". Therefore, once again, we call on all stakeholders to effectively implement their pledges made under **Protection Capacity, Solutions**, and in the other areas.
- A few reflections on process: the date of the informal briefing on the outcomes of the stocktaking events is fast approaching and we would welcome more information about how NGOs can contribute to these events and more broadly, how NGOs will be invited to contribute to the HLOM. Moreover, we look forward to further details about the global and regional level stocktaking events to be organized until the High-Level Officials Meeting.
- Finally, on the virtual spotlight session on the role of the Global Compact on Refugees and climate action of 15 December, NGOs are very eager to know more about it and to take part in it.
- Thank you.

¹ *High Level Official Meetings, Proposed programme*, as of 20 April 2021: <https://www.unhcr.org/607965124/>

² §5, Global Compact on Refugees

³ *Solidarity in Action: one year on from the Global Refugee Forum*, 15 December 2020, Gillian Triggs: <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/article/solidarity-in-action-grf-anniversary>