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.