

NGO statement for GRF Follow-up Third Informal Briefing of 28 September 2020

- Thank you for another opportunity to provide NGO perspectives on the GRF follow-up.
- This is important as **we fear some momentum may be drifting in the process**, particularly in multi-stakeholder engagements. New modes and spaces should be sought, possibly building on the co-sponsorship model. We still need groups to lead by example; share thinking; act as advocates, and keep alive sectoral multi-stakeholder monitoring and facilitation.
- In this line, NGOs commend the recent statelessness retreat as a good example of how to engage NGOs in the post-GRF process. While welcoming today's agenda item on the High-Level Segment, we highlight **the need for statelessness to be more systematically integrated** in the GRF process.
- Overall, on initiatives launched at the GRF, NGOs are eager to be **much better informed about and associated to the work of the three Support Platforms and the Asylum Capacity Support Group**.
- NGOs welcome the new ACSG "guide to working modalities", which recognizes that **civil society is often well placed** to support initiatives aimed at improving national asylum systems. We are eager to exchange with UNHCR and States on modalities to fulfil this role.
- In the current pandemic context, NGOs particularly highlight the need to ensure that COVID-19 is **not used to justify border closures, delay pledges implementation, and deny the right to apply for asylum**.
- We welcome the continued collective work on the **Three-Year Strategy**. In the COVID-19 era, the implementation of relevant pledges should particularly be monitored.
- Finally, it would be useful for all stakeholders to know more about the **GRF follow-up roadmap** mentioned at the last briefing. NGOs **continue** to consider this should include a systematic and predictable approach.