

TOWARDS A GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES
FORMAL CONSULTATIONS 2
20-21 March 2018

NGO intervention on follow-up arrangements (Part IV)
Agenda item 3

Dear Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

This intervention has been drafted following wide consultations with NGOs.

We acknowledge UNHCR's efforts to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation framework designed to measure the implementation of the Global Compact. Including indicators of success, along with a timeline, to evaluate progress is welcome. An improved system for responsibility-sharing is an ambitious objective in a context where contributions remain voluntary, thus requiring a strong follow-up system to ensure accountability, predictability and maintain momentum.

We welcome the various proposed mechanisms to measure progress and impact but would recommend including an annex, bringing together all the different follow-up measures proposed in one document. This would promote clarity, coherence and complementarities among the various measures proposed. It would also help identify interlinkages and gaps and avoid undue duplications and additional heavy mechanisms.

More specifically, we welcome the reference to the 'collective' development, by 2019, of measurable key indicators for the Compact. With less than a year ahead of us, we encourage launching regular consultations with civil society. Several NGOs and inter-agency initiatives have already suggested or are developing indicators and defining accountability mechanisms, which can feed into the discussion. For example, measuring refugees' and host communities' improvement in socio-economic conditions against the SDGs is vital to ensuring no one is left behind. Furthermore, indicators must be specific, assignable, time bound, gender- and age-sensitive.

Of equal importance will be to monitor legal frameworks and policies that create the enabling conditions for refugee self-reliance, including refugees' ability to move freely, live safely, work lawfully and access education, health, and other essential services. We recommend that indicators include States' efforts to fulfil key human rights standards. This way, the Compact will not only measure the cost and impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, but also refugees' contributions to host societies. Moreover, to link this to follow-up processes, we believe that efforts need to be made to measure improvements in refugee welfare, for this exercise to be comprehensive.

At the global level, we note that the Refugee Summits will provide an opportunity to monitor implementation against pledges. But we will still need clarity on how pledges made at the Summits will relate to pre-defined indicators and other mechanisms such as the Platform and solidarity conferences. We would recommend that States provide openly-available, targeted progress reports on their pledges before each Summit. Links between UNHCR's annual reporting to the General Assembly and the three-year stock-taking cycle of the Refugee Summits could be further detailed. The role of the ExCom *vis-à-vis* the follow-up mechanisms also needs to be clarified. Moreover, clearer linkages will also need to

be created between Global Refugee Summits and SDG reviews, along the way until 2030, including human rights and accountability processes.

For specific structures aimed at mobilising support – including the Platform, solidarity conferences and country compacts – collective outcomes, targets and associated follow-up mechanisms will have to be defined. It is equally important to be able to follow-up on pledges made in relation to specific situations, a measure which was present in the zero draft but now removed. Furthermore, development of comprehensive plans at the national and regional levels offer an opportunity to measure progress. Detailing how these plans will be developed, along with its objectives and parameters and related follow-up mechanisms, will be crucial to ensure accountability.

Finally, we note that there is only passing mention of refugee participation in the Summits, the Platform and national arrangements. The Global Summits should provide refugees the opportunity to participate in monitoring progress towards the goals of the Compact, because success will ultimately need to be measured in terms of improvements in the lives of refugees and host communities. We believe the Compact should underline the importance of accountability to affected populations and facilitate refugee participation at all levels, including in decision-making, development of indicators and their monitoring and evaluation. Women, youth, girls and boys, and refugee with disabilities must be systematically included in decisions on how we measure progress on the Compact.

On this note, we thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on the first draft and look forward to continued engagement in the next round of consultations.

A detailed version of this intervention is available on icvanetwork.org.

Thank you.