



Third Preparatory meeting on the Global Refugee Forum
Centre international de conférence de Genève,
14 November 2019

Agenda of the Third Preparatory meeting.

- Welcome and introduction.
- Agenda item 1: Preparation of pledges and contributions for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF).
- Agenda item 2: Program, modalities, and practical arrangements for the Global Refugee Forum

Ms. Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection

- Thanks to the five key co-conveners, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, Pakistan, Turkey, for their work. We deeply appreciate their engagement, which included sending joint letters sent to ambassadors in GVA to solicit their engagement with the GRF.
- Those States will be represented at the GRF, along with the UN Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and the Federal Counsellor of Switzerland. We will have good high-level representation with ministerial attendance.
- On the agenda item 1 on pledges and contributions, wish that States will contribute and announce their pledges. Wish that the pledges announced will inspire others and help for follow-up. Sharing information in advance maintains momentum and incite others to follow suit.
- In preparing for the GRF, we need to keep the purpose of the Forum in mind: burden- and responsibility-sharing with host countries. It is a historic opportunity to translate the GCR into concrete actions. We need to find ways to continue and increase support, allowing refugees to become more self-reliant, while improving the lives of host communities.

Mr. Daniel Endres, Director, Global Refugee Forum

- Important opportunity to galvanize success for the GRF. UNHCR already received pledges.
- More than fifty Ministers confirmed their attendance at this stage. We hope to reach the ten high-level outcomes that will shape the refugee system.
- 1st – broadening the base of support: galvanize more States support, as well as donor support; bringing more actors from the private sector and development area. Further support is needed for the Poverty Alleviation Coalition in over 25 countries.
- 2nd – inclusive national policies that will enable refugees' inclusion: there will need to be an anchor in national development plans, including education systems, financial systems, etc.
Important pledges of legal frameworks by the host government.
- 3rd – it will be key that additional funding is made through unearmarked funding, expanding multilateral and bilateral funding. In the last two years, we have witnessed additional funding, e.g. 7 billion dollars channeled to refugees and host communities.



- 4th – The Forum will provide an opportunity to have Support Platforms, focusing on MIRPS, SSAR, and IGAD; look for specific support for refugees and host communities and benefit from engagement and leadership.
There will be special event on the 16 December related to MIRPS.
- 5th – more than 4 million refugee children cannot attend school; we look forward to expanding access to high and tertiary education for refugees.
- 6th – UNHCR expects support for sustainable green energy, for instance through the Energy and Infrastructure co-sponsoring group. A joint pledge of fifty-five companies and NGOs related to Energy connectivity and tools is in preparation. UNHCR will launch the Renewable Energy Challenge and there will be a multi-donor Trust Fund to provide related support.
- 7th – related to many of the other outcomes, UNHCR anticipates a number of announcements from the private sector; UNHCR already received pledges to hire refugees from the corporate private sector.
- 8th – foresee contributions to the 3-year resettlement and complementary pathways strategy including new resettlement programs, the European Union, for instance, announced pledges for resettlement places in the EU. Expecting also pledges on humanitarian corridors. Complementary pathways can only grow through capacity building. Financial support is also expected. On voluntary repatriation, we expect commitments to sustainable return to countries of origin. On local integration, we expect to strengthen refugee integration between civil society, access to civil registration procedures. UNHCR expect to see pledges on refugees access to civil documents.
- 9th – also expect contributions to the Asylum Support Capacity Group to improve national systems. Some States will pledge to revise asylum law and support to further develop refugee status determination systems. Several law firms will join with pledges.
- 10th – we expect the launch of the Global Academic Network to facilitate research on refugees, on the Global Compact challenges and opportunities.
- Many organizations around the world organized regional and multi-stakeholder consultations to identify good practices.
- Matching and joint pledging is already occurring around the world, but it is only the start of the process. The GRF is also an opportunity to match or join during the Forum.
- Finally, UNHCR looks forward to hearing from Member States what they are considering as contributions.

Statement from Switzerland, the GRF co-host with UNHCR

- The Forum should help the way in which we tackle refugee situations in the world.
- The vision of the GRF is to share responsibility.
- We should value the refugees' potential and help them grow with dignity.
- Switzerland is working with UNHCR and the town of Geneva in the organization of various public events, in particular a football match. Hope to see Member States taking part in this.
- High-quality products made by refugees will also be put on sale, and Christmas markets in two places (Palais des Nations and Bastions).



- This First Forum will raise visibility of refugee issues in Geneva for the population and the international community.

Statements from the co-convener States

Costa Rica

- Costa Rica has demonstrated its generosity in receiving thousands of asylum seekers, recently experiencing an exponential increase in the number of asylum seekers.
- It is the moment to strengthen dialogues, bearing in mind human dignity and development.
- For the majority of host countries, receiving refugees goes beyond capacities and in the light of the GRF, we are witnessing multilateralism in a transformative way, giving light to the promise of global shared responsibility.
- The Forum is an opportunity to take tangible actions for more predictable solidarity. Will be also an opportunity for additional funding through private sector.
- Costa Rica has committed to participating at a high level with President Quesada.
- Costa Rica will share it needs and expectations for cooperation.
- We urge the international community presence to give life to their commitments.

Turkey

- Wish to see measures to put share burden- and responsibility-sharing in practice.
- The GCR is a useful guide to develop responsibility sharing.
- The First GRF is a huge opportunity to showcase such commitment.
- The high number of spotlight sessions and events proposed can be interpreted as a sign of increased interest from the global community for refugee issues.
- We encourage all stakeholders to show their contributions including concrete pledges for resettlement and complementary pathways.
- Turkey is one of the largest refugee hosting countries and is engaging in Education, Solutions and Protection capacity co-sponsoring groups.
- Turkey attached importance on refugee education, six thousands refugee children have access to school. We therefore call for support to focus on education.
- We also have fifty good practices to share.
- In order to deliver good pledges, adequate donor support is required.
- As a co-convener, we stand ready for those interested in joint and match pledging.
- We will have high participation with our president and ministers and we will try to include refugees in our delegation.
- We encourage all States to participate at a high level and increase concrete actions from a wider international community

Germany

- We have witnessed great momentum with many States and stakeholders engaged in various areas of focus to achieve tangible progress since the last preparatory meeting.
- Germany is strongly committed to making the GRF a platform to have international recognition at the highest level.
- Germany will pledge in all six themes in support of refugees worldwide and refugee in Germany; Germany will pledge a concrete number of resettlement places in Germany;



Germany will provide financial support for UNHCR to ensure resettlement is predictable effective and will support the Energy Challenge.

- Germany will pledge to support Education.
- Germany will pledge to promote economic well-being of refugee women.
- Germany will commit to the goal of additional funding through multi-year financing, such as through a special initiative on Forced Displacement.
- Germany is working on a high impact political pledge.
- Call for the GRF to demonstrate vision and ambitions to improve refugees' lives. It is upon each of us to bring the GRF to life.

Pakistan

- Pakistan has been a generous host for refugees.
- Pakistan encourages the involvement of States and to make commitments and pledges, this commitment is key to achieve the objectives of the GCR.
- In the process of the preparation of the GRF, UNHCR made efforts to develop tools, each tool might not be an ideal form but is a start and it can be improved.
- Pakistan renews its call to concretely roll out the GCR.
- Look forward to launching the SSAR working together with Afghanistan, Iran, and UNHCR. We will continue to support UNHCR.

Ethiopia

- Commend co-conveners, and other stakeholders' engagement to encourage participation at the GRF.
- Ethiopia worked with all the co-conveners in mobilizing support and preparing a national work plan. For instance in organizing preparatory meetings for the GRF, Ethiopia briefed national refugees to increase awareness on the GRF, organized meetings to create a common understanding of the GRF.
- Multi-stakeholder consultations have been organized, discussing potential good practices and outlining key areas for the GRF and identified and envisaged priorities.
- Ethiopia in partnership with UNHCR hosted with the Danish Government and the Ethiopia Ministry of Peace, a two-day Conference under the theme: *Delivering the Global Compact on Refugees: Local Approaches to Inclusion*. It was an opportunity to convene a meeting to identify good practices to achieve the GRF.
- In that connection Ethiopia was active in Energy and Infrastructure, Protection capacity and Jobs and livelihoods co-sponsoring meetings through a participatory approach. We identified four key pledges on:
 - 1) In Education: formal and accredited vocational training for skills-matching,
 - 2) In Jobs and livelihoods: farm and economic opportunities for refugees and host communities,
 - 3) In Protection capacity: improve asylum system.
 - 4) In Energy and infrastructure: promote marketplace and clean and green energy, services quality improvement.
- The GRF will be an opportunity to share, to learn and also to inspire further action.
- Finally, Ethiopia will have a high-level presentation.
- Reiterate our commitment to collaborate with co-conveners.



Thailand

- Possible pledges on Thailand side, on two sub-themes, on Education and Solutions particular voluntary repatriation.
- Thailand is looking for pledges specifically on Protection for more access to basic services for refugees.

Norway

- We are preparing pledges in the co-sponsoring meetings groups that we are actively involved in Energy and infrastructure, Jobs and livelihoods and Solutions.
- Plan to participate at a high political level.

Argentina

- Will be making new pledges with the view to protect refugees:
 - 1) maintain high national protection for people at risk through RSD and visa program for Syrians affected and the integration of Venezuelan national in three border cities.
 - 2) Reinforce the national refugee agency.
 - 3) South-south cooperation program in order to develop tools for protection
 - 4) Ensure the inclusion of a community sponsorship for protection needs, the bill is already in preparation.
 - 5) Expand community sponsorship.
 - 6) Expand the list of solidarity cities.
 - 7) local integration of refugees.
 - 8) Implementation of a scholarship program for university students, a five-year project for resettlement.
 - 9) Family reunifications for Venezuelan.

Afghanistan

- Afghanistan will have high-level participation; Min. of Foreign Affairs will be present.
- Based on the GCR, Afghanistan considers pledges to present at the GRF under responsibility sharing, ensuring full inclusion of displaced persons.
- Endorsement of a support platform to ensure afghan refugee returns.
- Expand access to education for returning refugees particularly for girls.
- In the area of jobs and livelihoods, support access to skills training.
- Enhance engagement with development and private sector.
- in the area of Solution, continue working on voluntary repatriation in dignity and in the protection of civil and political rights. Expand an access to land and expand health care for returnees.
- Afghanistan needs the support of the international community.
- We need to create a trust fund to ensure reintegration.

Sweden

- Sweden co-sponsor Education, focus on equity and inclusion based on Sweden engagement in Education in emergencies, including children with disabilities; co-sponsor Solutions and focus on resettlement, working on the 3-year strategy and



promoting the increase of resettlement, Sweden firmly believe resettlement is a burden- and responsibility sharing tool.

- Sweden is working on formulating pledges for the GRF.
- Sweden will pledge also on Education access and in dialogue with partners.
- Sweden will pledge on statelessness.
- Looking at other areas as the Asylum Support Capacity Group and green energy is of interest to Sweden.
- Sweden is examining best practices to share also.

Japan

- Focusing on humanitarian peace nexus with the World Bank and UNDP.
- Would like to contribute on how the Nexus can be strengthened in refugee situations.
- Expecting high-level participation.

Denmark

- Strong commitments to the GCR, an opportunity to ensure an improvement in refugees' lives.
- Important for the forum to be outcomes oriented.
- Denmark will pledge, share contributions and best practices
- Minister of Development and cooperation will come.
- Denmark is working closely in developing thematic and financial pledges with focus on various burden- and responsibility-sharing measures, youth and employment, support and inclusion, enabling refugees to be self-reliant, taking an integrated and long-term approach.
- Denmark is working to have a multi-stakeholder approach including NGOs and host countries.

Egypt

- Important to step up support including the landmark of funding and applying the “one refugee approach”.
- Highlight those who do not have the refugee status but have a refugee profile, these people shouldn't be forgotten.
- Egypt is working on addressing the root causes and on developing this theme as well as sustainable peace in Africa during the GRF.
- Look forward to working with the Africa group to highlight it.

Djibouti

- One of our Ministers will be attending.
- Part of the co-sponsorship groups on Education, Jobs and livelihoods and Energy and Infrastructure.
- With regard to Djibouti expectations, since it is the first Forum following the GCR, it is a splendid occasion to establish a platform for the mechanism which will provide solutions for refugees and strengthen synergies for refugees.
- Djibouti believes it should not be just a platform for statements and good intentions but a place where States can announce feasible pledges with quantifiable and



measurable pledges focused on commitments, targeting the creation of partnerships to ensure better protection for refugees and better meet their expectations.

- All the aspects of the GCR should be paid attention to.
- Djibouti rolls out the CRRF.
- When it comes to resettlement, Djibouti believes in Solutions.
- Djibouti believes the Forum should be an opportunity to establish greater commitments.
- Favorable conditions and measures should be in place in case of voluntary return.
- Djibouti is pleased that the high-level dialogue will take place between the IGAD countries on 16 December.
- Djibouti has a number of good practices to share and opportunities to show that international protection can be properly managed even in conditions of economic hardship.

Zambia

- Zambia host 50000 refugees.
- Zambia maintained its commitments to welcome refugees.
- At the Leaders' Summit in 2016, Zambia pledged to improve the lives of refugees' economic wellbeing, easing encampment policies and promoting self-reliance for refugees access work and focusing on education for children and ensuring refugees have access to civil documentation.
- In 2011 at the Ministerial Intergovernmental Event on refugees and Stateless Person, Zambia initially pledged to integrate **Angolan refugees**; the Government made available land and **has given 50 per cent of permits for refugees**.
- To ensure this initiative, Zambia pledge to lift the requirements for national passport for refugees to receive residence permits. However, the economic pillar is crucial and in providing basic services, Zambia will need financial support for the completion of the economic pillar.
- Zambia progress on these pledges, allowed more freedom of movement, linked to the issuance of a mobility pass for refugees.
- Zambia is considering harmonizing refugee inclusion through academia and private sector engagement.
- Increasing access of secondary education and tertiary education in camps.

Canada

- The GRF is a key moment for responsibility-sharing and Canada encourages other actors' engagement.
- Look forward to sharing best practices through the 3-year strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways.
- However, due to the last election, we cannot confirm pledges or participation at a high level yet.
- Canada shares the whole-of-society approach perspective and is involved in the Education and Solution co-sponsoring groups and looks to make pledges in other areas as well, through resettlement and complementary pathways, and continued engagement at policy level.



Finland

- Finland will make two pledges on inclusion and protection capacity.

USA

- Pleased to now co-sponsor Education, Responsibility-sharing and Protection capacity groups.
- In September 2019, at the UN General Assembly, we announced significant contributions, in collaboration with the Lego Foundation, to Education Cannot Wait, which will be reflected at the GRF.
- US contributions to UNHCR and other support remain strong. We call on all to demonstrate responsibility-sharing and do more for refugees, stateless person and host communities.
- Recognize this is not just about funding but about innovation, capacity building, etc.
- On protection capacity, we are looking at lessons learned on protection of women and girls.
- Also looking at energy and infrastructure even if not co-sponsoring on this.

Iran

- We see the GRF as an arrangement to transfer fair burden- and responsibility-sharing. Hope the GRF will make a real change.
- The GRF can play a positive role if it can address a quality refugee asylum system.
- The GRF needs tangible and concrete actions. The GRF should facilitate voluntary repatriation. The most preferred solution for refugees is voluntary repatriation. Voluntary repatriation is also an important pillar for Afghan refugees.
- In 2012, the SSAR was launched. It is now turning into a Support Platform.
- Iran hopes to see a focus on the three pillars: sustainable reintegration, assistance to host countries and voluntary repatriation.

France

- Unique opportunity to give tangible life to the GCR.
- The Forum is not an endpoint but a road to implement the GCR.
- France supports a GRF with tangible outcomes.
- France is supporting a solidarity train for refugees which will end its travel on 17 December in Geneva for the Global Refugee Forum.
- France is working on inclusiveness and gender, reflecting on tangible pledges on Education inter alia.

European Union

- Preparing for active contributions: will share best practices and strong support for refugees including prevention and solutions.
- The European Union participated in Education, Burden- and Responsibility-sharing and Jobs and livelihoods groups. We have undertaken a mapping of our actions.
- The EU is looking forward to developing strong messages during the Forum.



- Will continue EU work to support the platforms, the EU is working on a Spotlight Session on Syria and a Marketplace on lives in dignity.

United Kingdom

- UK has committed 0,7% of its Gross National Income to Official Development Assistance, multi-year funding and resettlement program in the UK.
- UK is looking for strong commitments to the Forum and refugee participation.

UNICEF

- UNICEF provided development and humanitarian assistance to children in need worldwide.
- At the GRF, UNICEF will pledge on Education and WASH and Child protection.
- More than half of refugees are children. Being uprooted, children are at risk of family separation, child labor, psychosocial trauma. Let's ensure that more than half of the pledges are related for children.

ILO

- ILO aim is to provide decent work.
- ILO welcomes the reference to access to decent work for refugees. This is at the core of the nexus, of livelihoods and training needs and longer-term strategies for rights-based policies.
- ILO welcomes access to decent work in the GCR indicators and look forward to monitoring progress.
- ILO will share good practices on inclusive socio-economic interventions in countries like Turkey and Jordan.

World Bank

- Appreciation of the co-conveners' statements.
- We must take full advantage of the GRF opportunity.
- The GCR is an important framework.
- The World Bank is committed to addressing the socio-economic conditions of refugees through technical and financial support.
- Earlier policy commitments, for instance include refugees in national system and include policies that allow refugees access to work.
- The WB is part of Education, Energy and infrastructure and Jobs and livelihoods co-sponsoring groups.
- The WB will ensure an age, gender, and diversity approach is taken and that refugees' voices are at the heart of our work.

Joint NGO statement

- The [oral version](#).
- The [written version](#).
- The [Annex](#), showcasing pledges from the NGO community.



Global Refugee-Led Networks

- The GYAC and Women's Refugee Commission pledge to improve the skills of refugees, host communities and youth. The pledge is guided by a shared vision, through this youth initiative.
- Convened six regional summits of refugees in the world in Asia, MENA, Europe, and the African summit will happen in two weeks.
- Call to invite refugees to take part of Member States delegations and ensuring refugees are on panels.

IFRC

- Welcome and commend the inclusive approach taken by UNHCR team in organizing the GRF. Welcome the civil society, national society, and refugees led organizations and refugees themselves, and welcome other participation at the GRF itself.
- Pledges in support of these organizations are crucial.
- IFRC with its 192 societies are committed to working in countries with significant refugee populations and is preparing a pledge.

UNHCR

- The Forum will be the foundation to translate the GCR into action for the many years to come and ensure better policies for better refugee inclusion and to have much more predictable partnerships and cooperation from donor countries.
- Importance to identify Solutions for refugees, to not stay in exile and they can go home or integrate or resettle.
- Indicating your pledge is important. You can come with a single pledge also; many pledges cannot be joint or matched by their nature.
- We noticed the election transitions make some States unable to bring new pledges. Pledges can be made at any moment and we hope gradually the GCR will improve.
- Appreciate high-level participation.
- We would like to see more inclusion, more solution, and more refugee participation.

Agenda item 2: Program, modalities, and practical arrangements for the Global Refugee Forum

Ms. Perveen Ali, Head, Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team

- The communication team is developing communication packages and should amplify consistent messaging.
- Update of the program and submissions of pledges and good practices to be included in the digital platform.
- The GRF program is [online](#).
- Launch of the three Support Platforms on 16 December.
- Statement from the UN Secretary General on 17 December.
- Panels will be in Davos style and open to everyone. Over 400 delegations are expected. Statements from the floor will have to be short and tailored to themes of the dialogue.



- Pledges are submitted online or through the word template is submitted as soon as possible, before 30 November to be visualized at the Forum. Those submitted after will be in the outcome document.
- The pledging tool has been updated in September and a new template is available.
- A pledging book will be available with all the pledges.

Ms. Ellen Hansen, Head, Governance Service

- On modalities, participants are requested to register for the GRF by 6 December.
- On security, due to the presence of Heads of State, extra security will be put in place and particularly on the morning of 17 December.
- UNHCR will have a virtual desk for booking bilateral room by using the e-mail address.
- The high-level dialogues and plenary sessions will be webcast and livestream.
- It will be at the Palais des Nations, seating at the Assembly Hall, and room 19.
- States will have two seats, + two seats behind them.
- International Organizations, UN entities will have one seat, + one seat.
- Other participants will have one seat, depending on capacity.
- Speaker list is open from 15 November until 10 December.
- For the plenary, interpretation will be provided in the six UN languages.

Japan

- On speaking arrangements, there is no speaker list at parallel session on 18 December, does it mean, speaker can make intervention without a specific time slot?

UNHCR

- For the plenary list, we will try to apply a protocol order.
- If you speak on the plenary, it means you have an intervention for the high-level dialogue.

Iran

- Would like more details on the panel discussion arrangements.

France

- What will be the speaking duration during the plenary?

Morocco

- On parallel events, we understand there were three hundred proposals, how advance is this preparatory work on the selection.

Thailand

- For the registration on the speakers list, how do we get a confirmation?

UNHCR

- On the speaking time during the plenary, initially it was three minutes, UNHCR will revise that and see whether we can do it a bit more.



- The plenary will continue across the two days. So, in terms of questions if no opportunity the first day, there is opportunity to speak the other day.
- On the speakers list, we will take into account on an *ad hoc* basis and it is a question of rank as well.
- On the Spotlight Sessions, we did receive three hundred proposals, and to be as inclusive as possible, our team has been in contact with actors to merge request. We have posted online a preliminary list of spotlight sessions.

Azerbaijan

- On group speech, will group statement be allowed?

UNHCR

- We have limited time, so, we will not have any group statement.