

**NGO statement on Agenda item 1: preparation of pledges and contributions for the
Global Refugee Forum**

Dear Chair,

As we embark on the GRF final preparations, NGOs wish to highlight the following six priorities to ensure the first Global Refugee Forum delivers tangible contributions and sets an ambitious standard for the future: 1) sharing responsibility more equitably and predictably; 2) holding ourselves accountable for progress; 3) supporting the meaningful participation of refugees and affected communities; 4) strengthening protection of persons of concern; 5) facilitating a “multi-stakeholder and partnership approach”; and 6) delivering tangible solutions.

While we applaud the launch of three Support Platforms, we note limited progress towards **equitable and predictable responsibility-sharing**. We therefore reiterate our call for additional, predictable and flexible funding in support of refugee responses. Beyond funding, tangible actions including quality resettlement and other pathways should be encouraged, especially from states which have so far underutilised their capacity to assist refugees. We also note the lack of concrete initiatives to address root causes and express concerns about the resurgence of conflicts, persecutions and other drivers of displacement in many regions.

On accountability, we again call on UNHCR to consider NGOs’ inputs in finalizing the GCR indicators framework. The current version would greatly benefit from a sharper focus on refugee protection and self-reliance, and alignment with the SDG framework. We also call on States to include refugees in their SDG Voluntary National Reviews and National Development Plans. In addition, we emphasize the need for disaggregated data and recommend that individual rights are also tracked through the GCR indicators framework. Only when rights of affected people are upheld, are protection and solutions possible in a dignified way.

The meaningful participation of refugees and other affected people must be embedded in the final GRF preparations, its results and the GCR operationalization. Although opportunities for refugee representation in GRF panels are encouraging, we request details on how persons of concern and host communities can actively co-design pledges, particularly often marginalized groups such as women and girls, youth, elders, people with disability, and LGBTIQ people. To ensure long-lasting improvements, build trust and accountability, UNHCR should pledge to evaluate how refugee contributions were incorporated into the GRF planning and outcomes. This could also inform planning for future forums.

On protection, we welcome the interest in supporting the capacity of host countries. However, about five weeks before the Forum, we have yet to see significant contributions to the protection of refugees and vulnerable segments of host communities. We particularly call on States and other stakeholders to ensure that legal aid services are an integral part of building protection capacity and systems. UNHCR should encourage States to develop AGD-responsive pledges, for example making use of the tools and pledging guidance generated through the co-

sponsorship groups. We also support the launch of the Asylum Capacity Support Group as a welcome opportunity to create strong partnerships with NGOs and legal practitioners to strengthen the fairness, efficiency and effectiveness of national asylum procedures.

Another key principle that emerged from both global compacts is the importance of adopting a “**multi-stakeholder and partnership**” approach to foster effective responses based on shared humanitarian principles. As such, the GRF must promote strengthened and sustainable collaboration and coordination between diverse actors, including refugees, host communities, and NGOs.

On **durable solutions**, we take note of positive steps such as the development of the Three-Year Resettlement Strategy. However, to ensure we reach the Strategy’s targets, UNHCR should release the Global Action Plan and momentum should be maintained. We suggest that this requires more frequent multi-stakeholder gatherings than the annual ATCR meeting.

Finally, taking note of the recent evolution of co-sponsoring groups, we call for clearer modalities to coordinate mobilization and advocacy in the coming weeks. In this regard, we have listed examples of NGO pledges in an Annex to this statement, which will be uploaded on ICVA website. This adds to NGO commitments on Statelessness made at ExCom last month. We encourage all stakeholders to consult this annex particularly to establish joint and matching pledges. We also call on stakeholders to replicate this level of transparency so that we can collectively work towards a successful Global Refugee Forum.

Thank you.