

ADSP-ICVA Statement
The SSAR Support Platform: ‘Showing Resilience, Seeking Solutions’
High-Level Event at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, 13 December (16:00 – 17:30)

(As Delivered)

Distinguished delegates,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies.

In 2019, the inaugural GRF reenergized the SSAR through the launch of the Support Platform. Challenging circumstances then placed renewed pressure on prospects for solutions. As dire humanitarian conditions persist in Afghanistan, UNHCR’s non-return advisory remains in effect and all efforts are required to avoid further harm to Afghans, including providing access to documentation and legal stay. It is also imperative to ensure Afghan refugees and host communities can shape their own futures, having a say in defining what ‘Showing Resilience and Seeking Solutions’ means.

For decades, sovereignty in the region has aligned with a welcoming tradition. We call on all stakeholders to continue to abide by their legal responsibilities, including in avoiding arbitrary arrests and detention. As customary international law and the cornerstone of the Refugee Convention, *non-refoulement* is essential to international solidarity; simultaneously a concrete act of humanity and a basis for increased responsibility-sharing. We also urge donors to find modalities to support Afghan and host communities through additional, long-term funding.

Clearly, a Support Platform anchored in the GCR’s multi-stakeholder approach can help generate this solidarity. If properly resourced, NGOs’ experience in working with Afghans and host communities can bring a value-added to the Platform. Therefore, building on our past efforts, ADSP and ICVA commit to meeting the Platform members and Secretariat to strengthen NGO engagement in a way that maintains trust and efficiency.

Even in times of competing crises, refugees deserve our unambiguous and principled support. We appeal to the Platform to step up coordinated work towards transitional solutions and improved responsibility-sharing.