



## UNHCR second informal briefing, the Global Refugee Forum follow-up

Online  
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### Participants:

#### UNHCR:

- Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection
  - Perveen Ali, Head, GRF
  - Caroline Lensing-Hebben, Senior Comprehensive Refugee Responses Officer
  - Sinan Akkurt, Assistant External Relations Officer.
- 300 participants, mostly Member States and NGOs.

Available online: [Agenda](#), UNHCR's [PowerPoint Presentation](#), UNHCR [summary of discussions](#) and [video recording](#).

#### Opening remarks

- Present today: Member States, members of the civil society, NGOs, the private sector, the Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC) and many others including a number of UNHCR staff. It gives us an indication of the continuing momentum for the Global Compact and for the Forum which is absolutely vital in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Optimistic that we will be able to progress with the implementation of the pledges and commitments and maintain the momentum.
- The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of the GCR and the Forum. It demonstrates the core principles of solidarity, regionally and internationally and the important vision and agreement to equitable sharing of responsibilities and burdens, protecting those in need of protection (stateless people, forcibly displaced, asylum seekers, and refugees).
- The Forum did set historic commitments by States that can transform the lives of millions of refugees and their host communities with the aim of building self-reliance, promoting socio-economic inclusion, and paving the way to Durable Solutions.
- The [outcome document](#) which documents and analyzes the 1400 pledges from the Forum and from the High-Level Segment on Statelessness is an important document.



- The key concern is to translate commitments into action.
- We have received updates from many States and other stakeholders with regard to the status of the pledges. Some pledges are already operationalized.
- We have seen some progress not only with the implementation but interestingly and importantly in developing the initiatives that were launched at the Forum.
- One area that has been particularly important as a consequence of COVID-19, are the various pledges with regard to women and girls and addressing SGBV and general mainstreaming of age, gender, and diversity (AGD). We have seen in the COVID-19 context a spike globally in gender-based violence as a consequence, in part, of the lockdown in which many distressed families find themselves, and lack livelihood.
- Many of those vulnerable people are the people we serve.
- Three very important elements of the Global Compact:
  - 1) The Support Platforms which provided a litmus test for the future success of the Compact principles. Work is going forward and we appreciate the role that each stakeholder can play.
  - 2) Resettlement programs are temporarily halted due to COVID-19. We hope to resume soon. Some resettlements have taken place when there were urgent humanitarian reasons.
  - 3) Importance of the concept of inclusion is demonstrated through COVID-19. The pandemic affects all of us and we cannot allow those who are not registered, do not have birth certificates, who are unclassified or undocumented to be denied access to health services. Most of States have recognized that health pandemics require inclusion.
- Good practices on the Digital Platform are a way of providing leadership, consistent with the fundamental norms of refugee protection. You are invited to continue submitting practices.
- About [the High Commissioner's Dialogue](#), the topic will be the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on how we are going to be better prepared with a more inclusive society in the future because this will not be the last pandemic. It will be partly virtual. The High Commissioner will be presenting the substantive outcomes of three remote sessions that will be held before the Dialogue. The Dialogue will provide another opportunity to discuss the importance of the Compact and the commitments and pledges to get its practical effect.

#### Outcome document for the Global Refugee Forum 2019

- [Slide 5](#): summary of some of the top-line trends and takeaways from the outcome document
- The document provides a summary of the event but also where we intend to go from here.
- It was definitely a whole-of-society exercise as outlined in the outcome document, both in terms of results and participation.
- We are focused on the need to maintain momentum. The outcome document stresses the need for us to demonstrate adaptability, pragmatism on how we follow-up, prioritize, and implement pledges. We are also calling on pledging entities to lead by example in doing so.
- [Slide 6](#): Success was both in terms of participation, diversity of participation, and results
- [Slide 7 & 8](#): Diversity was in the types of events and in terms of sectors that were present.
- [Slide 9](#): Protection Capacity and Solutions made-up the bulk of the pledges, followed by Education, Jobs & Livelihoods.
- 250 financial pledges from States, development actors, private sector. It represents a unique opportunity for us to work with these pledging entities to discuss concretization.
- In some instances, there were broad pledges and we see it as a useful opportunity to have an open discussion to look at the needs, work jointly, and try to identify how best those pledges are implemented and targeted.
- [Slide 9](#): Policy pledges made up about 1/3 of the pledges, 700 pledges. It represents a unique opportunity to try to facilitate matching.



- One of the central objectives of the GRF coordination team is to try to bring together pledges. Could be financial, material, and technical pledges.
- Matching particularly starts with host country pledges, an estimated 280 host countries.
- Demonstration of the whole-of-society approach: half of the pledges made by States; more than half were made by other stakeholders.
- Slide 10: Africa and Europe made up the bulk of pledges (more than half) and included many policy pledges, domestic pledges. We are focused on enhancing refugee inclusion, improved refugee protection environment.
- Asia Pacific and MENA: better to have quality than quantity. In those two regions, there were a number of non-traditional partners pledging.
- There are high impact pledges, e.g. Mauritania; Egypt; Policy pledge by the Philippines.
- We also invite you to take a look at the [Dashboard](#) for more information on global pledges. 22% of global pledges are financial pledges where there is an opportunity for matching.
- Slide 11: It is a long-term process leading us from the Forum to the implementation.
- Emphasize the need to maintain momentum, and to translate commitments into action.
- Despite the COVID-19 challenges, pragmatism is prevailing. There have been positive results.
- How do we plan on moving forward to the next Forum, in the next months and years? Very much going to look at gaps and opportunities to be able to pre-match to try to come up with more collaborative pledges next time.
- We call on pledging entities to use the AGD sensitive approach when implementing pledges, and ensure meaningful representation of refugees in the implementation process. AGD approach will be central to how pledges will be identified and developed in the lead-up to the next GRF.
- Additional opportunity for prevention and resolution of conflicts.
- We see more opportunities to broaden the base.

#### Roadmap for follow-up on pledges and contributions

- Slide 13: we are now working through four main stages of follow-up, some of them simultaneously:
  - 1) Analysis of all pledges, cleaning-up pledges, identifying matching opportunities. The other part of the analysis is looking at the gaps that came out of the GRF pledges.
  - 2) identifying good opportunities to bring partners together and think about how they can support the pledges implementation in host countries. We are working on that bilaterally.
- Looking at how pledges can be matched with host country, how pledges can be adapted to COVID-19 the response / situation.
- [A paper](#) explains the GCR role in the COVID response, showing the relevance of many of the pledges in the situation. The Annex to this paper shows a number of examples of pledges related to WASH, health, social protection, and others that could be considered for acceleration to support the response.
  - 3) Tracking progress towards the implementation of the pledges: we have developed an online mechanism with light tracking process, [available](#) on the Digital Platform.
- The pledging entities have all been contacted and invited to submit updates on progress. This is an ongoing system and it remains open.
- We will eventually look at a system to obtain more detailed information about progress for particular pledges, still in the brainstorming stage.
- With a view to future planning, we want to use a lot of the analysis done to identify where there were gaps in pledging were in 2019, to help us focus strategically on where we need to develop pledges for the next Forum.



- We are in the process of analyzing this now and we hope that, by the time of our high-level officials meeting in late 2021, we can present a stock-taking and list areas where we think we need more support and more pledges for the next Forum.
- Slide 14: Some already submitted progress updates on their pledges, more than 173 updates from different entities. 70% of the pledges were reported as in progress; 30% are reported in the planning stage and 11% pledging entities reported that their pledges had been fulfilled already, a good step, particularly in the context of COVID.
- Encourage to continue submitting updates.
- Most of the progress indicated comes from States and NGOs on Protection Capacity and Solutions, which is not surprising since they also constitute the majority of pledges made.
- UNCHR will be updating on trends in implementation and progress of pledges twice a year.
- We aim to produce an update on progress in the pledge implementation later this month.
- Make a plea or request that you re-validate the text of your pledges on the dashboard and confirm with us whether it is correct and whether any updates or changes are needed.
- Slide 15: on GRF follow-up arrangements, co-host and co-conveners have all expressed an interest to continue supporting the follow-up on pledges and help broaden the support base. Now strategizing with them how they can best engage in the process moving forwards.
- The high-level official meetings will be a way to follow-up.
- The Education co-sponsorship group has now reformed to become the Education Alliance and continues to work towards the strategic plan that the group had developed.
- Jobs & Livelihoods and the Solutions co-sponsorship groups are continuing to meet and to review progress towards the implementation of the pledges that were made in their respective areas and identify where they can help facilitate.
- The Asylum Capacity Support Group emerged from the Protection Capacity Group. It is underway. We have terms of reference that have been developed and published [online](#).
- The Energy & Infrastructure Group has formed a Clean Energy Challenge. The Action Group which was convened a couple of times already and a number of different stakeholder groups are also engaging in different forms of follow-up.
- Contact the GRF coordination team and to get connected with relevant colleagues organizing and supporting the engagement in all the stakeholder groups.
- Slide 17: UNHCR has a multi-stakeholder team now that is working particularly with Parliament, Cities Networks, the Global Academic Network. There will be webinars to follow-up on the commitments made by the three stakeholder groups.
- At the regional level, some engagement of different stakeholders in the follow-up process started, e.g. UNHCR Bureau in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes organized a webinar on the GRF follow-up. We hope to replicate this model in other regions in the coming months, where possible, allowing us to maintain momentum, follow the implementation, and support it.
- We are working very closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union on ways to sensitize parliamentarians and build their capacity around the Forum. We provided inputs to a publication on [Gender and the COVID-19 Guidance Note](#) that was recently developed.
- With the Cities, there is a mayors' mechanism that has a call to local action; they are collecting pledges for implementation and they have been involved in a number of different cities such as Bristol, Milan, Sao Paulo, and Strasburg. We have also been working closely with the United Cities and local governments to support the pledge made at the Forum.
- UN agencies and international organizations are working now on the implementation of the commitments they made towards inclusion of refugees in their policies, projects and their work with host governments.
- A key outcome of this engagement has been the development of a UNHCR-UNICEF Blueprint for Joint Action, which focuses on Education, WASH, Child protection and inclusion.



- A lot of potential for helping to realize a number of those pledges. E.g. Sports organizations are continuing to be engaged. 87 members of the Sports Coalition and other pledging entities are working on developing dedicated action plans to implement their pledges.
- The private sector engagement continues and stepped up in the response to the COVID crisis in the same way that was done at the Forum. UNHCR will organize a briefing especially for the private sector at a later stage, to identify and address some of the areas where they may want to consider engaging further.
- Refugees have been engaged. A refugee research network is working on bringing refugee voices into global policy processes. They have also worked with the Global Refugee Led Network. The Network has also been very active in the COVID-19 response, organizing a briefing in Europe last month. They also started a social media campaign called “Refugees Rise” to encourage pledging entities to deliver on the pledges made at the Forum.
- We discussed with NGOs some ideas for innovative practices and approaches to help implement pledges, including building on or replicating the model of a number of NGOs coming together to jointly finance a position of an NGO member staff at the CRFF Secretariat, as they did in Uganda. It is an excellent model of collaboration, very good way to provide an entry point for multi-stakeholder engagement and comprehensive responses. We encourage NGOs to consider how these practices might be continued in other contexts.
- Faith-based organizations have developed a road map for the response to the COVID-19 situation which is also aligned with the follow-up to the Forum. Focused on localization, they have developed an interfaith campaign, engaging in advocacy and protection, and looking at ways to revitalize the outcomes of the 2012 High Commissioner Dialogue on Protection.

#### Initiatives launched for the Global Refugee Forum

- Slide 20: The Asylum Capacity Support Group will provide a mechanism to match requests and offers and will increase the capacity of national asylum. A guide is [online](#), explaining in detail the ACSG matching procedure for requests and offers including prioritization criteria.
- Happy to hold further consultations with interested States and other stakeholders to discuss this guide and the next steps. We will be proposing some matches to kick start.
- Slide 21: The Three-Year Strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways remains a vital tool supported through a multi-stakeholder global action plan. A pause in resettlement was announced in March. Nonetheless, work on securing resettlements and access to complementary pathways for refugees continues at all levels, e.g. operations in the MENA region referred 1200 persons in April and aim to keep referring between 1200 and 1500 refugees per month to resettlement States.
- Several operations in the East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region are piloting remote processing modalities.
- Slide 22: The Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network is called for in the GCR to support research and teaching on the four GCR objectives. The network will have a Secretariat hosted at the University of Essex. Establishing a Secretariat outside of UNHCR was the top recommendation by both Academics and UNHCR staff and the University of Essex pledged to support at the GRF. The GAIN hopes to support burden- and responsibility-sharing.
- You are welcome to the virtual signing ceremony of the MOU in July. An invitation will be circulated shortly.
- Slide 23: The three Support Platforms launched at the GRF, IGAD for the East and Horn of Africa, the MIRPS for Central and North America, the SSAR for the Afghan situation.
- At an early stage of their operationalization.
- Like most, initiatives are impacted by and adapting to the COVID situation however COVID-19 also reinforced the need for increased international solidarity.



- The three platforms are pursuing their own trajectories, each in very different contexts. The IGAD platform is guided by 4 thematic pillars based on the Nairobi, Djibouti, and Kampala Declarations as well as the upcoming IGAD Ministerial on Health. The platform will serve as a vehicle for matching of GRF pledges.
- In the spirit of broadening the support base, UNHCR is working closely with the Interparliamentary Union to develop a plan aiming to sensitize parliaments and parliamentarians on the thematic pillars and objectives of the platform.
- The MIRPS Support Platform seeks to focus the attention of the international community on the forced displacement situation in Central America and Mexico.
- The government of Spain officially accepted to serve as the chair of the Platform on a rotational basis for the next 12 months as of June.
- A first meeting of the platform was held in March. Focus areas were discussed and include the humanitarian-development-nexus as well as education and private sector engagement.
- Spain has called platform members for a virtual meeting on 17 June.
- The MIRPS States have incorporated persons of concern within their domestic COVID-19 response. UNHCR anticipates leveraging the Platform over the coming months to ensure global financing has been raised. It provides an opportunity for further inclusion in National Health systems and longer-term resilience and economic recovery.
- The SSAR Support Platform aims to galvanize additional support for the achievement of the solution strategy for Afghan refugees. Technical modalities and terms of reference for the platform were developed by the High Commissioner, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.
- Will soon launch on July 6 a portfolio of projects to mobilize additional resources and most importantly tangible engagement of new partners.
- Also want to mention an important decision taken by the UN SG in March this year to recognize the area-based humanitarian development peace investments in the 20 priority areas of return and reintegration for Afghans. This decision commits to ensuring coordinated and targeted action in these areas.

#### Digital Platform for the Global Compact on Refugees

- Slide 29: The Digital Platform is a one-stop-shop for the GCR and it is there to highlight the good practice projects and initiatives by States, organizations, businesses, refugees, refugee led-organizations as well as others in support of the Compact.
- The platform serves to highlight the pledges and contributions made and track progress in their implementation.
- Beyond these good practice projects and pledges it will also serve to share the stories of the impact the Compact has on refugees, IDPs, stateless people but also on the host countries and the host communities and give visibility to finding longer-term solutions.
- The full database of pledges can also now be downloaded in an Excel sheet on the website.
- The website highlights the several GCR initiatives such as the GAIN, ACSG, and others.
- The Dashboard helps identify areas in need of support, and also provides information and relevant resources for practitioners and policymakers.
- We are trying to bridge those two spectrums on telling the stories on the impact and also providing relevant information and resources for policymakers and practitioners.
- Updates on developments: We are working on going live with the revised pledges and contributions, taking into account feedback and suggestions from all of you and trying to optimize the user experience.
- Opportunity to share updates on pledges implementation status directly on the Digital Platform for the GCR.
- Can filter the good practices among over 350 projects and initiatives.



- We will be hosting future webinars for the Global Academic International Network.
- We are six months after the Forum and the launch of the Digital Platform. We have focused on uploading and processing good practices that have been received through the Forum and listening to feedback and optimizing the features which we already have on the Platform.
- Looking forward to discussing with you and setting the Platform up for the longer-term, discussing how it can be most useful and take into account various different needs.
- States and other stakeholders are contributors to the Digital Platform for the GCR.
- Encouraging you to continue submitting a good practice generally but also in the context of COVID-19 and also to provide updates on the progress made and to your pledges.

## Discussion

1. Costa Rica
2. Denmark
3. OECD
4. Ecuador
5. Switzerland
6. UNDP
7. Spain
8. Lego Foundation
9. Kenya
10. Turkey
11. UNICEF
12. Germany
13. US
14. Morocco
15. Sport Foundation
16. GYAC
17. Sweden
18. Education Cannot Wait
19. ICVA (on behalf of NGOs). A short NGO statement was delivered at the briefing. See [the statement](#) and the [short oral version](#), as delivered.
20. Women's Refugee Commission

## Perveen Ali

- We are in a phase to implement and adapt pledges and to even develop new ones as we heard from Denmark.
- We do have an opportunity with the current situation to put the GCR into action and into practice and there are many ways that we will be able to do so.
- About the gaps in pledges and more information about this, it is an ongoing exercise. If you look in the outcome document the gaps are a bit evident when you look at the percentages of pledges that were made in each thematic area and by each region.
- E.g. few pledges in the Energy & Infrastructure and Jobs & Livelihood. Both areas are critical, particularly in the COVID response, so that would be one area to focus on.
- On the matching exercise: we need to identify where there are host countries policy pledges still need support, even after we have worked, to try to facilitate matching where possible.
- About the themes for the next Forum: those identified for the first Forum were based on a comprehensive survey to the field to identify where the greatest needs are. This is something we can revisit. We are going through a lesson learned exercise now. Useful for preparations for the next Forum, to think through what we might want to consider.



- The consultations for the ACSG are organized by our Division for International Protection and they will be reaching out to States and other stakeholders to take these forward.
- Thank you, Spain, for agreeing to chair the MIRPS Support Platform. This is a great demonstration of leadership and we very much appreciate that.
- About the Support Platforms and how the Geneva-based missions can be involved: it is anticipated that meetings will be held once or twice a year at the ambassadorial level and perhaps more bilateral engagement at the technical level with some of the missions to ensure that they are engaged and informed on the process as it goes forward.
- The main drivers of the platforms will be at the regional level.
- Encourage to continue to update on progress. We will be reporting later this month on what we have received. The updates help us to follow the trends more closely.
- On how the pandemic will affect the implementation of the GCR: we have a paper online and also the UN Joint Humanitarian Appeal with very strong linkages in it to both the GCR and relevant GRF pledges that can be accelerated as part of that joint UN effort.
- There was also mention of some areas where we would like to see more analysis, e.g. on additionality, on AGD mainstreaming and solutions. It will be easier to analyze once we have gone through the process with pledging entities to concretize what their commitment is.

#### Ziad Ayad

- The progress updates is essentially for informing the steps forward but in terms of statistics of the pledges that are under implementation or fulfilled, 23% are in the area Protection Capacity, 20% in Education, 18% Solutions, and 16% on statelessness. The majority of updates were from States and NGOs.
- Once we get an increased number, we will be in a much better position to give a detailed analysis. 173 updates is a good number, but it is not reflective enough for us to be able to have a picture that speaks exactly on the trends of implementation.
- About the themes, when I was speaking about the next GRF, it was just an emphasis on the opportunities that will be considered in the lead-up to the next GRF. It was not intended to be in any way a reflection of exactly what the themes will be.
- We are open to discussions and analysis moving forward.

#### Gillian Triggs

- Staying and delivering is what we have done to the highest degree we possibly can.
- Particularly wish to refer to statements from Switzerland and Sweden, showing leadership. They have a continued commitment to resettlement programs.
- Propose that all statements be made available, if you agree, to inspire further leadership.
- COVID-19 has in fact generated some opportunities for UNHCR to be more effective in delivering to those in need of protection. We have now stepped up the use of technology to an astonishing degree, e.g. with the women and families affected by sexual violence.
- We have been able to use technology to provide services. We also saw the beginning of remote processing for asylum seekers to ensure they continue to have the ability to make a claim. We have also looked at the development, in some areas, of remote education.
- Another approach to partnerships has been the work done with the world's international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank. They are enormously important in ensuring loans and grants can reach, under a particular window, refugee hosting countries.
- Education is raised frequently, and we do applaud the work that has been done across all pledges related to Education. Children are change makers and they will be change-makers for the future. It is encouraging that much effort has been put into ensuring that we get Education to children.