



Geneva

## High-Level Officials Meeting

### Plenary statement by Sweden

Geneva, 14 December 2021

Thank you Chair, Friends and Colleagues,

The New York Declaration, the Leader's Summit, and the first Global Refugee Forum truly showed us the power of multilateralism. It is now crucial that we continue to build on commitments made to global solidarity and responsibility sharing. And while there must be room for flexibility for stakeholders to contribute based on capacity, there can be no excuse for opting out of responsibility.

Sweden appreciates the efforts of UNHCR to make this meeting concrete and forward looking. In that spirit, we wish to make a few recommendations in areas we believe deserve extra attention in the continued implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.

First, **resettlement** is a vital tool for providing protection to refugees but also a concrete example of solidarity and responsibility sharing. As resettlement needs have increased, commitments towards an expanded and strategic global resettlement response is key. We all need to continue resettlement activities even during challenging times. Sweden successfully transferred 3 599 quota refugees in 2020 and this year we plan to receive 6 400. We stand ready to share our experiences and stay committed to support UNHCR with the implementation of the Three-Year strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways.

Second, we need more **flexible funding** to ensure agility in responding to new emergencies and enable support to the most forgotten, protracted, and underfunded situations. However, the indicator report tells us that unearmarked core contributions decreased since 2018, hampering the flexibility called for by the GCR. Sweden recently reaffirmed its commitment to flexible and multiyear funding through a new Partnership Agreement with UNHCR for the period 2022-2025, amounting to some 431 million USD. While not counted as pledges towards the compact, our multiannual core funding agreements to UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP and UNDP among others, constitute key contributions to the implementation of the compact and support to refugees.

Third, we need to make **the nexus work in displacement situations**. For too long, refugee situations have been viewed as a humanitarian problem. But humanitarian actors cannot do it alone. Sweden increasingly directs specific development support to displacement situations, both new and protracted, in areas such as clean energy, access to education, as well as livelihoods and financial inclusion for refugees and host populations. One of our pledges at the GRF was to support the efforts of the IGAD Secretariat with a contribution of almost 4 million USD. We are very pleased to see that our new partnership has deepened and that we now officially form part of the IGAD Support Platform.

In addition, support to refugees and host communities will also form a more prominent role in several of our coming bilateral and regional development strategies.

To conclude, Sweden's commitment to the GCR remains steadfast. Whether it's about supporting education or women and girls in displacement situations, eradicating statelessness, asylum capacity building or addressing the impacts of climate change, the work continues.

Thank you.