



**UNHCR**  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

(English only)

# **DRAFT OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PLEDGES**

**Follow-up of the pledges made during the Intergovernmental event at the ministerial level of Member States of the United Nations in December 2011**

- 1 August 2013 -

## Explanatory note

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To mark the anniversaries of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, UNHCR facilitated an Intergovernmental event at the ministerial level of Member States of the United Nations in December 2011.

In the lead-up to of this event, over 90 States made pledges relating to refugees and asylum-seekers, including on the protection of women and children and durable solutions. Over 60 States made pledges on the reduction and prevention of statelessness. Additionally, some States signalled their readiness to engage in finding solutions for the internally displaced and those facing particular protection challenges, e.g. mixed migration, human trafficking and smuggling, as well as natural disaster-induced movements linked to climate change.

UNHCR is pleased to share with you a new working document to track progress to date in fulfilling pledges made in December 2011. Pledges made after this date have also been reflected, in the interest of completeness.

The following table is a compilation of all the pledges made, categorized by topic and with information on their implementation:

- If the pledge was a one-off activity and has been completed, the name of the country is in a green box.
- If the pledge relates to a process, some information on the status is provided.
- If one of those process-related pledges has been completed but others are outstanding, the fulfilled pledge is written in green.

It would be appreciated if States would comment on the accuracy of the information reflected in the table and, if necessary, correct it in a communication to UNHCR ([riera@unhcr.org](mailto:riera@unhcr.org)) by October 2013, or to include progress made on the implementation of the pledges in their general statements to the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme from 30 September to 4 October 2013. A revised table will be posted in November 2013.

Compiled by: Alice du Verne, working with José Riera, Division of International Protection

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# REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

State	Pledge	Update
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**Revising and amending national refugee legislation or adopting new laws to enable better implementation of the 1951 Refugee Convention and strengthen protection for asylum-seekers and refugees**

AFRICA		
<b>Chad</b>	Pledges to adopt a national bill on asylum in 2012 and ensure its compliance with international and regional standards and instruments on refugee protection.	The draft refugee law was adopted by the working group on 13 and 14 April 2013. The law is now with the Minister of Interior and Public Security for his signature and onwards transmission to the Ministerial Council.
<b>Guinea</b>	Pledges to ensure that the future National Assembly adopts as a matter of priority the law on refugee status and asylum.	
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	Pledges to review Law No. 06/2008 of 27 May, which approves the status of refugees and IDPs, and creates the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs.	
<b>Liberia</b>	The Liberia Refugee Act (LRA) has undergone a series of discussions among key line Ministries and Agencies during the last two years. The objective of these interactive discussions was basically to make amendments in the refugee law so that it conforms with international best practices, regional perspectives and today's reality. The proposed amended LRA will be submitted to the 53 <sup>rd</sup> Legislature in 2012 for passage into law taking into consideration the processes of	

	making laws in our jurisdiction.	
<b>Senegal</b>	Pledges to reform Law number 1968-27 on refugee status in order to better comply with new international norms regarding refugees.	
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Pledges to review and amend the Refugee Protection Act of 2007 to ensure effective implementation of the Act.	
<b>South Sudan</b>	<p>The Government is dedicated to enacting, by the end of this year, its Refugee Bill that will deal with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide for reception into South Sudan of asylum-seekers;</li> <li>- To regulate applications for recognition of refugee status;</li> <li>- To provide rights and obligations flowing from the status.</li> </ul> <p>On the adoption of the Refugee Bill, we shall nominate three Commissioners for Refugees.</p>	The Refugee Act was enacted in July 2012 and followed by the appointment of a Commissioner for Refugees Affairs and his Deputy. Applicable Regulations remain to be drafted.
<b>Togo</b>	Pledges to amend law No. 019-2000 relating to the status of refugees in Togo in order to incorporate recent developments on the subject.	
<b>United Republic of Tanzania (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to review the National Refugee Policy of 2003.</p> <p>Pledges to revise or repeal and replace the Refugee Act of 1998.</p>	A Steering Committee composed of the MHA, MFA, academics and UNHCR has been charged with taking this pledge forward. Working groups, including the one for the renewal of the Refugee Policy and Act, have been set up. A series of training and capacity building activities will be organised for the working groups with clear TORs.
<b>Zambia</b>	Pledges to repeal and replace the domestic refugee legislation, the	



	1970 Refugees (Control) Act, in order to bring it more in conformity with the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees to which the state is party.	
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Argentina</b>	Pledges that during the course of 2012, the Argentine Republic will complete the task of promulgating regulations for the General Law on Recognition of and Protection to Refugees (Law 26.165) that was enacted in 2006.	In August 2012, the Sub-commission for the elaboration of the decree finalized the draft, which was submitted to CONARE in July 2013 for its approval.
<b>Bolivia</b>	Pledges to strengthen national legislation to achieve full compliance with the commitments assumed as a State Party to the 1951 Convention and its Protocol, through the adoption of a "National Law on the Protection of Refugees".	Ley No. 251 de "Protección a Personas Refugiadas" was approved in June 2012.
<b>United States of America (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to provide ongoing, comprehensive training to all Immigration Judges and Members of the Board of Immigration Appeals and their legal staff in refugee law and related disciplines, as well as in country of origin analysis and application.</p> <p>Pledges to implement updated training to U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement personnel participating in migrant interdiction operations by the end of the calendar year 2012. This training will focus on identifying manifestations of fear by interdicted migrants.</p>	<p>The Board of Immigration Appeals' in-house schedule for calendar years 2012 and 2013 include a host of trainings that fulfill the pledge.</p> <p>On December 21, 2012, the U.S. Coast Guard implemented the use of the Manifestation of Fear video to all units deploying in support of migrant interdiction operations.</p>

**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

<p><b>Afghanistan</b></p>	<p>Pledges to establish, with the assistance of UNHCR, a national refugee legislation in accordance to best international practice and fully compliant with the 1951 Convention and other international norms. This national refugee legislation will, in addition to a national Refugee Law, also include procedures to implement the aforementioned international instruments and to fulfill the obligations of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with regard to the 1951 Convention.</p>	
<p><b>People’s Republic of China (The)</b></p>	<p>Pledges to speed up the legislation process relating to refugees in light of China’s national conditions and legislative process.</p>	<p>China introduced the refugee definition in its Law on Exit and Entry of Aliens. This law entered into force in July 2013.</p>
<p><b>Papua New Guinea</b></p>	<p>Pledges to review all existing domestic legislation and policies relating to refugees with the aim of formulating a comprehensive national refugee policy for Papua New Guinea to effectively address refugee issues in full compliance with the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol.</p>	
<p><b>Republic of Korea (The)</b></p>	<p>Pledges to work with relevant actors towards the adoption of legislation that promotes the rights and protection of refugees and asylum-seekers such as “The Bill on the Status and Treatment of Refugees and Others” introduced by Member of National Assembly Hwang, Woo Yea, and currently pending at the Legislation and Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly.</p>	<p>Refugee Act promulgated last year entered into force in July 2013.</p>

EUROPE		
<b>Armenia</b>	Pledges to improve the Law on Refugees and Asylum to ensure its full conformity with agreed international standards for the protection of refugees.	
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Pledges to participate in making amendments and additions to the relevant legislation acts in order to improve the procedure for considering applications of persons seeking refugee status.	
<b>Georgia</b>	Pledges to fully implement the new law of Refugees and Humanitarian Status, adopted last week, in the spirit of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, giving due consideration to the positions and advice offered by UNHCR.	A new law on Refugees and Humanitarian Status entered into force in March 2012. The law brings National Refugee Legislation closer to international norms and standards, specifies rights and procedures and for the first time introduces a complementary form of protection. It thereby sets the basis for further improvement of the protection situation of refugees and asylum-seekers. Full implementation started as of the last quarter of 2012.
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	Pledges to implement the new asylum law, currently under discussion in the Liechtenstein Parliament, in the spirit of the Geneva Convention and in close cooperation with UHNCR, including the protection of refugees from prosecution by non-state players.	Liechtenstein cooperated both formally and informally with UNHCR in the drafting of the legislative proposal. Upon its adoption, Liechtenstein also provided the opportunity to input informally with respect to the implementing regulations. Informal exchanges/consultations have continued to take place.
<b>Montenegro</b>	Pledges to proceed with harmonization of national legislation and procedures related to refugees.	The new Law on Social and Child Care was adopted on 28 May 2013 The Law on Social Housing was adopted on 18 June 2013. A/m laws are not implementable without adoption of respective secondary legislation for which the deadline is from six months/one year following the Laws' entering into force.

		The Law on Foreigners was amended on 11 June to allow for extension of the deadline for applying for the status of foreigner with permanent/temporary residence until 31 December 2013.
<b>Russian Federation (The)</b>	Pledges to improve national refugee legislation.	
<b>Turkey</b>	Turkey, while reviewing its legislation and asylum in line with the realities of the era, has completed drafting a comprehensive new law, in consideration of the international law principles and jurisprudence (that) will form the basis of our national policy regarding migration and asylum.	The Turkish Parliament endorsed Turkey's first ever law on asylum on 4 April 2013. This law entered into force on 11 April 2013.
<b>Ukraine</b>	In the context of protection the rights of refugees, measures are taken to ensure effective state governance in this area, to harmonize national legislation with international standards, creating conditions for the full implementation of the rights and freedom of refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as optimal use of their intellectual and labor potential.	Some steps have been taken to harmonize national legislation with international standards (e.g., refugees' social and economic rights have been elaborated in national law; asylum-seekers and refugees protection against <i>refoulement</i> in the context of extradition has been strengthened).  On 22 August 2012, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers adopted a national plan for the local integration of refugees and persons with complementary protection. Adoption of the Plan indicates that Ukraine's efforts to facilitate integration of refugees into Ukrainian society, recognizing the potential they bring to the host country.
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>		
<b>Yemen</b>	Pledges to develop a national legislation addressing refugee affairs in conformity with international standards as stipulated in the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol.	

## Establishing/improving national asylum policies

AFRICA		
<b>Angola</b>	Pledges to continue to work on reforming its policies for granting asylum and protecting refugees in compliance with international humanitarian law and the 1951 Convention.	<p>In February 2012, Presidential Decree no. 11/12 created an inter-ministerial task force for the revision of the Asylum Law (Law 8/90).</p> <p>The task force presented a new draft refugee bill in April 2013. The bill is more restrictive on refugee rights than the current legislation. In April 2013, UNHCR was able to present comments on the draft refugee bill. Since then, the Angolan authorities have shown interest in involving UNHCR in the drafting process.</p> <p>The main features of the current draft bill are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased use of detention;</li> <li>2. Introduction of manifestly unfounded claims and expedited RSD process; and</li> <li>3. Increased restrictions on refugee rights (including work, freedom of movement, etc.).</li> </ol>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Pledges to continue scrupulously enforcing the national Refugee Proclamation as the necessary domestic framework.	
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	Pledges to establish the internal regulation of the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs.	
<b>South Africa</b>	The Government has identified a number of areas that need strengthening in relation to the reception of asylum-seekers, the determination of status, and the	

	treatment and integration of refugees. The Government has initiated a number of administrative, legal and institutional measures in this regard that will enable the security and other needs of refugees to be met more effectively.	
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Dominican Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to continue the joint work with UNHCR, facilitating its collaboration with the CONARE in order to achieve the objectives of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.	
<b>Venezuela</b>	Pledges to establish an inter-institutional body for the development and coordination of public policies for refugee population.	CNR led the organisation of an inter-institutional workshop.
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	The Government commits to reviewing all existing domestic legislation and policies relating to refugees with the aim of formulating a comprehensive national refugee policy for Papua New Guinea to effectively address refugee issues in full compliance with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Austria</b>	Pledges to conclude negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior and the UNHCR office in Austria. The Memorandum includes a strong commitment of Austria to the 1951 Convention and the protection of	The Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Austria on Strengthening Cooperation was signed by the Austrian Federal Minister of the Interior and the UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Europe on 21 March 2012 in Vienna.

	<p>those in need. More precisely, it will refer to a number of measures in order to safeguard the high quality of the Austrian asylum system, in particular the standards for asylum procedures as well as the reception system.</p>	
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**Improving conditions of detention and/or in reception centers**

AFRICA		
<b>Togo</b>	<p>Pledges to build the capacity of actors working in the area of refugee protection including staff of CNAR (national coordination body for assistance to refugees) and the immigration services, judges, magistrates and social services staff (in hospitals and tribunals), with the support of UNHCR.</p> <p>Pledges to seek alternative solutions for refugees who are in detention, in particular for children.</p>	
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	<p>Pledges to work closely with developing partners such as UNHCR, IOM and other stakeholders to establish a reception center at Nyamapanda Border Post which has</p>	<p>The Nyamapanda reception center was established in cooperation with IOM and UNHCR. It is operational since 2011. The Reception center provides a viable alternative to detention of migrants and</p>

	<p>become a popular entry point for asylum-seekers from the Horn of Africa, in particular Somalis fleeing from the humanitarian crisis in the country of origin, to reduce and avoid detention of asylum-seekers.</p> <p>Pledges to establish an office of the Department of Social Services in particular the Refugee Service Unit at Nyamapanda Border Post as it is the one with the mandate and expertise in dealing with refugee and asylum-seeker issues.</p> <p>Pledges to provide co-ordinated transport facility to the Tongogara Refugee Camp, the only refugee camp in Zimbabwe, so as to reduce the detention of asylum-seekers.</p> <p>Pledges to carry out sensitization, information campaign meetings and training border control officials on the treatment of asylum-seekers.</p>	<p>asylum-seekers.</p> <p>Organised transportation is being implemented from Nyamapanda to Tongogara Refugee Camp. It is facilitated by IOM, in coordination with the Zimbabwean authorities and budgeted under a joint IOM/UNHCR project.</p>
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Bolivia</b>	<p>Pledges to continue with and multiply training on the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers for government officials working on the subject.</p>	
<b>Mexico</b>	<p>4. Pledges to continue working to guarantee that asylum-seekers in a vulnerable situation, particularly unaccompanied or separated children, have access to alternatives to detention while the procedure for status determination takes place.</p>	<p>In 2012, the federal government issued an executive order establishing basic norms and regulations for the functioning of immigration detention centres. The order is called the “Agreement to Establish Norms for the Functioning of the Migration Centres of the National Migration Institute”. The agreement classifies “provisional” detention centres according to the length of time people can be detained at them (Article 5); provides details about activities inside detention centres (Article 7); and offers</p>



		<p>specific security regulations, administrative procedures, and various services provided in the facilities.</p>
<p><b>United States of America (The)</b></p>	<p>Pledges to continue to provide UNHCR reasonable access to conduct review of detention and parole decision-making for persons of concern to UNHCR, including parole determinations for arriving asylum-seekers in expedited removal.</p> <p>Pledges to work with UNHCR and other stakeholders on improved detainee release practices, including consideration of a Detainee Release Notification flier that explains to detainees their legal obligations and provides information on issues such as phone calls, personal property, medical services and community organisations that serve immigrant populations. Pledges to review and amend, as necessary, current policies to better ensure that individuals in immigrant detention, including asylum-seekers, are released from detention in a safe and responsible manner, time, and place.</p>	<p>Provided access to UNHCR to complete its review on parole.</p> <p>DHS worked with UNHCR to revise the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Form 71-012 “Parole Advisal and Scheduling Notification Form.” On August 17, 2012, ICE Enforcement and Removal Offices began using the new form in all of its field offices. Form 71-012 now gives arriving aliens or their representative expanded information on documents they may want ICE to consider as part of its assessment whether to parole the alien from detention. Documents may be submitted concerning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The arriving alien’s identity;</li> <li>(2) Whether the arriving alien is likely to appear for all scheduled hearings and enforcement appointments (including for removal from the United States if so ordered); or</li> <li>(3) Whether the arriving alien does not present a security risk to the United States or a danger to the community.</li> </ol> <p>Completed its detainee release notification flier.</p> <p>Issued the 2011 Performance-Based National Detention Standards, which includes improved detainee release practices. Implementation of these new standards has commenced. In addition, DHS is revising the Detainee Detention Facility Handbook to give detainees notice of policies and practices surrounding release from ICE detention facilities.</p> <p>ICE’s revised Performance-Based National Detention Standards also improves</p>

		<p>conditions of confinement for detainees in various ways, including by improving medical and mental health services, increasing access to legal services, enhancing processes for reporting and responding to complaints, and strengthening protections for vulnerable detainee populations (including women, individuals with mental illness, and victims of abuse). ICE has also issued a new Transfer Directive that prohibits the long-distance transfer within the agency's detention system of detainees with family members or attorneys in the area or pending immigration proceedings, unless absolutely necessary.</p> <p>In addition, ICE has initiated nationwide deployment of a new Risk Classification Assessment system designed to screen all individuals apprehended or detained by ICE for a number of special vulnerabilities impacting custody and classification determinations, including whether a person is a victim of persecution or torture, sexual abuse or violent crime, or human trafficking.</p>
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<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
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<b>Japan</b>	Pledges to solve issues related to detention during the RSD process.	In February 2012, the Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) and Forum for Refugees Japan (FRJ) established a framework of cooperation in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding provides that the three parties will discuss and cooperate on improving the asylum system, including the issue of securing shelters for asylum-seekers upon release from detention. This framework is therefore expected to contribute significantly to an expanded use of alternatives to detention,
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		including the amendment or the creation of relevant legal provisions.
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Belgium</b>	Belgium developed in the past a system that gives special attention to gender-based files, e.g. by creating a gender unit. Similarly, special assistance is given to unaccompanied minor asylum-seekers. In this context, Belgium pledges to take further measures to limit the detention of this group.	The new Belgian Law of 19 January 2012 (published on 17 February 2012) transposes the EU Return Directive, modifying the current legal framework on removal and detention, and putting more emphasis on voluntary departure.
<b>Czech Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to improve conditions for families with minor children in detention centers: The Czech Republic will improve, through both legal and practical measures, conditions for families with minor children in detention centers, mainly through equipment of the detention centers and reduction of the detention period to the minimal possible duration. In the case of asylum-seekers, the detention will be in a reception center where conditions for the stay of minor children are more appropriate.	In 2012, the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of Interior was actively trying to improve the living conditions in its facilities, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups, such as minor children, women, medical cases, elderly people, victims of torture, etc. In reception and accommodation facilities, special protection zones are established for individual vulnerable cases. Tailor-made free-time activities, artistic workshops, sport and cultural activities are regularly taking place in these facilities and relevant sport, music and other relevant thematic equipment is available for all clients.
<b>Denmark</b>	Denmark is committed to ensuring reception conditions of asylum-seekers of a continued high standard. Denmark pledges to launch in 2012 a process on the development of a new model for reception conditions for asylum-seekers.	
<b>Romania</b>	Romania will strive for better reception conditions of asylum-seekers and for further defining and implementing its asylum policies, taking into consideration the	As of December 2012 Romania implements the project "Response to vulnerability in Asylum" that looks, inter alia, to the reception arrangements for vulnerable asylum-seekers.

	situation of vulnerable groups.	
<b>Russian Federation (The)</b>	Pledges to develop a network of temporary accommodation centers for asylum-seekers and improve their conditions of stay in these centers.	Improvement can be noticed in facilitating access to one Federation Migration Service-run temporary accommodation center (Tver region) for especially vulnerable cases as well as a genuine attempt to improve and expand (in Saratov region) the existing network of centers.
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to continue to keep the duration of detention as short as possible; and to a minimum when it comes to detention of children.	<p>The number of rejected asylum-seekers who are subjected to detention has increased since the pledge was made, but the average time of detention has indeed decreased. In 2009, the average time was 21 days, whereas in 2012, the average time spend in detention was down to 11.2 days. In 2012, Sweden implemented EU legislation, setting an upper limit for detention of rejected asylum-seekers at 12 months. The above statistics concern only the detention decisions taken by the Swedish Migration Board and not the ones taken by the police. The latter category represents 60-70% of the decisions to detain and statistics in their regard are being assembled only since mid-2012.</p> <p>As far as children are concerned, children (individuals below the age of 18) may be detained no longer than three days, with an extension of another three days when strong reasons call for it.</p>

**Refugee status determination (RSD), including:**

- Establishing an asylum procedure;
- Improving the quality and efficiency of the asylum procedure;
- Assuming greater responsibility for the asylum procedure.

AFRICA		
<b>Gambia (The)</b>	Pledges to ensure its continuous commitment to expedite the full establishment of the Refugee Board	The Gambia Commission for Refugees established a functional board, and the

	which will serve as the basis for the establishment of a fair and efficient asylum system.	chairperson was appointed.
<b>Liberia</b>	One of the key proposed amendments of the Liberia Refugee Act is: expeditious adjudication of asylum claims through standard Refugee Status Determination proceedings (hearing).	RSD adjudications are ongoing with recognitions of Guinean and Ivorian (prima facie) asylum-seekers by the Liberia Asylum Committee in 2012.  The LRRRC (Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission), though trained in RSD, still requires additional capacity-building support.
<b>Mali</b>	Pledges to improve Refugee Status Determination in Mali. The Government of Mali pledges to establish an independent appeal committee by the end of 2011 to improve the asylum system. The new appeals committee will be established by virtue of a decree of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Local Authorities of Mali.	
<b>Rwanda</b>	Pledges to improve the implementation of its Refugee Status Determination procedures and ensure efficiency and consistency with high standards. More specifically by:  a) Ensuring age, gender and diversity sensitivity in the asylum system;  b) Lifting language barriers during hearings and interviews;  c) Focusing on refugee status determination expertise;  d) Assuming greater responsibility for refugee status determination procedure.	In 2013, a draft refugee law is before the Parliament, which will supersede the 2001 and 2006 asylum laws and is a significant improvement in terms of adherence to International Refugee Law (IRL).  However, with regard to the first two pledges, these relate to the internal decree on asylum procedures which has yet to be developed (end 2013/2014)  With respect to RSD expertise, members of the National Refugee Commission have undergone training on IRL in San Remo. Locally, all members of the board have been subject to an RSD training by UNHCR Rwanda.

<p><b>South Africa</b></p>	<p>The efficiency of adjudicating the status of those who seek asylum is being addressed through a number of initiatives, including the amending of legislation and improving structures and processes. These measures will serve to deal with backlogs while establishing efficient adjudication systems that will benefit refugees. An important part of this process will be strengthening regional cooperation and the partnership between the South African Government and UNHCR.</p>	<p>South Africa’s Department of Home Affairs (DHA) continued its review of the amended 1998 Refugees Act.</p> <p>The Refugee Amendment bill was signed ‘into law’ by the president on 26 August 2011, but it has not yet entered ‘into force’ as the implementing regulations need to be developed.</p> <p>The bill contains the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It establishes a Status Determination Committee (SDC) for each Refugee Reception Office. SDC is aimed at ensuring that the applications of asylum-seeker are dealt with efficiently and promptly;</li> <li>- It excludes a person that has committed a crime of non-political nature from qualifying for refugee status;</li> <li>- It eliminates appeals where an asylum application has been rejected as manifestly unfounded, abusive or fraudulent.</li> <li>- It requires an asylum-seeker or a refugee to register a child born in South Africa and submit the ‘birth certificate’ to the Refugee Reception Centre within one month of birth.</li> <li>- It allows political office bearers to be appointed to the Refugee Appeal Authority (RAA);</li> <li>- It introduces the right of an asylum applicant to be advised of the outcome of his/her application after a hearing;</li> <li>- It empowers the Minister, instead of Director-General, to review the refugee status and to withdraw a person’s refugee status if such person has been recognized as a refugee due to error, omission or oversight committed in good faith or not.</li> </ul>
<p><b>South Sudan</b></p>	<p>The Government of South Sudan is</p>	<p>South Sudan passed a Refugees Act in July</p>

	<p>dedicated to enacting its Refugee Bill by the end of the year, that will deal with the following:</p> <p>2) To regulate applications of recognition of refugee status;</p> <p>3) To provide rights and obligations flowing from the status.</p>	<p>2012, and UNHCR has been invited to participate in the process of drafting implementing Regulations for the Refugees Act, which will likely occur in the course of 2013. There exists a strong working relationship between the Government and UNHCR which will enhance UNHCR's ability in 2013 to fully support the newly created Commission of Refugees Affairs (January 2013), within the Ministry of Interior through provision of material resources and capacity building of staff including, inter alia, physical assets and training on status determination and other refugee protection issues.</p>
<b>Togo</b>	<p>Pledges to create an appeals body for asylum-seekers.</p>	
<b>Uganda</b>	<p>We shall ensure continuous implementation, improving and upgrading of the asylum processes to ensure timely protection of refugees. This therefore calls for support to the refugee status determination process.</p>	
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	<p>Reaffirms its commitment to fair and efficient refugee status determination through:</p> <p>1) Collaboration with developing partners in the training of translators/interpreters, in particular Amharic-speaking personnel to assist asylum-seekers from the Horn of Africa;</p> <p>2) Engagement of independent translators who are not refugees to avoid bias and prejudice.</p> <p>3) To work with developing partners and stakeholders in training and capacity building skills on interviewing vulnerable groups, such</p>	<p>1) There are very few Amharic speaking recognised refugees in Zimbabwe.</p> <p>2) Discussion has not yet started on this matter.</p> <p>4) This is ongoing work at Tongogara Refugee Camp undertaken by both the Government refugee counselors and UNHCR staff. Information is systematically disseminated to all newly arriving asylum-seekers by the Government counselor based at the reception centre. For all others: rejected asylum-seekers and recognized refugees staying at Tongogara Refugee Camp, UNHCR counsels specific groups on specific matters regarding their rights and obligations in Zimbabwe.</p>

	<p>as unaccompanied minors, the elderly and victims of post-traumatic stress disorder (P.T.S.D).</p> <p>4) Carrying out sensitization and campaign meetings on asylum-seeker rights, duties and obligations.</p> <p>5) Providing training of trainers who would assist on asylum-seeker process and procedures;</p> <p>6) Collaboration with developing partners with capacity training of Zimbabwe Refugee Committee (ZRC) members on dealing with vulnerable sensitive group, such as victims of rape and sodomy.</p>	<p>5) This undertaking has not yet been achieved. However, there was a training of for all personnel dealing with refugee issues to the Zimbabwean Refugee Committee members to undertake exemption interviews under the Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for Rwandan Refugees in June 2012.</p> <p>6) There is therefore continued need for formal training in this particular area.</p>
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Argentina</b>	<p>Pledges to strengthen the implementation of those mechanisms that have been adopted to cope with new situations that are not envisaged in the international instruments for refugee protection, including the application of criterion for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds (art. 23, sub-paragraph m, Migration Law No. 25.871) pursuant to the regulations established in the Regulatory Decree of the Migration Act (Decree 616/2010), which envisages the situation of people who, notwithstanding the fact that they are not refugees, have international protection needs; and the criterion of special temporary settlement (art. 24, sub-paragraph h, Law No. 25.871) whose regulations include the situation of those people who “despite not requiring international protection, are temporarily unable to return to their countries of origin</p>	<p>In August 2012, CONARE continued to strengthen its practice of referring particular cases to the <i>Dirección Nacional de Migraciones</i> for the application of the “criterio de residencia temporaria por razones humanitarias y el criterio de radicación transitoria especial en los casos de personas cuyas solicitudes de reconocimiento de la condición de refugiado han sido denegados y su situación encuadra en esos criterios”.</p> <p>The Ombudsman’s Office <i>Programa de Asesoramiento y Representación Legal para personas refugiadas y solicitantes del reconocimiento de la condición de refugiado</i> has included as beneficiaries of its free legal assistance programme all asylum-seekers and refugees who are in need of legal aid. Furthermore, the programme has increased its scope to also include naturalization procedures.</p> <p>The <i>Defensoría General</i> expanded its legal representation to persons who had arrived</p>



	<p>due to the prevailing humanitarian conditions or owing to the consequences generated by natural disasters or man-made environmental disasters”, and may take into account non-return advisories issued by UNHCR.</p> <p>CONARE will continue consolidating the practice of recommending to the National Direction for Migration cases of people whose applications for refugee status have been denied whenever their situation meets the above-mentioned criteria; as has been done, for example, in cases of unaccompanied children.</p> <p>Pledges to share this public policy with countries in the region with the aim of maintaining the high standards achieved by members of the MERCOSUR.</p> <p>In August 2010, an agreement was signed between the CONARE, the UNHCR Regional Office for South America and the National Ombudsman Office creating the “Programme of Legal Assistance and Representation for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers” within the National Ombudsman Office, which will begin functioning in February 2012.</p> <p>CONARE pledges to implement effective information and referral mechanisms so that the right to have effective, public and free legal representation by the National Ombudsman can be known and effectively exercised by any asylum-seeker; and to ensure that those people who do not apply for refugee protection are also properly guided</p>	<p>prior to January 2012, thus allowing other asylum-seekers to access their services.</p>
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	and referred to the protection mechanisms that they may require.	
<b>Canada</b>	Pledges to establish an appeal mechanism on the merits of a claim.	<p>Following the refugee reform and the introduction of Bill C-31, an appeal mechanism was introduced.</p> <p>The new legislation, the Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act, received royal assent on 28 June 2012 and came into effect on 15 December 2012. The legislative reform effectively overhauled the IRB (where first instance RSD decisions were made by public servants), put in place the Refugee Appeal Division, transferred the pre-removal risk assessment (PRRA) portion dealing with non-admissibility issues, and instituted stricter timelines for the process. Although an appeal mechanism was introduced, the reform also removed access to an appeal for persons from designated (safe) countries of origin (DCO), and provided for differentiated treatment of asylum-seekers and refugees based on a discretionary designation related to the circumstances of arrival. The newly-implemented PCISA has created limitations in law and practices impacting the ability to seek asylum for those designated as irregular arrivals or from designated countries of origin. Persons of these profiles have limited rights and processing times, and are subject to such measures such as mandatory arrest and detention upon arrival, restricted access to appeal processes, limited access to the federal health programme, restricted access to legal representation, the removal of certain statutory stays of removal, and prohibition on complementary protection schemes.</p>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Pledges to strengthen the Refugee Status Determination Procedure by promoting a comprehensive	<p>Costa Rica established a Refugee Unit and Administrative Migration Tribunal.</p> <p>The improvement of the standard of the</p>

	<p>approach.</p>	<p>RSD system was at the core of the work undertaken in the framework of the Quality Assurance Initiative, which was implemented in its initial phase during the period. The Refugee Department at the Migration Office was able to streamline processes, which led to better case management and attention provided to asylum-seekers. The first instance decision-making body, the Visas and Refugees Commission, somewhat improved their capacity during the year.</p> <p>Long waiting periods persist, however, given that an asylum-seeker waits for at least eleven months to receive a response to his/her application at the first instance level, whereas the Immigration Act states that an answer must be provided within three months. Still, the main area of concern in the RSD system relates to appeals.</p> <p>At the end of 2012, UNHCR estimates that some 1200 cases were pending at the final appeals stage. With the current situation, the persons pending a decision could expect to wait for at least five years. Thus the RSD process currently leaves a large number of asylum-seekers in a legal limbo for years on end.</p> <p>Efforts to quantify the existing backlog of asylum claims are being made with a view to reducing it.</p>
<b>Dominican Republic (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to strengthen the work of the National Commission for Refugees, in order to improve and streamline refugee status determination procedures in pending and future cases.</p>	<p>CONARE was reactivated in June 2012.</p> <p>The National Eligibility Commission in the Dominican Republic was reactivated.</p>
<b>Mexico</b>	<p>3. Pledges to work to guarantee that the procedure for refugee status determination is in accordance with</p>	<p>RSD procedures in Mexico are being strengthened through the Quality Assurance Initiative. The project has become regional,</p>

	the highest international protection standards.	with Mexico taking the lead, and will ultimately make procedures fairer and in accordance with international standards.
<b>United States of America (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to significantly reduce, through the issuance and application of exemptions to exclusion based on national security grounds, cases that are on hold for a review of eligibility for an exemption to exclusion by the end of fiscal year 2012;</p> <p>Pledges to undertake a review, to be completed by the end of calendar year 2012, to examine current interpretations of the terms under the national security exclusion grounds, for example, the meaning of material support, to better ensure that those in need of protection retain eligibility for it;</p> <p>Pledges to work with Congress to eliminate the one-year filing deadline for submission of asylum applications.</p>	<p>The DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano signed new exercises of the exemption authority that authorize U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to exempt individuals on a case-by-case basis for the provision of medical care under certain circumstances.</p> <p>The Secretary also recently signed an exercise of her exemption authority for applicants with existing immigration benefits, such as asylees and refugees in the United States. The exemption will allow USCIS to release up to an estimated 75 percent of the cases currently on hold and proceed with the adjudications of the underlying benefit applications. The majority of the affected applicants whose cases will be released for adjudication are asylees and refugees with pending applications for legal permanent resident status, or "green cards." Those who are granted the exemption will be able to continue down the path to full U.S. citizenship.</p> <p>In addition, two new group-based exercises of the exemption authority were signed by Secretary Napolitano during the year that authorize USCIS to exempt certain individuals having activities and associations with the Kosovo Liberation Army or who were involved in the 1991 Iraqi uprisings against the Saddam Hussein regime.</p> <p>Continuing into fiscal year 2013, Secretary Napolitano has recently authorized an exemption for applicants with activities or associations with the <i>Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional</i> (FMLN) and the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA). In</p>

		<p>addition, DHS has continued to reduce the number of cases on hold by applying existing exemptions, consider new exemptions, and focus Department resources on case research.</p> <p>DHS continues to support legislation to eliminate the one year filing deadline and supports the current legislative proposals contained in S.744.</p>
<b>Uruguay</b>	<p>Pledges to build the capacity of the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission for Refugees. Its reinforcement, through material and human resources, will strengthen the application and force of international and national standards.</p>	<p>In December 2012, the MFA and UNHCR signed a cooperation agreement for the implementation of a project to strengthen for the Refugee Commission and its Technical Secretariat. Through this project, UNHCR has supported the Refugee Commission with office resources for its functioning and the MFA has initiated the selection of human resources needed for the proper functioning of the Technical Secretariat.</p>
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Afghanistan</b>	<p>Pledges to establish national refugee legislation which will, in addition to a national Refugee Law, also include procedures to implement the aforementioned international instruments and to fulfill the obligations of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with regard to the 1951 Convention.</p>	<p>At the end of 2012, Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), in close collaboration with UNHCR, completed the draft of the Refugee Law for Afghanistan. UNHCR continues to work closely with the MoRR to build their capacity surrounding the Refugee Status Determination procedure.</p>
<b>Australia</b>	<p>Pledges to implement legislation to grant complementary forms of protection to persons who are outside the scope of refugee protection instruments. In recent months, we have passed legislation through the parliament to make this possible and we are working to ensure it will come into effect in the first quarter of 2012.</p>	<p>The national legal framework was developed by the enactment of the Migration Amendment (Complementary Protection) Act 2011 on 19 September codifying Australia's complementary <i>non-refoulement</i> obligations under international human rights treaties, specifically the 1966 ICCPR, 1984 CAT and 1989 CRC, to be considered through the same visa process as claims that raise obligations under the 1951</p>

		Convention. The single procedure incorporating the consideration of the complementary protection needs in the refugee status determination process commenced in March 2012.
<b>Japan</b>	<p>Pledges to improve refugee status determination procedures by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhancing training on refugee status inspectors;</li> <li>- Both publicizing and enhancing data collection concerning refugees' countries of origin and refugee-producing situations throughout the world;</li> <li>- Accelerating the RSD procedures for early stabilization of legal status to those who are to be recognized as refugees;</li> <li>- Providing information on RSD procedures to asylum-seekers;</li> <li>- Solving issues relating to detention during the RSD procedure.</li> </ul>	<p>The Immigration Bureau (IB) and the Ministry of justice (MOJ) have expanded training programmes for immigration officers. Collaborative activities between UNHCR and the MoJ included a series of training sessions; a visit of IB officers to UNHCR HQ, OFPRA in Paris, and the San Remo Refugee law seminar; an internship programme; and visits to UNHCR RSD operations in Thailand and Malaysia. The training sessions for first instance RSD officers were highly evaluated. The expertise of the IB's RSD officers (and some RECs) has increased, with their skill levels (especially in interviewing and credibility assessment) having improved significantly in recent years.</p> <p>The IB has continued to upload on their website major COI reports, which they have translated into Japanese to share them with legal representatives and asylum-seekers for fair and efficient asylum procedure.</p> <p>IB has continued to keep up with the RSD application standard processing period (6 months) set in 2010 and to disclose the average processing speed periodically to ensure transparency and speedy processing. IB updated and uploaded an information brochure on the RSD procedure in Japanese in 2012 and is currently updating its translated versions (in 13 major languages).</p> <p>MOJ continued to make efforts to expand the grant of provisional stay permission (PPS) and provisional release permit which allow asylum-seekers to stay out of detention. In February 2012, MOJ concluded</p>

		a memorandum of understanding with the Japan Federation of Bar Associations and Forum for Refugees Japan (FRJ, an NGO coordination body) for enhancement of asylum process in general, including working together for further reduction of detention for asylum-seekers, with NGOs and lawyers assisting in finding accommodations and providing counseling.
<b>Republic of Korea (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to address language barriers of asylum-seekers and ensure fair assessment of their cases by improving interpretation support services during refugee status determination interviews through the build-up of an interpreter roster for over 30 different languages.</p> <p>Pledges to improve on governmental institutions responsible for refugee status determination and asylum policy such as the creation of an independent Refugee Division at Seoul Immigration Office, with the aim to better address the needs of an increasing number of asylum-seekers.</p>	<p>The 2012 Refugee Act enshrines the right to the provision of appropriate interpretation (Art. 14).</p> <p>UNHCR partnered with the Dong Cheon Foundation (DCF) to train 76 interpreters speaking 18 different languages. 68 of them were appointed as qualified interpreters by KIS. This pool will also be utilized by the judiciary. The tripartite cooperation between KIS, DCF and UNHCR for this interpreter training resulted in the National Court Administration initiating discussions on the systematic training of judicial interpreters and the launching of a survey on the situation of judicial interpretation for foreigners in Korea.</p> <p>At the administrative level, the RSD officers started to pay more attention to reviewing domestic court decisions.</p>
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Pledges to participate in making amendments and additions to the relevant legislation acts in order to improve the procedure for considering applications of persons seeking refugee status.	
<b>Belgium</b>	Pledges to maintain and further develop its solid asylum system, which is built on high standards of quality and efficiency. The asylum system guarantees full and effective	The Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) continues to show a strong commitment to maintaining and further developing a solid asylum system built on high standards of quality and

	<p>access to those wishing to apply for international protection.</p> <p>Pledges to further work on minimizing delays by a thorough investigation of the asylum process in order to streamline the process. This must result in faster decision-making without sacrificing our high quality standards.</p>	<p>efficiency. An audit carried out by Deloitte in 2012 assessed the whole process. Also in 2012, the CGRS participated in UNHCR's CREDO research (Improved Credibility Assessment in EU Asylum Procedures). Since March 2013, a part-time Quality Manager has been engaged by the CGRS to elaborate a quality initiative.</p> <p>The legislator has adopted reforms of the asylum procedure including concepts such as 'safe country of origin' (accompanied by reduced appeal rights for asylum-seekers from these countries) and 'first country of asylum'. Furthermore welcome amendments concerning admissibility of subsequent applications have also been adopted.</p> <p>According to a government note (21 December 2012) and CGRS, the average time needed for the completion of the examination of an asylum procedure was shortened significantly at all levels. The aim of an average of 3 months for the completion of the examination of an asylum procedure at first instance (CGRS) was met. The same applies to the Council for Aliens Law Litigation (appeal instance).</p>
<p><b>Cyprus</b></p>	<p>Pledges to remain committed to the granting of international protection to persons in accordance with the fundamental principles and values that govern this protection. We reaffirm our commitment to continue improving the quality of asylum procedures, reception conditions and to enhance integration of beneficiaries of international protection in the Cypriot society.</p>	



<p><b>Czech Republic (The)</b></p>	<p>Pledges to enhance the quality of staff.</p>	<p>The Czech Republic has enhanced the quality of its staff dealing with asylum-seekers and refugees through implementation of parts of European Asylum Training on national level. As of May 2013, three modules of the EAC training have been translated into the Czech language and, according to the information provided by the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior of the CR, in 2012 approximately 80 staff dealing with asylum-seekers and refugees were trained on them.</p> <p>UNHCR organized a seminar to promote the concept of credibility in RSD procedure, which resulted in some decision-makers later applying the concept properly in their asylum decisions, although it was not systematic.</p>
<p><b>Greece</b></p>	<p>Pledges to undertake quality refugee status determination by issuing policy guidance to asylum adjudicators.</p> <p>Pledges to remedy the weaknesses of the asylum management system and the reception conditions, caused by the constant mixed-migration flows, through the implementation of a three-year National Action Plan in close cooperation with the European Commission, the EU partners, EASO and international stakeholders such as UNHCR, IOM and NGOs. The components of the Action Plan, which aims at easing pressure on the overburdened asylum system and improving the condition of irregular migrants and asylum-seekers, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reform the asylum procedures and creation of a new professional</li> </ul>	<p>UNHCR has supported efforts of Greece to reform its asylum system, including by engaging in activities foreseen in Presidential Decree 114/2010 of 22 November 2010 regulating the asylum procedure during an extended transitional period. Technical, legal and practical support was also offered in the preparations for the new asylum system, established by Law 3907/2011, under the responsibility of the Asylum Service, Appeals Authority and First Reception Service. The draft legislative framework governing the new asylum procedure was subject to intense consultations, with UNHCR's comments largely taken into consideration, and is in the final stages of adoption.</p> <p>UNHCR's advocacy and operational investment has resulted in the adoption of a strategy to accelerate the clearance of the backlog of appeals and the effective verification and updating of physical files and a database of some 50,000 pending cases.</p>

	<p>specially trained and skilled Asylum Service.</p>	<p>Collaboration with State authorities and NGOs continues to be very close, in particular in the context of the implementation of the Asylum Reform. A significant engagement continued with the international NGO ICMC for the identification, deployment and management of affiliate workforce – in particular experts in RSD – established since end 2010 in the framework of the Asylum Reform Project. Partnerships continued with the Greek Council for Refugees, with METaction (for the provision of interpreters) and with the Ecumenical Refugee Programme (for the provision of legal aid to persons of concern).</p>
<b>Ireland</b>	<p>Pledges to introduce a single protection procedure through the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill 2010, to determine applications for protection and other reasons to remain in the State.</p>	<p>With the IRP Bill delayed due to legislative backlogs and the sheer size and ambition of the legislation, the Irish authorities are proceeding with Plan B: the introduction of a single protection determination procedure by Ministerial order (secondary legislation), thereby bypassing lengthy procedures for enacting primary legislation. It is envisaged the single procedure will be in force by the end of 2013.</p>
<b>Republic of Moldova (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to improve the quality of the refugee status determination procedure.</p>	<p>Moldova is a beneficiary state which participates in the EU-funded and UNHCR co-funded and implemented project “Asylum Systems Quality Initiative in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus”, launched in February 2013.</p>
<b>Romania</b>	<p>Romania will further work towards improving the quality of the asylum-procedure by, inter alia, implementing the UNHCR-EU Quality Initiative project, as well as by promoting its results at international level.</p>	<p>Romania finalized implementation of the FDQ project in September 2011 and since then closely works with UNHCR within FDQ arrangements for ensuring the quality of the decisions issued at administrative level. Romania is also involved as “a good practice country” in the Quality Initiative in Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus (QIEE) project that was recently launched.</p>

<p><b>Russian Federation (The)</b></p>	<p>Pledges to improve national refugee legislation as well as applicable status determination procedures for asylum-seekers in the Russian Federation.</p>	<p>The concept of the State Migration Policy of the Russian Federation for the period of 2012-2025, adopted in July 2012, outlines the major directions of migration management and regulation of mixed migration flows, including the further development of the asylum system and refugee status determination.</p> <p>The continued work on the new Draft Law on Refugees (planned for 2014) introduces a comprehensive approach to “improve national refugee legislation as well as applicable status determination procedures for asylum-seekers in the Russian Federation”.</p> <p>Access to asylum for applicants in detention has improved as awareness of the authorities and coordination between different governmental bodies on the asylum-related issues was strengthened.</p> <p>Access to asylum for applicants in detention has improved as awareness of the authorities and coordination between different governmental bodies on the asylum-related issues was strengthened.</p>
<p><b>Sweden</b></p>	<p>Pledges to continue to improve the national asylum system process in order to up-hold a humane, legally secure and effective system.</p>	<p>Three projects were implemented since the pledges were made, with aim of improving the quality and consistency of the asylum process : the “Quality Initiative” undertaken by the Swedish Migration Board and UNHCR in collaboration, leading to a number of improvements, “LEAN”, that aimed to reduce waiting times for asylum-seekers (and which proved effective) and “DLO” (“the Learning Organization”), which is carried out over a period of one and a half years aiming to enhance quality and consistency of asylum decisions by submitting SMB staff to continuous professional development.</p>

<p><b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (The)</b></p>	<p>The Government will continue to ensure its asylum and refugee status determination processes are of the highest quality and protect the needs of those genuinely seeking protection in the UK. The Government will ensure that information, advice and support are made available to, and can be easily accessed by, those seeking protection from persecution. This will result in applicants attaining a greater understanding of the asylum process.</p> <p>The Government will continue work to create an environment where those who wish to register a claim feel safe and more able to disclose sensitive information, thereby improving the interaction between those deciding asylum claims and those accessing its asylum system.</p> <p>The Government, through the development of a next generation framework for asylum quality, will support and facilitate the delivery of quality throughout the asylum system. They also pledge to seek to improve efficiency and productivity. They will do these things by ensuring that work is carried out to a standard, high degree of quality at each stage of the asylum process, by minimising delays and errors and by ensuring that marking standards encourage concise decision-making and give appropriate weight to the critical elements of considerations.</p> <p>-The Government will ensure that the performance of the UK's asylum system is transparent and open to scrutiny. In line with the</p>	<p>The Home Office has shown its commitment to ensuring good quality asylum decision making by retaining the team of Quality Auditors despite staffing cuts. The UNHCR Quality Integration Project was further funded under a three-year Grant Agreement (2013-2015) providing for three UNHCR staff members to work closely with the Home Office on the quality of the asylum decision making.</p> <p>The Home Office has undertaken work on access and information in 2013 to ensure that asylum-seekers are able to access the asylum system in a fully informed manner and has consulted widely with civil society and UNHCR. Changes to the Home Office web site and to the Point of Claim leaflet have been made.</p> <p>The Home Office Screening Reform Programme has made changes to the physical environment of the Asylum Screening Unit in Croydon where the majority of asylum claims are registered. Under the same programme, staffs were trained and processes made more efficient.</p> <p>The Next Generation Quality Framework has been rolled out and is being delivered.</p> <p>The Home Office demonstrates its openness to stakeholder engagement through convening quarterly National Asylum Stakeholder Forum (NASF) meetings with heads of civil society groups and multiple thematic NASF sub groups (children, quality and equality, integration, returns).</p> <p>Quality Integration work continued and led to improvements in RSD processing following acceptance of recommendations by the UK authorities. Work focused on improvement of screening, better structured decision making and defining</p>
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	Government's transparency agenda, we have opened up the asylum system so any member of the public can see how we are achieving and hold us to account.	UKBA's new internal audit for the forthcoming years. The negotiations of the continuation of the Grant Agreement (2013-2015) was finalized which included a broadening of the scope of QI activities for the forthcoming years.
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>		
<b>Israel</b>	Israel is committed to continue expanding Government capacity and refugee status determination expertise and to assuming greater responsibility for refugee status determination.	

**Access to the right to work, health, education and/or social welfare for asylum-seekers and refugees**

<b>AFRICA</b>		
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo (The)</b>	Pledges to support the legal, social and economic integration of Angolan Refugees into the host community, including by facilitating access to education.	
<b>Kenya</b>	<p>Pledges to fulfill its international obligation of refugee protection and management in the following areas:</p> <p>IV. Refugees are allowed to access basic services such as free primary education. Kenya facilitates national and international partners to provide live-saving relief services to refugees.</p> <p>V. Urban refugees are allowed to engage in income-generating activities and access all amenities available in the urban areas.</p>	

<b>Lesotho</b>	3. Pledges to ensure that refugees in her territory have access to basic services for their welfare and well-being.	
<b>Rwanda</b>	7. Pledges to take necessary measures at all level to enable asylum-seekers/refugees to access basic services and enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights including free and fair access to the national labor market, the recognition of refugees' school and vocational diplomas, access to durable residence status, and the development of literacy programmes and adult education opportunities.	
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Bolivia</b>	Pledges to continue providing refugees and asylum-seekers access to the same basic services enjoyed by Bolivian citizens that allows them to enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights.	
<b>Peru</b>	<p>Pledges to create conditions to facilitate employment possibilities for asylum-seekers through the regularization in the Ministry of Labor of a procedure for approving working contracts and the establishment of a procedure allowing the issuance of driver's licenses.</p> <p>Pledges to generate the channels needed to facilitate access to the public health system for refugees and asylum-seekers.</p>	
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Kyrgyz</b>	Pledges to continue efforts aimed at the solution of social-economic	The country allows access of asylum-seekers and refugees registered by the state and

<b>Republic (The)</b>	issues of the refugees on the territory of Kyrgyzstan	UNHCR to state health services on the same terms as set for the citizens of the country.  Convention refugees in Kyrgyzstan are entitled to employment and other rights enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention and the national law on refugees.
<b>Republic of Korea (The)</b>	Pledges to ensure asylum-seekers and refugees are provided improved education, health and social welfare services through strengthened partnership with relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations.	
<b>Thailand</b>	Pledges to continue to broaden education opportunities for those displaced persons living in temporary shelter as well as other persons of concern in line with the Thai Government's "Education for All" policy.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Germany</b>	Pledges to continue to fund Germany's highly regarded and very successful Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative and, in this context, consider increasing the number of scholarships for Afghan refugees.	Germany has continued to fund the DAFI Initiative.
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA</b>		
<b>Yemen</b>	Pledges to capacitate the Bureau for Refugees to be fully operational, looking into all asylum and refugee affairs in Yemen and liaising with different governmental entities to ensure refugees access to basic rights, i.e. health, education and employment.  Pledges to work together with	

	UNHCR to ensure non-Somali asylum-seekers and refugees are benefiting from the same services availed to Somali refugees, including registration.	
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**Improving access to documentation and birth/civil registration for asylum-seekers and refugees:**

- 1. ID cards for refugees;**
- 2. Machine-readable travel documents for refugees;**
- 3. Birth registration for children of asylum-seekers and refugees.**

AFRICA		
<b>Burundi</b>	Pledges to implement as of next year the provisions of the 1951 Convention concerning the issuance of travel documents to recognized refugees in Burundi and meeting the requirements of Document 9303 by the International Civil Aviation Organization, thereby guaranteeing full freedom of movement for refugees.	A biometric specimen of Convention Travel Documents (CTDs) will be presented at the end of August 2013, and subsequently issued to refugees.
<b>Chad</b>	<p>Pledges to deliver birth certificates to refugee children: for which a coordinated decision will be taken once the new bill for a Nationality Code in Chad is adopted.</p> <p>Pledges to start issuing and delivering machine-readable travel documents to refugees by the second quarter of 2012, in compliance with the international standards adopted by International Civil Aviation Organization, on the basis of the 1944 Chicago Convention.</p>	The National Assembly has recently adopted the law on civil status which provides for the delivery of birth certificates to all children living on Chadian territory.



<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Pledges to find solutions to help Ivoirians to obtain documents proving their nationality.	In Côte d'Ivoire, following an awareness campaign to encourage late birth registrations, 3,056 birth certificates were issued in Man between 10 and 21 December 2012.
<b>Malawi</b>	2. Pledges to establish mechanisms to ensure that asylum-seekers and refugees are expeditiously registered and documented by authorized officers in a humane and dignified manner.  4. Pledges to facilitate freedom of external movement through issuance of travel documents recognized by the International /civil Aviation Association by early 2012.	
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Pledges to issue ID cards to all refugees in Sierra Leone.	
<b>United Republic of Tanzania (The)</b>	5. Pledges to continue registration and documentation of refugees and asylum-seekers.	Registration and documentation of refugees is ongoing. Tanzania has issued biometric CTDs for refugees.
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Pledges to improve the quality and access to documentation issued for asylum-seekers and refugees, while improving the registration system.	
<b>Venezuela</b>	Pledges to improve the mechanism for issuing documentation to refugees by facilitating the issuance of identity cards in the main cities of Venezuelan states on borders.	Joint UNHCR-CNR registration missions are being undertaken to the border areas.
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Philippines (The)</b>	2. Pledges to issue machine-readable travel documents to refugees in accordance with Philippine law.	
<b>Thailand</b>	1. Pledges to continue to make progress in further refining and	4. The Civil Registration Law in Thailand was revised to entitle all children born in the

	<p>broadening the admission criteria for those displaced persons in the temporary shelter areas, and issue personal documentation for those registered by the Thai authorities concerned.</p> <p>4. Pledges to continue to ensure that all children of displaced persons and those of other persons of concern have non-discriminatory access to protection services under Thailand’s Child Protection Act and those born in Thailand are entitled to birth registration and other rights under Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p>	<p>territory to register at birth.</p>
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Belarus</b>	<p>By the end of next year we plan to begin the process of granting recognized refugees with machine-readable travel documents (MRCTDs), which are designed in accordance with the 1951 Convention and the documents of the International Civil Aviation Organization. This measure is aimed at providing additional guarantees of freedom of movement for persons who were granted refugee status in the Republic of Belarus.</p>	<p>For travels abroad recognized refugees have to obtain travel document. This document is issued upon request and automatically (if person provides all papers and pays relevant state duties for its issuance). Existing type of travel document which is issued to recognized refugees is not fully ICAO compliant. Moreover, it is not recognized by many countries and, correspondingly, its holder can travel to a limited number of foreign states.</p> <p>Sample of new Convention Travel Document (ICAO compliant and with biometry) was elaborated and adopted in 2011 in cooperation with UNHCR. The MIA of Belarus was planning to start issuing them in 2012, but it was postponed for 2013 as the Gvt decided to introduce and start issuing all types of new ID and travel documents with biometry at the same time. According to recent DCM statement (2013), the Gvt will start issuing ICAO compliant CTDs in the second half of 2013.</p>

<b>France</b>	2. Pledges to modernize the travel documents issued to refugees as well as to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who reside in France. The aim is to issue documents in conformity with the most recent international requirements in order to enable the holders to travel easily.	Pledge fulfilled.
<b>Montenegro</b>	3. Pledges to facilitate and accelerate procedures for obtaining civil documentation, both at the national level and in cooperation with countries of origin, in order to regulate the legal status of all refugees now residing in Montenegro, enabling them to fully and effectively enjoy their rights and minimizing the possibility of statelessness and deprivation of any rights they may enjoy.	<p>The Government continued to cooperate with UNHCR and OSCE ODIHR in organising bus visits for obtaining personal documents. There was one such visit to Serbia in 2013.</p> <p>The Law on Foreigners was amended on 11 June to allow for extension of the deadline for applying for the status of foreigner with permanent/temporary residence until 31 December 2013.</p>
<b>Russian Federation (The)</b>	Pledges to improve the mechanism for the documentation of asylum-seekers in the Russian Federation as well as for stateless persons.	<p>The continued work on the new Draft Law on Refugees (planned for 2014) introduces a comprehensive approach to “improve the documentation of asylum-seekers in the Russian Federation”.</p> <p>The Russian Federation began issuing Machine Readable Convention Travel Documents for refugees.</p>

**Accession to, or taking steps to accede to, the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees**

<b>AFRICA</b>		
<b>Madagascar</b>	It is desirable to consider our accession to the 1967 Protocol in order to complete and reaffirm our commitment to refugee protection,	

	together with the international community.	
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## Review or withdrawal of reservations to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol

AFRICA		
<b>Burundi</b>	Pledges to initiate the process of withdrawing its reservations to the 1967 Protocol, i.e. its reservations concerning the Articles 17, 22, and 26.	The Government of Burundi has informed UNHCR that it needs more time to lift the reservations due to renewed conflict in the DRC resulting in more refugees in Burundi and tensions in the camps.
<b>Malawi</b>	B.1. Pledges to revisit and, if necessary, withdraw its reservations entered on certain articles in the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees on:  1.1. Article 22 about public education;  1.2. Article 26 on choice of residence and freedom of movement.	
AMERICAS		
<b>Mexico</b>	1. Pledges to review the reservations formulated upon its accession to the 1951 Convention.	
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	The Government has concluded the administrative process to lift the seven reservations they made when they signed the Convention in 1986.	Papua New Guinea confirmed that it has concluded the formal administrative process to lift the seven reservations to the 1951 Refugee Convention – submission was before Cabinet.
EUROPE		
<b>Denmark</b>	Pledges that it will conduct a review process in 2012 of the necessity of	

	maintaining its reservation to the 1951 Convention.	
<b>Finland</b>	Finland maintains two reservations to the 1951 Convention. Finland pledges that it will launch a review process in 2012 on whether these two reservations are still necessary or whether they can be considered outdated and consequently lifted.	
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to review the reservations that Sweden has to the 1951 Convention with the intention of withdrawing the reservations that are possible. The formal process for this currently under way.	

### Enhancing regional and international cooperation

AFRICA		
<b>Kenya</b>	IX. Pledges to remain committed to fostering international cooperation and burden sharing to assist and protect refugees and stateless persons.	
<b>Lesotho</b>	2. Pledges to cooperate with State Parties to the 1951 Convention for the attainment of durable solutions in favor of refugees at regional, continental and global level.	
<b>South Africa</b>	South Africa will further build bilateral and multilateral cooperation on asylum-seeker and refugee matters with other States and regional and international bodies. Areas of common interest that are being considered include burden-sharing, the sharing of data, systems integration and capacity development. Such cooperation is in	

	keeping with the spirit of the African Group Statement.	
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Bolivia</b>	Pledges to continue strengthening the integration between countries of the Latin American continent, as well as the coordination of policies on the protection of refugees and stateless persons.	
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Australia</b>	Pledges to enhance regional cooperation and burden-sharing on refugee protection and international migration in the Asia-Pacific by working with our partners in the Bali Process to operationalize the Regional Cooperation Framework, including by working closely with our Bali Process Co-Chair towards the establishment of a Regional Support Office.	Regional Support Office has been established.
<b>People's Republic of China (The)</b>	<p>Firstly, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China will actively engage in settling international "hot issues", promoting dialogue, facilitating reconciliation and preventing conflicts.</p> <p>Secondly, China pledges to continue to participate constructively in international dialogues on refugee issues and enhance international exchanges and co-operation, and promote durable solution to refugee issues.</p> <p>Fourthly, China pledges to share its experience with other members of the international community in the field of disaster relief, mitigation and</p>	

	preparation, and enhance our cooperation with UNHCR to jointly tackle the international humanitarian crises.	
<b>Indonesia</b>	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Bali Ministerial Conference agreed on an inclusive but non-binding Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) to cooperate in reducing irregular movements throughout the region.	Indonesia has continued to take full ownership of its co-chairmanship responsibilities of the Bali process. Among others, Jakarta played an important role in: The establishment of the Regional Support Office in Bangkok (September 2012); The organisation of the 10 <sup>th</sup> Bali Process Anniversary (November 2012); Co-organisation with UNHCR through the RSO of the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by Sea (March 2013); The organisation in 2013 of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Bali Regional Ministerial conference.
<b>Thailand</b>	6. Pledges to continue Thailand's constructive role to promote regional cooperation under the principle of burden-sharing and a more predictable approach to handling humanitarian challenges.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Belgium</b>	<p>Pledges to further invest in training programmes on issues such as gender, unaccompanied minors and credibility assessment, notably by further implementing the training modules of the European Asylum Curriculum, recently taken over by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).</p> <p>Belgium will continue its efforts to achieve the establishment of a Common European Asylum System based on high standards of protection and will strive for the best level of harmonization.</p>	The Commissioner General for Refugees and stateless persons is actively involved in the EASO Management Board as well as in the development and review of the modules of the European Asylum Curriculum.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Bulgaria is fully committed to the	Bulgaria has announced that it will join the

	development of the Common European Asylum System, an important component of which is resettlement. It is also a significant international protection tool and a durable solution for refugees as well as an important way to show solidarity with third countries.	second phase of the EUREMA project by sending a proposal to relocate four persons recognized as refugees in Malta.
<b>Cyprus</b>	Pledges to work towards the completion of the Common European Asylum System based on high protection standards combined with fair and effective procedures, a goal which is high on the agenda of the forthcoming Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU during the second half of 2012.	
<b>Czech Republic (The)</b>	<p>4. Pledges to enhance active participation in international cooperation in the field of asylum and migration.</p> <p>a) The Czech Republic will contribute to successful continuation of the European Asylum Curriculum Training under European Asylum Support Office by assigning 8 experts to Content Expert Pool and a Trainers Pool.</p> <p>b) The Czech Republic will actively contribute to the development of asylum capacities in partner countries, particularly through implementation of asylum capacities in partner countries, particularly through implementation of the asylum/international protection component of the Action Plan of the Prague Process adopted in April 2009 in Poland.</p>	<p>The Czech Republic has contributed to successful continuation of the European Asylum Curriculum Training under European Asylum Support office by assigning 8 experts to Content Expert Pool and Trainers Pool in 2012. In 2013, the Czech Republic has nominated 4 experts for EASO Asylum Intervention Pool and 3 experts for EASO Content Expert Pool and Trainers Pool.</p> <p>The Czech Republic coordinates the Prague Process under which Pilot project 4 – International protection and asylum – is being implemented. Pilot project 4 focuses on translation of EASO/European Asylum Curriculum training module on Inclusion into Russian and Turkish languages, creation of Prague Process Guidelines on asylum procedures and training needs and other activities.</p> <p>The Czech Republic is a leading state of a project “Development of Joint Principles, Procedures and Standards on the Integration of (Labor), Immigrants between the Russian Federation and European</p>



		<p>partners” in the context of the Prague Process Action Plan. Its overall objective is to contribute to the further development of migration management systems in the Russian Federation, with a focus on integration policies for labor immigrants and recognized refugees.</p>
<p><b>Denmark</b></p>	<p>4. Pledges to further the discussions within EU on how to ensure effective solidarity with persons in need of international protection as well as between Member States and with regions of origin, in particular through the EU’s Global Approach to Migration, including through promoting capacity-building initiatives and Protection in the Region programmes.</p> <p>5. Pledges to further the negotiations of the Development on the Common European Asylum System based on high standards combined with fair and effective procedures as a priority.</p>	
<p><b>France</b></p>	<p>4. Pledges to actively support the efforts of the countries from the South of the Mediterranean with partnership agreements with the European Union to build their national asylum and protection systems notably within the framework of regional protection programmes.</p>	
<p><b>Greece</b></p>	<p>Pledges to work closely along with its partners in the European Union, the UNHCR and the United Nations, as well as third countries of origin and transit, to strengthen cooperation in the area of refugee protection, including in emergency situations, such as the displacement</p>	

	caused by recent events in North Africa and the Middle East. In this context, it will work together with other EU member states towards a Common European Asylum System in the framework of the Stockholm Programme.	
<b>The Netherlands</b>	<p>Pledges to continue to strive for closer involvement of multilateral development actors such as the UNDP and the World Bank to solve refugee situations. In this light, the Netherlands endorses the joint UNHCR, UNDP, World Bank Transitional Solutions Initiative.</p> <p>Pledges to strengthen cooperation and intensify mutual knowledge in several fields, such as the application of the exclusion ground of the 1951 Convention.</p>	The Netherlands is actively involved in the further development of the TSI, inter alia by hosting a Transitions and Solutions roundtable in Amsterdam in April 2013, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP.
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to continue to work within the European Union for a Common European Asylum Policy that is humane, legally secure and effective in order to ensure that access to asylum procedures is guaranteed and that the assessment is conducted in an equal manner regardless of which European Union Member State is responsible for the asylum application.	Sweden's current overall migration policy is based on an agreement between the Government and the Green Party, which includes as an objective that Sweden shall actively promote a Common European Asylum System. The Government is active and also the Swedish Migration Board cooperates closely with its EU-partners, such as EASO, where Sweden has a member on the Management Board.
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS</b>		
<b>African Union</b>	Pledges to work alongside the international community to assist countries that host a large number of refugees to meet their protection and assistance needs.	
<b>European Union</b>	Reaffirms its strong commitment to assist and protect, in accordance with international obligations, all	

	those men, women and children, who are compelled against their will to leave their homes and their countries in order to escape fear of persecution.	
<b>Organisation of Islamic Cooperation</b>	The OIC is willing to work with its traditional partners, such as UNHCR, in order to find together viable and durable solutions for the situation of refugees in its member countries, since it fully appreciates the impact of the burden of refugees and displaced in those countries.	

### Working against discrimination, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance

AFRICA		
<b>Rwanda</b>	5. Pledges to take specific measures to protect all refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, including women, girls and people with disabilities, against all forms of discrimination or related intolerance.	
AMERICAS		
<b>Bolivia</b>	Pledges to ensure implementation of the “National law against racism and all forms of discrimination”, in force since October 2010 and which protects every inhabitant of the country against discrimination and does not recognize any immunity, exemptions or privileges.	
<b>Mexico</b>	6. Pledges to continue to carry out campaigns promoting and defending human rights and condemning racism, xenophobia and intolerance.	

EUROPE		
<b>Greece</b>	Pledges to continue to ensure that refugees who are victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance have access to an effective remedy.	In Greece, at the initiative of UNHCR and the National Commission for Human Rights, a mechanism has been established to monitor racist attacks by recording incidents through voluntary testimonies of victims. The network involves 23 NGOs that provide legal, medical, social or other support services and come into contact with victims of racially motivated violence.
<b>Romania</b>	Pledges to work against discrimination, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, including with regard to refugees, asylum-seekers or other vulnerable categories.	
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to continue to combat all forms of racism, discrimination and related intolerance.	

### Providing safe access to the territory

AFRICA		
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Is committed to maintain its open-door asylum policy to refugees seeking protection and assistance in its territory.	
<b>Malawi</b>	Pledges to continue to admit and extend assistance to foreign nationals whose countries of origin cannot provide protection and have fled to Malawi and are compelled to remain in Malawi for reasons and circumstances recognized under national and international refugee and humanitarian law.	GoM has continued to admit and extend assistance to foreign nationals whose countries of origin cannot provide protection and have fled to Malawi and are compelled to remain in Malawi for reasons and circumstances recognized under national and international refugee and humanitarian law.  GoM has a mechanism ensuring that Asylum Seekers and Refugees are expeditiously

		registered and documented by authorized officers in a humane and dignified manner, with relevant documentation issued.
<b>Mali</b>	Pledges to continue ensuring that all persons seeking international protection can access its territory.	
<b>Rwanda</b>	<p>1. Pledges to improve the entry system to allow refugees, asylum-seekers and other groups with specific needs to be identified and granted access to the national territory by:</p> <p>a) building the capacity of border officials;</p> <p>b) creating exceptional procedures for large-scale influx for ensuring the admission of refugees and asylum-seekers and providing protection in accordance with fundamental principles.</p>	
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Mexico</b>	2. The Mexican Government pledges to continue working to ensure that, within the context of migration flows, asylum-seekers are adequately identified and that the protection-sensitive entry system are reinforced with differentiated procedures and processes (particularly regarding victims of trafficking and unaccompanied girls, boys and adolescents).	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Greece</b>	Pledges to continue to respect the principle of <i>non-refoulement</i> , including by ensuring that persons in need of international protection and	

	<p>other groups with specific needs are identified and granted access to the territory where their needs can be assessed and address.</p>	
<p><b>Republic of Moldova (The)</b></p>	<p>Pledges to continue to ensure observance of the principle of <i>non-refoulement</i> for asylum-seekers and refugees.</p>	<p>No <i>refoulement</i> was reported in 2011-2012, except one incident. Moldovan asylum legislation provides for access to the territory and to the national asylum procedure. As a general practice, the right to apply for asylum, along with access to the territory, is respected with no case of non-admission known to UNHCR in the recent years. All persons who requested asylum at the border, in policy custody or in detention, were transferred to the central asylum authority and admitted into the government asylum procedure.</p>
<p><b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (The)</b></p>	<p>Pledges to continue to provide one of the most compassionate, efficient, dignified asylum systems in the world and will maintain the promise made 60 years ago to provide safety and security to those who are fleeing persecution.</p> <p>The Government, while working to manage and control migration well, will continue to support international efforts that borders are sensitive to protection requirements of refugees and those in need of international protection are able to have access to a safe country in which to claim asylum.</p> <p>The Government will continue to provide adequate protection to persons fleeing indiscriminate violence.</p>	<p>The Home Secretary made institutional changes to the UK Border Agency in 2012 and 2013 to improve the efficiency migration management: the Border Force was split off from the UK Border Agency and subsequently the UK Border Agency was abolished and subsumed under the Home Office.</p> <p>The Home Office has revised its Asylum Instruction for decision makers on Humanitarian Protection.</p>

## Respecting international refugee law and principles

AFRICA		
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Pledges to continue the faithful implementation of the 1951 Convention and contributing to global efforts to this end.	
<b>Lesotho</b>	Committed to promoting humanitarian Conventions at regional, continental or global levels. For Lesotho the implementation of these Conventions shall remain a priority. To this end, Lesotho will, henceforth, continue to raise awareness among her citizenry, of the critical importance of the Conventions.	
<b>Sudan (The)</b>	Renews its commitment to the humanitarian principles of receiving and protecting asylum-seekers and seek at the same time to form suitable, active partnerships for burden sharing in a just manner.	
<b>Uganda</b>	Pledges to continue offering protection to persons of concern and those in need of international protection based on the 1951 Refugee Convention.	
AMERICAS		
<b>Bolivia</b>	Pledges to continue promoting values of solidarity, respect, tolerance and multiculturalism, stressing the non-political and humanitarian nature of the protection of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, while recognizing their rights and obligations as well as their positive contribution to society.	

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Firmly committed to its obligations under the 1951 Convention, it will remain an active partner of the UNHCR in the region and will expend cooperation in order to improve the situation of refugees.	
<b>Kyrgyz Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to continue activities aimed at strengthening commitments to provide asylum in accordance with the obligation at the constitutional level resulting from adoption of the new Constitution of the Kyrgyzstan in June 2010 (article 19).	On 17 March 2012, UNHCR proposed amendments to the Refugee Law were approved (introducing non-discrimination clause, adequate definition of asylum-seeker, priority of international obligations on human rights over other international obligations, extension of asylum-seeker's certificate for the time of judicial appeal, and <i>non-refoulement</i> to torture). Later in August 2012, Article 433 of the Criminal Procedural Code was also amended, to the effect allowing judicial appeals against decisions of Kyrgyz authorities to satisfy extradition requests from foreign states.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	As a permanent member of the Executive Committee of UNHCR, Turkmenistan will continue to implement practical measures aimed at protecting and supporting refugees.	
EUROPE		
<b>Belgium</b>	Pledges to continue its efforts to achieve the establishment of a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) based on high standards of protection and will strive for the best level of harmonization.	
<b>France</b>	1. Pledges to continue to uphold, in compliance with its international commitments and European obligations, high protection standard as well as to implement refugee	In France, a reduction in delays has been achieved due to investment in additional staff dealing with backlog.



	status determination procedures that are efficient and respectful of rights, to ensure the integration in France of refugees and stateless persons under its protection, and to cooperate with UNHCR in a view to seeking durable solutions for refugees.	
<b>Greece</b>	Pledges to continue to ensure the full and inclusive interpretation of the 1951 Convention.	
<b>Latavia</b>	Expresses full commitment to the spirit and provisions of the 1951 Convention together with the 1967 Protocol. We consider it as a fundamental and vital international legal instrument which continues to provide the basis for international protection to asylum-seekers and refugees.	
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>		
<b>Israel</b>	Reaffirms its commitment to the internationally recognized principle of <i>non-refoulement</i> .	
<b>Morocco</b>	This conference offers the Kingdom of Morocco an important opportunity to reiterate its commitment to humanitarian causes in general and refugee protection in particular.	According to the legislative calendar approved by the Prime Minister in February 2013, Morocco will defer the issue of asylum to the end of 2014 or beyond.
<b>Qatar</b>	Renews its commitment to the noble humanitarian principles of the UNHCR and pledges to continue providing necessary support to UNHCR's different activities to ensure a dignified life for all.	
<b>Tunisia</b>	Reaffirm its commitment to respect and uphold the principles and values underlying the international refugee	

	protection regime.	
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS		
<b>African Union</b>	Renews its commitment to the notion of protection of displaced persons and underscores the importance of the values of solidarity, cooperation and burden sharing in and amongst State Parties and non-state parties.	

### Addressing the needs of urban refugees

AFRICA		
<b>Burundi</b>	Pledges to take urban refugees into account in urban planning as well as in strategies to reduce poverty and disaster risks.	
<b>Kenya</b>	Urban refugees are allowed to engage in income-generating activities and access all amenities available in urban areas.	
<b>South Africa</b>	Pledges to improve the security and welfare of persons accorded refugee status by strengthening cooperation between spheres of the government, between government departments and between government, UNHCR and civil society stakeholders. This approach will enable the complexities of the urban environment characterizing South Africa to be managed effectively. The special needs of refugees will be addressed through strengthening partnerships with UNHCR and a range of NGOs.	

AMERICAS		
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Pledges to promote the local integration of refugees in an urban context: access to work, health, education, housing, justice, culture and community participation.	
<b>United States of America (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to protect and assist refugees in urban areas. In conducting humanitarian diplomacy on behalf of urban refugees, the US will seek to ensure recognition of refugees' status and legal rights, consistent with obligations and commitments countries have assumed under international human rights and refugee law, and to address practical and administrative obstacles to enjoyment of those rights.</p> <p>Pledges to develop practical guidance for programming US humanitarian assistance for refugees in urban areas by the end of 2012. This guidance will draw on best practices in order to maximize programme effectiveness.</p> <p>Pledges to support enhancement of UNHCR's institutional capacity to implement its urban refugee policy, including through staff training and other efforts, subject to applicable laws and regulations.</p>	<p>The PRM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary traveled jointly with Assistant High Commissioner Lim to Addis Ababa and Kampala in July 2012 to examine challenges and progress made to date in responding to refugees in urban areas. PRM briefed NGO partners on this trip in September. PRM has developed a policy brief on refugee protection in urban areas that is now publicly available. Additionally, PRM has begun expanding urban programming in 2012 in places such as Kampala and Nairobi.</p> <p>In 2012, PRM funded an initiative by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) and Tufts University to expand the capacity of JIPS to profile urban refugees. As part of this project, JIPS and Tufts are conducting profiling studies in two cities (New Delhi and Quito) and will publicly share its data so that PRM and partners can more effectively target interventions in these areas.</p> <p>PRM is currently funding UNHCR's development of an e-learning programme for staff in urban areas.</p>

## WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**Responding to the vulnerabilities and particular needs of:**

**- Women refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV);**

**- LGBTI asylum-seekers and refugees.**

AFRICA		
<b>Rwanda</b>	<p>2. a) Pledges to improve the implementation of its refugee status determination procedures and ensure efficiency and consistency with high standards. More specifically, by ensuring age, gender and diversity sensitivity in the asylum system.</p> <p>4. Pledges to improve the extent to which asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons, especially women and girls, have access to their rights and enjoy protection and assistance by:</p> <p>a) clarifying for asylum adjudicators that gender-related forms of persecution are recognized grounds for refugee status;</p> <p>b) Providing access for victims of discrimination, violence, harassment, rape and sexual abuse to effective complaints mechanisms and legal remedies, including legal counselling and psychological support;</p> <p>c) Prosecuting perpetrators of violence, sexual abuse, and rape;</p> <p>d) Increasing the involvement and</p>	

	<p>the capacity of service-providers, in particular the police, in preventing, investigating and dealing with violence, sexual abuse and rape;</p> <p>e) Facilitating greater involvement of the police in child protection;</p> <p>f) Developing specific programmes for victims of SGBV and survival sex including protection, assistance and access to lawful employment.</p>	
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	<p>The Government reaffirms its commitment to fair and efficient refugee status determination through collaboration with developing training of Zimbabwe Refugee Committee members on dealing with vulnerable groups, such as victims of rape and sodomy.</p>	
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Colombia</b>	<p>Pledges to promote actions and policies to combat gender-based violence, through the formulation of public policies that protect women (and girls) from all forms of violence and discrimination.</p>	<p>UNHCR is giving support in the design and implementation of public policies at local and national level, in particular through GBV-INM data collection, in order to improve the systematic, multi-sectorial and compatible statistical data collection on SGBV in 6 municipalities.</p>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<p>Pledges to ensure a differentiated approach for the protection of refugees with special needs because of their gender, age, diversity and vulnerable situation.</p>	<p>In Costa Rica, UNHCR signed a letter of collaboration with the Immigrant Office and the National Children's Welfare Office, with the aim of improving the protective environment for asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless children.</p>
<b>United States of America (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to provide refugee service providers and mainstream social service programmes in the US with additional training relating to sexual and gender-based violence, including violence that amounts to a form of torture, as well as</p>	<p>In 2012, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) completed a three-year grant cycle and announced new funding opportunities for direct services to survivors of torture and technical assistance to service providers. The funding announcement emphasized the importance of addressing psychosocial and</p>

	<p>information on services available to survivors of torture.</p> <p>Pledges to provide refugee women in the U.S. with training opportunities on how to establish and manage businesses including, home-based childcare services.</p> <p>Pledges to develop an electronic resource center that catalogues available community resources and identifies supportive communities for LGBT refugees resettled in the United States.</p> <p>Pledges to add language to one or more grant announcements that identify LGBT refugees as a vulnerable population in need of targeted services.</p>	<p>health consequences of torture, domestic violence and other forms trauma.</p> <p>ORR worked with its technical assistance providers to identify training resources that address sexual and gender-based violence among refugee populations.</p> <p>ORR also partnered with the Family Violence Prevention Services Administration (FVPSA) to co-host a nationwide webinar focused on culturally relevant and multi-lingual services that address domestic violence in refugee families.</p> <p>ORR awarded approximately \$5.8 million under the “Discretionary Funds for Refugee Childcare Microenterprise Development” Project. Thirteen organisations received continuation funding totaling approximately \$2.2 million. These organisations are charged with assisting refugee women to establish licensed child care businesses within their homes.</p> <p>ORR awarded Heartland Alliance of Chicago \$250,000 in a technical assistance grant for the second year in a row to maintain and expand their resource website at the following link: <a href="http://www.RainbowWelcome.org">www.RainbowWelcome.org</a>. The resource site is meant to empower LGBT refugees/asylees to assume an active role in their resettlement, ensuring they have the opportunity to advocate for themselves and gain access to critical services and information.</p> <p>ORR has incorporated language in several discretionary grant funding opportunity announcements to ensure the inclusion of the LGBT refugee community. For example, through the Preferred Communities (PC) grant, ORR funded one grantee to serve LGBT refugees in two sites.</p>
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<b>Venezuela</b>	Proposes to organise a regional conference on refugees in order to promote the special protection of women, children and adolescents.	Workshop between UNHCR and the Government took place and roadmap for the conference established.
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Australia</b>	Pledges to continue to prioritize the protection of women and girls. We will work with UNHCR to ensure adequate resources are allocated to delivering on UNHCR's updated sexual and gender-based violence strategy and the recommendations contained in the report from the Regional Dialogues with refugee women and girls. Recognizing the root causes of gender-based violence, we pledge to promote the empowerment of women and girls to enhance their protection. In particular Australia's newly appointed Global Ambassador for Women and Girls will engage with UNHCR and refugee groups on these issues.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Belgium</b>	Developed in the past a system that gives special attention to gender-based violence files, e.g. by creating a gender unit. In this context, Belgium pledges to take further measures to limit the detention of this group.	
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to support the implementation of the updated UNHCR strategy for Action against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.	One example of how Sweden aims to honor this pledge is the contribution by the Swedish Development Agency in 2012 to two of the four senior regional protection positions created for the roll-out of the SGBV strategy in Nairobi, Dakar, Beirut and Panama.
<b>United</b>	The Government will continue work	The Home Office Violence Against Women

<p><b>Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (The)</b></p>	<p>with corporate partners to build on the improvements it has already made to the way in which it takes account of the needs of women going through the asylum process and to its quality of decision-making in women’s asylum claims. It will deliver a new training package on these issues to all asylum decision makers and will establishing a clear baseline of he current position so that future improvements can be monitored.</p> <p>The Government will continue to work with corporate partners to build on the improvements already made to the way in which the Agency manages asylum claims brought on the ground of sexual orientation. We will continue to work to ensure that such claims are considered in a fair and sensitive way, which enables the applicant to put their case across fully.</p>	<p>Strategy includes asylum-seeking women. Training has been delivered on gender issues in asylum to all asylum decision makers and the Home Office has a specific gender action plan which is has elaborated in conjunction with civil society and UNHCR.</p> <p>The Home Office remains committed to improving its decision making in SOGI claims and consults with UNHCR and civil society on SOGI issues.</p>
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**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

<p><b>Israel</b></p>	<p>Pledges to provide the necessary assistance and medical care to victims of human trafficking, among them many women who, on their way to Israel, were kidnapped, tortured and raped.</p>	
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**Improving protection of children**

**AFRICA**

<p><b>Somalia</b></p>	<p>Reiterates the commitment made by the Transitional Federal Government leaders to halt the recruitment of child soldiers into its force.</p>	
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<b>Togo</b>	Pledges to seek alternative solutions for refugees who are in detention, in particular for children.	
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Argentina</b>	<p>A “Protocol for the protection, assistance and search for durable solutions for unaccompanied or separated children seeking asylum” was developed together with the UNHCR Regional Office, UNICEF, IOM the National Ombudsman, other national and local Government entities and civil society organisations.</p> <p>Argentina pledges to advance and deepen the implementation of all aspects of the Protocol in coordination with all national and local Government actors, and to promote and to secure the support of all competent provincial and local Governments.</p> <p>The protocol includes special measures and procedures aimed at the immediate identification of unaccompanied children and of special protection needs, be it as an asylum-seeker, as a possible victim of human trafficking, someone with medical needs, etc.</p> <p>Application of the aforementioned Protocol will no doubt lead to an improvement in the comprehensive protection of refugee children and constitute an effective tool to achieve immediate assistance and the most appropriate integration solutions that are sensitive to their age and cultural diversity.</p>	

<p><b>Mexico</b></p>	<p>Pledges to continue working to guarantee that asylum-seekers in a vulnerable situation, particularly unaccompanied or separated children, have access to alternatives to detention while the procedure for status determination takes place.</p>	
<p><b>United States of America (The)</b></p>	<p>Pledges to assist UNHCR with the deployment of 8 trained and competent staff to conduct Best Interest Determinations (BID) in line with UNHCR guidance, subject to applicable laws and regulations;</p> <p>Pledges to facilitate UNHCR’s review of U.S. practices regarding the screening of unaccompanied children at the southwest border during 2012;</p> <p>Pledges to update existing guidance on both procedure and substance for the adjudication of asylum claims brought by children;</p> <p>Pledges to promote the availability of pro bono legal counsel for persons of concern to UNHCR – in particular unaccompanied children and those with diminished mental capacity.</p> <p>Pledges to provide cultural orientation to unaccompanied refugee minors who are preparing to travel to the US and to encourage the continued use of similar curriculum after arrival in the US.</p> <p>Pledges to increase its support to international efforts relating to equitable access to education for youth in crisis and conflict environments and its involvement in shaping the agenda on education of</p>	<p>PRM: All eight BID officers have been deployed.</p> <p>DHS: Facilitated UNHCR’s review in Laredo, TX in January 2012 and in San Diego, CA in December, 2012, which focused on screening of unaccompanied children (UAC). UNHCR provided a report and recommendations pertaining to Laredo, and is finalizing its report and recommendations pertaining to San Diego.</p> <p>DHS has engaged DOJ on collaborating to facilitate UAC access to counsel by analyzing the placement of children.</p> <p>The EOIR Office of Legal Access Programmes (OLAP) oversees programmes and initiatives to improve access to legal information and assistance. OLAP carries out this objective through four initiatives: 1) the Legal Orientation Programme; 2) the Legal Orientation Programme for Custodians of Unaccompanied Alien Children; 3) the Board of Appeals Pro Bono Project; and 4) the Model Hearing Programme.</p> <p>In addition to these programmes, EOIR has pro bono liaison judges designated for each court location. The objective of the Pro Bono Liaison Judge is to meet with local pro bono groups and stakeholders to discuss ideas and facilitate efforts to increase the level and quality of pro bono representation before the court. OLAP works with the pro bono liaison judges to provide additional technical assistance and help coordinate their efforts with other agency programmes</p>

	<p>youth in emergencies, particularly through ongoing Women, Peace and Security efforts.</p>	<p>and initiatives.</p> <p>In April, DOJ and DHS announced a nationwide policy to implement new procedural protections for unrepresented immigration detainees with serious mental disorders or conditions that may render them mentally incompetent to represent themselves in immigration proceedings. Of particular note with regard to this pledge, EOIR has committed to making available qualified representatives to all detainees who are deemed mentally incompetent to represent themselves in immigration proceedings. We expect these new procedures to be fully operational on a national basis by the end of 2013.</p> <p>The U.S. implemented provision of overseas cultural orientation for unaccompanied refugee minors, utilizing a curriculum that addresses the specific needs of these individuals. Once minors are resettled to the U.S. a similar curriculum is utilized for additional cultural orientation training. The U.S. also provides cultural orientation for refugee youth ages 8 – 18 traveling with parents or other adult family members.</p> <p>The U.S. has included a commitment in the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (referring to Education in Emergencies).</p>
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**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

<p><b>Thailand</b></p>	<p>Pledges to continue to ensure that all children of displaced persons and those of other persons of concern have non-discriminatory access to protection services under Thailand’s Child Protection Act and those born in Thailand are entitled to birth registration and other rights under Article 7 of the Convention on the</p>	
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	rights of the Child.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Belgium</b>	Belgium developed in the past a system that gives special attention to unaccompanied minor asylum-seekers, e.g. by creating a Minors Unit. In this context, Belgium pledges to take further measures to limit the detention of this group.	The number of guardians was considerably increased to reduce waiting periods for unaccompanied and separated children to have a guardian appointed. Belgian stakeholders participated in consultations on the draft UNHCR-UNICEF guidance on best interest determination.
<b>Czech Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to improve conditions for families with minor children in detention centers.	
<b>Greece</b>	Pledges to continue to grant to all minor refugees access to education and the national health system.	
<b>Norway</b>	The Norwegian Government will make sure that all unaccompanied minor asylum-seekers are entitled to a legal guardian to secure and promote their rights in general, and in the asylum procedure in particular. To this effect, Norway pledges to introduce a new system that will better address the unaccompanied minor's specific needs for a guardian. The new system will ensure official standards for recruitment, training and monitoring of the guardians. It will take effect tentatively in July 2013.	New legislation on guardianship for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers was adopted in March 2012 (chapter 11A of the Immigration Act) and will enter into force on 1 July 2013. The new legislation aims at strengthening the legal position of unaccompanied minors by clarifying the tasks of their representatives and ensuring a more consistent practice in their recruitment, training, supervision, etc.
<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (The)</b>	The Government is committed to creating a more compassionate asylum system and has already fulfilled its commitments to end the detention of children for immigration purposes. They will operate a new Family Returns Process, which is practical and fair, and will share best practices as this	The Home Office has set up an independent Family Returns Panel, a pre-departure accommodation centre for families, has commissioned an independent review of the Family Return Process and has asked UNHCR to consider the quality of decision making and best interest determination in family asylum claims.

	develops.	
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## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

### Enhancing comprehensive durable solutions

AFRICA		
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Committed to continue its close cooperation with UNHCR and with the international community in finding durable solutions to the emerging refugee and displacement problems.	
<b>Gambia (The)</b>	Pledges to continue, together with UNHCR, to work towards finding durable solutions through the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for Liberian refugees.	
<b>Rwanda</b>	Pledges to work to support efforts to encourage voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement, whenever feasible, in a comprehensive approach to finding durable solutions. And more specifically by supporting sustainable reintegration of returnees through, for example, access to employment, education and social services.	
<b>Sudan (The)</b>	Pledges to support the idea of setting up a comprehensive regional framework backed up by international support to benefit from our past experience of the 1980s when the International Conference for Africa Refugee	

	Assistance was convened (ICARA I and II).	
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Canada</b>	Jointly pledges that the delivery of comprehensive durable solutions, notably in protracted refugee situations, requires collaboration with other Member States, UNHCR and other partners.	
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Japan</b>	Pledges to play a leading role and continue to actively support UNHCR in the protection of refugees and IDPs around the world towards achieving a durable solution to refugee issues.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Denmark</b>	Pledges to work with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to enhance the delivery of comprehensive durable solutions, notably in protracted refugee situations, to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, the participation of new resettlement countries, improved integration outcomes for resettled refugees, and support the use of resettlement to unlock the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration.	
<b>France</b>	1. Pledges to ensure the integration in France of refugees under its protection, and to cooperate with UNHCR with a view of seeking durable solutions for refugees.	
<b>Germany</b>	Germany is committed to contribute to a durable solution and ready to	

	support UNHCR’s efforts as outlined in its “Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for the Afghan Situation (2012-2014)”.	
<b>Hungary</b>	Pledges to enhance the delivery of comprehensive durable solutions, notably in protracted refugee situations, working with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, the participation of new resettlement countries, improved integration outcomes for resettled refugees, and the strategic use of resettlement to unlock other durable solution such as voluntary repatriation and local integration (group pledge).	
<b>Ireland</b>	Is fully cognizant of the need to work, in particular in the context of protracted refugee crises, towards the provision of durable solutions which recognize the legitimate aspirations of refugees themselves.	
<b>The Netherlands</b>	The Netherlands pledges to enhance the delivery of comprehensible durable solutions, notably in protracted refugee situations, and to work with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, amongst others, through the participation of new resettlement countries, improved integration outcomes for resettled refugees, and the strategic use of resettlement to unlock the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration (group pledge).	



<b>Norway</b>	Norway pledges to enhance the delivery of comprehensible durable solutions, notably in protracted refugee situations, they pledges to work with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, amongst others, through the participation of new resettlement countries, improved integration outcomes for resettled refugees, and the strategic use of resettlement to unlock the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration (group pledge).	
<b>Sweden</b>	Sweden pledges to enhance the delivery of comprehensible durable solutions, notably in protracted refugee situations, they pledges to work with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, amongst others, through the participation of new resettlement countries, improved integration outcomes for resettled refugees, and the strategic use of resettlement to unlock the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration (group pledge).	
<b>INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS</b>		
<b>African Union</b>	Pledges to link the notion of durable solutions as an effective and integral part of integration and repatriation programmes in ending any given refugee situation.	

## Facilitating voluntary repatriation

AFRICA		
<b>Angola</b>	The Government is committed to completing the voluntary and organized repatriation of remaining Angolan refugees and this despite the financial burden borne in supporting this repatriation process.	23,000 refugees repatriated from August 2011 until 30 June 2012.
<b>Guinea</b>	Pledges to promote voluntary return of refugees and to provide its assistance to facilitate voluntary repatriation operations.	
<b>Rwanda</b>	Pledges to ensure security for all Rwandan citizens including all Rwandan refugees who remain in exile and encourage them to return home so that they can participate in the development of their country, utilizing the skills they have gained in the various Countries of Asylum and thus enjoying the privilege that is being offered to all citizens.	
<b>Togo</b>	Pledges to encourage the voluntary repatriation of Togolese refugees still living abroad.	
<b>Uganda</b>	Pledges to continue to offer durable solutions to refugees in need of repatriation especially the Rwandan and Sudanese refugee caseloads in Uganda.	The Tripartite Commission on voluntary return of Rwandan refugees undertook a number of activities, including go-and-see/come-and-tell-visits.
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
<b>Pakistan</b>	Pledges to work with UNHCR to assist and support the Afghan refugees who still live in Pakistan. The Government and UNHCR aspire to a shared vision of their dignified	

	and voluntary return to Afghanistan.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Germany</b>	Pledges to facilitate and support voluntary repatriation – also by creating better conditions for the return of Afghan refugees and IDPs in the areas where they settle down.	
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>		
<b>Israel</b>	Pledges to continue their policy of encouraging voluntary repatriation through incentives and professional training that will enable the returnees to rebuild their future and to start a new life with better tools at their disposal.	
<b>Mauritania</b>	Pledges to bring successful conclusion to the repatriation operation for the last contingent of Mauritanian refugees in Senegal, as identified by UNHCR, in full compliance with the terms of the Tripartite Agreement.	The operation was concluded on 25 March 2012.

**Facilitating local solutions for refugees, including through:**

- 1. Access to long-term residence permits, sometimes free of charge**
- 2. Access to education, health care, employment, livelihood opportunities and/or agricultural land.**
- 3. Establishing/improving national policy**

<b>AFRICA</b>		
<b>Central African Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to adopt guarantees to permit refugees to enjoy socio-economic rights on the same basis as Central African citizens, including by granting easier access to land ownership, employment and money-making activities.	

	<p>Pledges to establish a mechanism to acquire an alternative or intermediate status for which there will be no charge, including as regards the initial issuance of a resident permit which will be for the maximum authorized period of validity.</p> <p>Pledges to implement a mechanism to make procedures easier for refugees seeking naturalization.</p>	
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Pledges to ensure the local integration of Liberian and Rwandan refugees affected by the cessation clause, for which the Government seeks the support of the international community.	
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo (The)</b>	Pledges to support the legal, social and economic integration of Angolan refugees into the host community, including by facilitating access to agricultural land, employment opportunities, education and/or long-term residency status.	So far, 6,500 Angolan refugees have received residency permits that will allow them to access social and economic integration in the DRC, including access to agricultural land, employment opportunities, education and/or long-term residency status.
<b>Gambia (The)</b>	The Government is very conversant with the cessation process and is fully supportive of any plans UNHCR may have for facilitating Liberian refugees' legal integration. The Gambian government pledges to continue its efforts to secure legal status for refugees wishing to locally integrate by the provision of a residence and work permit that allow ceased Liberian refugees to legally reside in the Gambia and to gain employment.	
<b>Guinea</b>	Pledges to do everything they can to facilitate the harmonious and durable local integration of refugees	

	into Guinean society, to grant them asylum, protection and the rights enshrined in Guinean law as well as in international legal instruments.	
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	<p>Pledges to grant residence permits free of charge to refugees who have opted for local integration after the cessation clause has been invoked.</p> <p>Pledges to facilitate, to the extent possible, rural refugees' access to land for farming.</p> <p>Pledges to favorably consider applications for naturalization by refugees and submit them to the competent Government departments.</p> <p>Pledges to provide facilities to enable asylum-seekers to apply free of charge to the executive secretariat for a certificate authorizing temporary stay.</p>	
<b>Malawi</b>	<p>3. Pledges to facilitate local acceptance of refugees and harmony between refugees and local population by advocacy and introducing projects beneficial to the two populations.</p> <p>5. Pledges to promote self-reliance among refugees through facilitating income-generating activities in designated areas, employment of rarely skilled refugees and issuing of Business Residence Permits authorizing refugees to operate businesses outside designated areas in accordance with the trade laws.</p>	
<b>Mali</b>	Pledges to provide local integration opportunities for Mauritanian and Ivorian refugees who cannot return,	

	in particular by facilitating long-term residency status and access to agricultural land and livelihood opportunities.	
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Pledges to revise the land agreement signed in 2010 to facilitate the construction of shelters for refugees integrating locally in rural communities. The revision will better define its scope and improve areas of contention in the original draft.	
<b>Togo</b>	Pledges to promote the local integration of refugees who are unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin by facilitating their long-term residence in Togo.	
<b>Uganda</b>	Pledges to continue supporting efforts geared towards effecting the cessation clause.	
<b>Zambia</b>	Pledges to facilitate the securing of a durable solution through local integration for about 10,000 Angolan refugees who have been living in Zambia for over four decades, some of whom have been born and brought up in Zambia as second- or third-generation refugees.	
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Brazil</b>	Pledge No. 2- Pledges to continue its efforts to ensure the local integration of the refugees living in the Brazilian territory, in the framework of the 2004 Mexico Action Plan and the 2010 Brasilia Declaration.	In Brazil, a good example of local integration of former refugees from Angola and Liberia. Refugee Status has been ceased for Angolan and Liberian refugees in Brazil. The Government of Brazil (Ministry of Justice) has accorded permanent residency status to all Angolan and Liberian refugees who did not yet have permanent residency or citizenship at the time of the resolution (about 30% of the total affected refugee

		population).
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Pledges to promote the local integration of refugees in an urban context: access to work, health, education, housing, justice, culture and community participation.	
<b>Mexico</b>	5. Pledges to strive to adopt measures for the local integration of those persons who receive complementary protection and will aid them to have access to education and social security.	Mexico enacted a Law on Refugees and Complementary Protection, which fosters local integration. In January 2013, Mexico also passed a general law on victims, establishing a wide range of rights, principles and protection and reparation standards for victims of crimes and human rights abuses.
<b>Panama</b>	The National Assembly passed on 27 October 2011 the Law establishing, on an exceptional basis, the requirements to enable foreigners under Temporary Humanitarian Protection Status to apply for the migratory status of permanent residence in the Republic of Panama”, which pending a process of consultation by the Executive will be enacted as a Law of the Republic and, as a commitment, will be implemented effectively.	The law is currently being implemented by the Government with the support of UNHCR. Joint missions to Darien were conducted to register persons under the THP status.
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	Pledges to facilitate access to naturalization of West Papuan and other refugees by either waiving all fees or introducing a nominal fee only for applications for citizenship by refugees.	
<b>People’s Republic of China (The)</b>	Pledges to continue to create favorable conditions for development of the Indochinese refugees staying in China and endeavor to finally settle the Indochinese refugee issue at an early	

	date.	
<b>Republic of Korea (The)</b>	Pledges to provide basic subsistence support to asylum-seekers and assist in the integration of refugees into Korean society through the Refugee Reception Center due to be established in Incheon by June 2013.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Austria</b>	<p>Pledges to intensify efforts in order to guarantee the best possible integration of those in need of international protection. The following concrete integration measures, which are also open for refugees, are and will be established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Language courses;</li> <li>- Financial support for participation in school events;</li> <li>- Stipends for highly talented students;</li> <li>- Courses facilitating access to the labor market;</li> <li>- Facilitation of the recognition process;</li> <li>- Support for the founding of new enterprises;</li> <li>- Support for participation in public life, such as membership in associations;</li> <li>- Establishment of other integration projects.</li> </ul>	<p>The Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior participated as a member of an Austrian Reference Group in a UNHCR integration project, which aimed at researching indicators for the evaluation of refugee integration.</p> <p>In addition, the Ministry continued its funding for the Austrian Integration Fund, which provides integration support for refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, as well as for several related NGO projects.</p> <p>Finally, all integration related activities for third country nationals undertaken by the State Secretary for Integration also encompass refugees recognized in Austria.</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Committed to implement an effective national refugee integration policy by further improving some internal procedures	Bulgaria has adopted a National Programmer for Integration of Refugees. The new 2014 NPIR is currently under



	and developing a National Programme for Integration of refugees.	discussions.
<b>France</b>	3. Pledges to reinforce the language training given to refugees and their family members hosted in France. The aim is to facilitate integration into French society of people aspiring to remain in France on a durable basis and who, because of their personal history and experiences, need support.	Currently refugees are entitled to a six-month language course provided as part of the <i>Contrat d'Accueil et d'Intégration</i> (CAI), which often follows six to twelve months after recognition of status and only enables them to reach the A1 or A2 level on the European Common Reference Framework.
<b>Georgia</b>	Pledges to increasingly take over responsibilities related to the accommodation of and assistance to asylum-seekers.  Pledges to continue efforts towards the full integration of refugees.	
<b>Republic of Moldova (The)</b>	Pledges to elaborate the legislation on integration of foreigners. This law will cover the integration of all foreigners, including refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection.	A separate law on the integration of foreigners, which contains specific integration programmes for refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection, entered into force on 1 July 2012.
<b>Portugal</b>	Pledges to continue to promote the integration of refugees and resettled refugees in Portugal. We remain committed to improving the overall living conditions of the refugees, including through the facilitation of access to employment and education opportunities as well as to health care and other social services.  Pledges to explore the feasibility of introducing administrative procedures aimed at facilitating the overall coordination between national entities responsible for the refugees' integration.	

## Strengthening responsibility and burden sharing

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
<b>Thailand</b>	Pledges to continue Thailand’s constructive role to promote regional cooperation under the principle of burden-sharing and a more predictable approach to handling humanitarian challenges.	
EUROPE		
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Pledges to complement the Dutch national asylum system with additional efforts to strengthen protection of people of concern in their region of origin. This will be done in close cooperation with UNHCR and host Governments. An example of this is the partnership directed towards “Enhancing asylum conditions of the Somali refugees in Kenya”.	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION		
<b>African Union</b>	Pledges to assist UNHCR in monitoring the pledges made on this occasion by African Union Member States.	

### Responding to protracted refugee situations, including through:

- **Addressing the root causes of displacement;**
- **Linkages to development funding;**
- **Assistance to host countries;**
- **Durable solutions for Afghan refugees;**
- **Durable solutions to resolve the refugee situation in the Western Balkans**

<b>AFRICA</b>		
<b>Chad</b>	Pledges to find within six months an effective solution to all refugee issues linked to the search for durable solutions.	The resettlement of Sudanese refugees on an individual basis is now officially permitted. Discussions are on-going with the CNARR on practical modalities for it.
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Afghanistan</b>	Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan are engaged in the very first quadripartite consultative process, together with UNHCR, to develop a multi-year solutions strategy for Afghan refugees. This strategy will be presented to the international community at a stakeholders' conference in May 2012.	
<b>Indonesia</b>	Pledges to respond to protracted refugee situations.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina established a close cooperation with the governments of Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia; and with the guidance and support of UNHCR, their cooperation is starting to yield results. Next year, in April, at a Donor's Conference to be organised in Sarajevo, their Governments will present a joint Regional Programme that they have collectively developed.	
<b>Croatia</b>	With a view to ensuring sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons, Croatia will actively and decisively further implement the Housing Programme for the Returnees-Former Tenancy Rights Holders. An important step in this context is also the extension of the	<p>Croatia adopted and over the years amended legislative framework, which directly has impact on reintegration of returnees.</p> <p>The Government of Croatia established the State Office for Housing Care (and Reconstruction). The Office will be fully</p>

	<p>deadline for submission of applications in relation to housing requests outside the areas of special state concern (war-affected areas). At the regional level, we will, together with our regional and international partners, undertake on the basis of successful outcome of the international Donor Conference in April 2012, the activities aimed at the implementation of the Regional Programme on Durable Solutions for Refugees and Displaced Persons agreed upon by four countries of the region – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. In this vein, we will continue working towards the closure of the situation of refugees and displaced persons in South East Europe and finding durable solutions for the remaining vulnerable refugees and displaced persons in need.</p>	<p>operational in mid-2013. In parallel, three laws regulating housing care, reconstruction and refugee status were amended. The acts were adopted on 18 April 2013.</p> <p>In the context of implementation of RHP, the Government of Croatia opened a new application deadline for housing care outside ASSC (for former OTRs) until 31 August 2013.</p> <p>Following the signing of the Accession Treaty with EU (in December 2011) Croatia has been under monitoring for the compliance with three chapters (<i>one of them is Judiciary and Fundamental Rights</i>) until becoming an EU member state in mid 2013. Throughout 2012, EU established a special monitoring regime as one of the key return and reintegration issues – the so-called Housing Care Programme benchmarks – outlined in Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) were considered as not sufficiently met. The EU monitoring reports focused on the overall progress in the judiciary reform and housing assistance for returning refugees as well as returnees' access to acquired rights. These segments are fully compatible with the on-going regional Sarajevo process aimed finalizing the regional displacement, operationally led by UNHCR. UNHCR Croatia together with civil society partners have contributed to the established monitoring and reporting mechanism by verifying the implementation of housing care (HCP) and access acquired rights by the returning refugees.</p> <p>Regarding the on-going regional Sarajevo process and the resolution of the protracted Croatian refugee situation, the main event was the International Donor Conference that took place on 24 April 2012. At this event, representatives of almost 50 countries met in Sarajevo and pledged their</p>
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		<p>support to the Joint Regional Multi-Year Programme on Durable Solutions for Refugees and Internally Displaced persons aimed at resolving the protracted displacement situation in BiH, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. More than €260 million were pledged and will be released within five year under the Regional Housing Programme (RHP).</p> <p>In its Country Feasibility Report for RHP implementation, of 8 April, Croatia reported about the scope of the programme which is 13.6 M Euro, instead of 120M Euro as initially planned by the Government and present in the Joint Regional Programme. The CFR included the following wording: “Croatia is fully committed to the Regional Housing Programme and once additional donor money becomes available, the scope of the Feasibility Report will be broaden in line with defined needs assessment and financial allocations presented”.</p> <p>UNHCR Croatia has completed all the preparatory steps for the final assessment on possible UNHCR’s recommendation for cessation of refugee status for Croatian refugees. This represents an important segment of a comprehensive durable solutions strategy.</p> <p>Croatia reconstructed some 148,600 family houses/flats out of which 35% belongs to Serb minority refugees. The application process for (con)validation of working years and pensions continued smoothly without obstacles. Over 27,700 applications were received by the Croatian Health Institute by end 2012. Of this number 56% very decided positively.</p> <p>For the remaining 615 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina (406) and Kosovo/Serbia (210) under temporary protection in</p>
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		<p>Croatia, solutions are being implemented. Legalization of temporary residence under favourable conditions (as regulated by the Foreigners Act) is being implemented with minor problems, but legalization of permanent residence and citizenship is still of concern. Croatia included cost of housing for all refugees wishing to locally integrate in Croatia (549 households) in the RHP.</p>
<b>Germany</b>	<p>Pledges to consider increasing the number of scholarships for Afghan refugees.</p>	<p>Germany has continued to fund the DAFI Initiative.</p>
<b>Montenegro</b>	<p>Pledges to continue its efforts, both at national and regional level, to support the process of achieving durable solution and to end the protracted refugee situation of the people displaced from Former Yugoslavia (1991-1995) and Kosovo (1999) in its territory through the implementation of the National Strategy and its Action Plan (supporting the legal, social and economic integration) and the efficient implementation of the Joint Regional Programme on Durable Solutions for Refugees and Displaced Person, in a comprehensive and collaborative way with other partner countries in the Region and international donor community (Sarajevo process).</p>	<p>The Government continues with implementation of its National Strategy and accompanying annual action plans. UNHCR continues to work closely with the government and EU.</p> <p>The Government actively participates in the Sarajevo Process, and its project on providing durable accommodation to some 60 Roma and non-Roma refugee families in Niksic has been approved by the Assembly of Donors. The required implementation structure has been established, UNHCR/OSCE role appropriately defined in the Draft Feasibility Report, while the core implementation legal act – the Law on Social Housing - is yet to be adopted.</p> <p>The Government submitted project proposals under the second wave of the RHP of the Sarajevo Process. The first project foresees closure of the Konik camps in Podgorica through construction of 120 apartments, while the second one is for construction of an elderly home in Pljevlja for some 70 refugees.</p>
<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern</b>	<p>The Government of the UK will continue to be actively involved in seeking concrete and lasting solutions to protracted refugee</p>	<p>The Home Office has committed to resettling Somali refugees from Dadaab.</p>

<b>Ireland (The)</b>	situations.	
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to support efforts by UNHCR to facilitate the transition to longer-term development and support global measures for more effective recovery support, such as durable solutions of protracted refugee situations.	

## RESETTLEMENT

**Maintaining and expanding the global resettlement scheme (increasing the number of resettlement places and the number of countries with a resettlement programme)**

AMERICAS		
<b>Brazil</b>	Pledges to continue offering its territory for the resettlement of refugees, especially to those coming from Latin America, always in very close action and collaboration with UNHCR and Brazilian civil society.	
<b>Canada</b>	Canada pledges to increase the number of refugees they resettle by 20%. The number of refugees resettled through the Government-Assisted Refugees Programme will be increased by up to 500 people, and further 2,000 resettlement spaces will be added to the private Sponsorship of Refugees Programme. These spaces will be phased in by 2013.	
<b>Paraguay</b>	Pledges to consider the positive results obtained with the Solidarity Resettlement programme in Paraguay, the Government is committed to increase the number of refugees resettled in the country.	
<b>United States of America (The)</b>	Pledges to undertake a multi-year twinning programme with Uruguay and Bulgaria to strengthen global	The process is on-going. Recently funded NGO participation from Bulgaria and Uruguay in Australia Working Group on



	resettlement capacity.	Resettlement. Also funded participation of Bulgaria NGO representative in study tour of U.S. resettlement sites and participating agencies.
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>New Zealand</b>	Pledges to continue including within our annual quota, refugees from the most protracted situations, such as Bhutan and Burma.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Belgium</b>	Pledges to increase its resettlement efforts in the near future, in close collaboration with the UNHCR. Belgium is involved in small projects for capacity building in non EU-countries, e.g. in Burundi, where public servants of the asylum authority are trained by experienced staff from Belgium. Belgium will, to the extent possible, further participate in such projects.	In 2012 Belgium became the 27th country joining the group of countries implementing a regular resettlement programme.  Belgium will resettle 100 refugees (40 Congolese refugees in Tanzania, 40 Congolese refugees in Burundi and 20 places on a dossier basis for women and children at risk, as well as survivors of torture) in 2013. It is hoped that such efforts will increase in 2014.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	The country is developing a pilot programme for resettlement of a number of persons in Bulgaria, recognized as refugees in third countries under the UNHCR mandate and in need of this form of protection. The programme is due to begin in 2013. Furthermore, guided by the understanding of the burden-sharing solidarity with countries suffering an excessive influx of asylum-seekers, Bulgaria has joined the second phase of the EUREMA project by sending a proposal to relocate four persons recognized as refugees in Malta.	
<b>Czech Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to enhance resettlement activities. Czech Republic (The) will increase the number of resettled	

	refugees to its territory both through annual programmes and resettlement of urgent and emergency cases.	
<b>Finland</b>	Finland commits itself to strengthening the efforts for municipal placement for the refugees to be resettled. Finland pledges to carry out dialogue activities with the municipalities in order to improve and speed up the placement process.	There have been improvements. The situation with years of waiting time for municipal placement has been remedied.
<b>Germany</b>	Pledges to establish a permanent resettlement programme for refugees in cooperation with UNHCR.  Pledges to resettle to Germany 300 refugees per annum from 2012 to 2014.	Germany started its resettlement programme.  300 refugees were resettled in 2012, 300 refugees will be resettled this year and in 2014.
<b>Hungary</b>	Pledges to launch a national resettlement programme.	The first ever resettlement was facilitated as a pilot project by Hungary in November 2012, whereby an Iranian national Mandate refugee was admitted to Hungary from Ukraine.  The Government foresees/plans to resettle 10 Burmese refugees from Bangladesh, Malaysia or Thailand in 2013.
<b>Ireland</b>	One of the manifestations of Ireland's commitment to international solidarity comes through the operation of their national resettlement programme, in partnership with UNHCR.	Ireland has continued to operate its resettlement programme in cooperation with UNHCR, with an informal quota of 50 persons per year. In addition, Ireland in 2013 is accepting 30 persons on resettlement ex-Syria further to the flash appeal.
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	Pledges to create the necessary framework with a view to resettling refugees in protracted refugee situations, as provided for under the	Liechtenstein adopted the new asylum law which provides for a legal basis for resettlement to take place. Discussions regarding possible resettlement have taken place. One refugee was accepted on

	bill for the new refugee law.	relocation from Malta to date.
<b>Portugal</b>	Pledges to continue to implement its National Resettlement Programme in close cooperation with UNHCR and national implementing partners.	
<b>Romania</b>	Romania will consider the adoption of a bill to approve a new national resettlement programme.	The new GD on resettlement was adopted in 2012 and 40 Iraqi refugees in Turkey are proposed for resettlement to Romania in 2013.
<b>Sweden</b>	<p>Pledges to continue to provide resettlement to Sweden in close cooperation with UNHCR in order to solve protracted refugee situations. Sweden will continue to seek ways to improve cooperation between resettlement countries and countries of destination with large refugee situations e.g. through the Contact Group for Resettlement of Afghan Refugees in Iran.</p> <p>Pledges to continue to work within the European Union in order to encourage more EU Member States to start, on a voluntary basis, resettlement programmes and to increase the overall number of resettlement places within the EU.</p>	Sweden continues to be of support to UNHCR in relation to resettlement of refugees in protracted situations. The 2013 allocation of places focuses on seven different refugee operations across the world, out of which two are the most protracted situations: Somalis in Kenya and Afghans in Iran.
<b>Switzerland</b>	Pledges to continue to welcome groups of vulnerable refugees in partnership with UNHCR. In this regard, the collaboration with UNHCR will enable them to soon welcome a new group of (resettled) refugees. Moreover, a new procedure for consultation and implementation of Switzerland's resettlement policy is now under preparation.	
<b>United Kingdom of</b>	Pledges to continue to demonstrate its firm commitment to international	The Home Office has committed to resettling Somali refugees from Dadaab.

<p><b>Great Britain and North Ireland (The)</b></p>	<p>protection of refugees by providing (through its gateway protection programme) resettlement spaces for those in protracted refugee situations.</p>	<p>More broadly than protracted refugee situations, however is the Home Office’s commitment to maintaining the 750 annual quota for resettlement and the funding of three resettlement posts for UNHCR under a 2013-2015 Grant Agreement.</p> <p>The Home Office’s commitment to maintaining the 750 annual quota for resettlement and the funding of three resettlement posts for UNHCR under a 2013-2015 Grant Agreement.</p>
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**Managing resettlement effectively, with due regard to ensuring the integrity of the process and addressing emergency resettlement needs**

AMERICAS		
<p><b>Canada</b></p>	<p>Pledges that, for each of next five years, 200 of our resettlement spaces will be available for emergency situations and, thus, identified as available as part of an international pool.</p>	
EUROPE		
<p><b>Finland</b></p>	<p>Pledges to continue to provide UNHCR with additional funding in response to emergencies and protracted needs.</p>	
<p><b>Romania</b></p>	<p>Remains committed to the concept of emergency transit operations for refugees. Pledges to continue to manage, together with UNHCR and IOM, the first Emergency Transit Center (ETC) in the world and to build upon the experience gained so far.</p>	<p>Pledge fully implemented. The ETC in Timisoara continues to function.</p>

**Enhancing capacity for the successful integration of resettled refugees**

<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Argentina</b>	<p>The “Regional Solidarity Resettlement Programme” for Latin America, enshrined in the Mexico Plan of Action, has been a firm commitment assumed by the Argentine Republic with the understanding that it constitutes a durable solution for a number of refugees for whom neither repatriation nor local integration in the first country of asylum is possible.</p> <p>In his regard, in the context of “Programme of Solidarity Cities and Provinces”, the CONARE will, to the extent possible, endeavor to replicate in other provinces of Argentina the model and the good practices relating to resettlement adopted by the Province of Cordoba, which inter alia grants funding for housing for refugees.</p>	<p>The National Government is working on the plan to develop the <i>modelo Córdoba B</i>, where resettled refugees will have access to public housing, receive support for employment and the ministries of Social Development and Health will assist with local integration.</p>
<b>Canada</b>	<p>Government-assisted refugees are provided with essential services and income support through Canada’s Resettlement Assistance Programme. To help these refugees to adjust to their new life in Canada, the Government of Canada reaffirms its commitment to increase funding for this programme by 20 percent, to a total of \$58 million.</p>	
<b>United States of America (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to make adjustments to the procedures for determining when an asylum-seeker becomes eligible to apply for work authorization while his or her claim is pending, including</p>	<p>DHS/USCIS is currently awaiting final court approval of a nationwide class action settlement, which will implement several important changes regarding employment authorization for asylum applicants. The</p>

	<p>the process to re-start the “clock” that determines when an asylum seeker becomes eligible to work legally.</p>	<p>settlement would help ensure that certain individuals who seek to file or have already filed an asylum application will be entitled to new procedures for crediting time toward employment authorization eligibility. Pending final approval of the settlement, the USG is limited in its response.</p>
<b>Uruguay</b>	<p>Pledges to launch a resettlement programme in rural settings benefitting refugees with such a profile, in order to boost their potential for local integration and self-reliance.</p> <p>Considering the characteristics of refugees from the region with which Uruguay has worked during the past 3 years, and the infrastructure that Uruguay has in education, health and access to employment, such a programme will enhance the prospects for successful resettlement. This pledge is, at the same time, a significant contribution from Uruguay to the path set by the 2004 Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Housing has offered housing for two families in order to implement the project during the second half of 2013. A meeting is scheduled in September 2013 between UNHCR and CORE to discuss the project.</p>
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Japan</b>	<p>Pledges to improve and enrich the support programme for resettled refugees in Japan, aiming for the success of the pilot project for resettlement currently underway.</p>	<p>The government decided in early 2012 to extend the resettlement pilot project for 2 additional years. The selection criteria for admission through the resettlement project have been expanded and the programme now targets 5 refugee camps in Thailand.</p> <p>The expert’s council on resettlement issues was established in 2012 primarily to make recommendations to the Government on the future of the resettlement project after the pilot phase, and its members include representatives from academics and NGOs.</p>
<b>New Zealand</b>	The Refugee Resettlement Strategy	

	identifies five key outcomes areas to improve integration of refugees in New Zealand. These are Self Sufficiency, Participation, Education, Health and Wellbeing and Housing. Success indicators have been developed for each outcome area which will be used to prioritize and coordinate services on a targeted basis. Targets will also be agreed for each of the outcomes.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Portugal</b>	Pledges to continue to promote the integration of refugees and resettled refugees in Portugal. They remain committed to improving the overall living conditions of the refugees, including through the facilitation of access to employment and education opportunities as well as to health care and other social services.	
<b>Romania</b>	Romania will continue its efforts to make use of the resettlement and to improve its integration programmes.	

### Addressing the resettlement needs of specific refugee groups

<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Canada</b>	Pledges to create an Office of Religious Freedom. The Office will advocate for the protection of religious minorities and promote the pluralism that is essential to the development of free and democratic societies. In addition, Canada pledges to continue to resettle religious minorities and victims of persecution on the grounds of sexual orientation, including those from Iran who have fled to Turkey.	

	<p>Pledges to use its resettlement programme flexibility to respond to the protection needs of victims of sexual violence in Haiti. To this end, Canada pledges to resettle 40 victims of sexual violence and their dependents, identified by UNHCR as being in need of protection.</p> <p>Pledges to continue the Iraqi resettlement efforts in the Middle East region through 2015.</p>	
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>New Zealand</b>	<p>New Zealand welcomed the opportunity at the recent Working Group on Resettlement to present on the potential for the Strategic Resettlement of Colombian Nationals. This proposal is a promising step towards a comprehensive response to the resettlement of Colombian refugees. New Zealand commits to jointly coordinating the proposed working group, in conjunction with other resettlement countries.</p>	

**Strengthening cooperation between resettlement countries, and between resettlement countries and UNHCR, through the exchange of information, analysis and good practices, including through twinning arrangements**

<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Australia</b>	<p>Pledges to enter into twinning partnerships with emerging resettlement countries to enhance and consolidate their capacity.</p>	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Denmark</b>	<p>Pledges to furthermore promote the issue of resettlement within the EU</p>	



	cooperation.	
<b>Ireland</b>	Pledges to continue to operate a UNHCR-led resettlement programme for refugees.	Ireland has continued to operate its resettlement programme in cooperation with UNHCR, with an informal quota of 50 persons per year. In addition, Ireland in 2013 is accepting 30 persons on resettlement ex-Syria further to the flash appeal.
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to provide resettlement to Sweden in close cooperation with UNHCR.	
<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (The)</b>	The Government will continue to offer to share its experience and expertise to any interested countries who intend to set up their own resettlement programme; and has especially committed to UNHCR to twin with the Polish Government to help them develop a programme.	Joint resettlement missions are being undertaken with the Belgian authorities.
<b>GROUP PLEDGE ON RESETTLEMENT</b>		
<b>Australia</b>	Pledges to work to enhance the delivery of comprehensive solutions, notably in protracted situations, with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, the participation of new resettlement countries, improved outcomes for resettled refugees, and the strategic use of resettlement to unlock the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration.	
<b>Denmark</b>	Pledges to work to enhance the delivery of comprehensive solutions, notably in protracted situations, with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, the participation of	

	new resettlement countries, improved outcomes for resettled refugees, and the strategic use of resettlement to unlock the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration.	
<b>Finland</b>	Pledges to work with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to enhance the delivery of comprehensive durable solutions, notably in protracted refugee situations, to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, the participation of new resettlement countries, improved integration outcomes for resettled refugees, and support the use of resettlement to unlock the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration.	
<b>Hungary</b>	Pledges to work to enhance the delivery of comprehensive solutions, notably in protracted situations, with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, the participation of new resettlement countries, improved outcomes for resettled refugees, and the strategic use of resettlement to unlock the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration.	
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Pledges to work to enhance the delivery of comprehensive solutions, notably in protracted situations, with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, the participation of new resettlement countries, improved outcomes for resettled	

	refugees, and the strategic use of resettlement to unlock the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration.	
<b>Norway</b>	Norway, together with a number of other states, pledges to enhance the delivery of comprehensive durable solutions, notably in protracted refugee situations. We pledge to work with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, the participation of new resettlement countries, improved integration outcomes for resettled refugees, and the strategic use of resettlement.	
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to work to enhance the delivery of comprehensive solutions, notably in protracted situations, with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, the participation of new resettlement countries, improved outcomes for resettled refugees, and the strategic use of resettlement to unlock the other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration.	
<b>United States of America (The)</b>	Pledges to work with other Member States, UNHCR and partners to enhance the delivery of comprehensive durable solutions, notably in protracted refugee situations, to promote increased opportunities for refugee resettlement, the participation of new resettlement countries, improved integration outcomes for resettled refugees, and support the use of resettlement to unlock the	On-going through leadership in Working Group on Resettlement and Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement fora.

	other durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration.	
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# STATELESSNESS

State	Pledge	Update
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**Accession to, or taking steps to accede to, one or both of the statelessness conventions  
or other treaty action**

AFRICA		
<b>Benin</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1954 Convention <sup>1</sup> and to the 1961 Convention <sup>2</sup> .	Accession to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on 8 December 2011.
<b>Burundi</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention.	Domestic accession procedure is in progress.
<b>Central African Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to ratify the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.	
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Pledges to ratify the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.	The State Council adopted (21 May 2013) 2 Draft laws on ratification:  - Draft law authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the 1961 Convention.  - Draft law authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the 1954 Convention.  Adoption by the national assembly is pending.
<b>Gambia (The)</b>	The government pledges to continue lobbying in parliament for the adoption and ratification of the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	Accession has received approval from both the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice. The statement needs to be endorsed by the Cabinet, before the conventions can be sent to parliament for ratification.
<b>Guinea</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention.	A draft law for accession to the convention has been prepared by

<sup>1</sup> The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

<sup>2</sup> The 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

		the executive, but not yet submitted to the Parliament.
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	Pledges to continue to work towards formalizing accession to the legal instruments concerning stateless persons: 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	There has been a change in administration since December 2011. UNHCR has obtained assurances from the new government that pledges will be fulfilled.
<b>Madagascar</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention.	
<b>Mozambique</b>	Mozambique is in the advanced stages of acceding to the Conventions related to statelessness, whose principles and practices are already enshrined in its law.	
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Pledges to examine both Conventions with a view to signing them as soon as possible.	UNHCR is following up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
<b>South Africa</b>	The Government of South Africa pledges to become a signatory and party to the 1954 Convention and the subsequent 1961 Convention. These principles find expression in the South African Constitution and law.	
<b>South Sudan</b>	The Government of South Sudan aspires to accede and ratify, in the near future, the 1954 Convention and the 1961 Convention.	
<b>Togo</b>	Pledges to accelerate the process of ratification of the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	The domestic procedure for accession to the 1954 Convention was completed in May 2012. The instrument of accession has not yet been deposited.
<b>United Republic of Tanzania (The)</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	
<b>Zambia</b>	The Government of the Republic of Zambia pledges to take all necessary measures to become party to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.	

<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Argentina</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention.	The Executive is examining the issue of accession to the 1961 Convention.
<b>Colombia</b>	The Government is committed to the process of approval by Congress of the law for ratification of the 1961 Convention.	The 1954 Convention and the 1961 Convention were approved by Congress. The Constitutional Court is yet to approve.
<b>Ecuador</b>	The Government renews its commitment to conclude as soon as possible the internal regulatory process for ratification of the 1961 Convention.	Accession to the 1961 Convention on 24 September 2012.
<b>Haiti</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1954 and to the 1961 Conventions. The Government is requiring that both ratifications be done in French.	Discussions with the Executive are ongoing.
<b>Honduras</b>	The Government announces the finalization of the ratification process for the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.	Accession to the 1954 Convention was completed on 1 October 2012 and to the 1961 Convention on 18 December 2012.
<b>Paraguay</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Convention.	Acceded to the 1961 Statelessness Convention on 6 June 2012.
<b>Peru</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.	Both Conventions were submitted to the Congress in January 2013 and subsequently approved by the External Relations Commission of Congress.
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Kyrgyz Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to uphold a policy of prevention and reduction of statelessness and continue actively working in that direction in accordance with the National Action Plan (NAP) on Statelessness.	



	<p>The 2011 Action Plan contains the following element of accession:</p> <p>7. To initiate accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.</p>	
<b>Philippines (The)</b>	Pledges to initiate the process of accession to the 1961 Convention.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Belgium</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention in the near future.	
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Preliminary work for the accession of Bulgaria to the 1954 UN Convention and the 1961 UN Convention has been completed, including proposals for changing the legal framework guaranteeing the implementation of our commitments under the Conventions.	On 22 March 2012, Bulgaria acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions. A statelessness determination procedure has yet to be established under the 1954 Convention.
<b>Georgia</b>	Pledges to ratify 1954 Convention and to carry out relevant legislative activities with a view to implementing the full harmonization of its legislation with the Convention. These activities, among others, include elaboration of a detailed procedure for determination of the status of stateless persons, which will secure for the stateless person the possibility to enjoy his/her rights and benefits in the future.	Georgia acceded to the 1954 Convention in December 2011.
<b>Hungary</b>	To initiate the legislation procedure aimed at modifying Act II of 2002, promulgating the 1954 Convention. This modification will create the possibility for Hungary to withdraw the declaration made to Article 23 and 24 of the 1954 Convention, thus ensuring the full enjoyment of the rights contained in those articles to all stateless recognized by the Republic of Hungary.	The reservations to Articles 23 and 24 were formally lifted on 3 July 2012.

<b>Luxembourg</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention. The procedures for accession are being started at the national level.	
<b>Portugal</b>	The Government pledges to continue to work towards accession to both the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	Accession to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on 1 October 2012.
<b>Republic of Moldova (The)</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	The Republic of Moldova acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on 19 April 2012.
<b>Spain</b>	Spain has initiated internal procedures to accede to the 1961 Convention.	Domestic accession procedure is in process.
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to review the reservations that Sweden has to the 1954 Convention with the intention of withdrawing the reservations that are possible. The formal process for this is currently under way.	
<b>Turkey</b>	Pledges to accede to the 1954 Convention and to the 1961 Convention.	The draft laws on Turkey's ratification of the two UN Conventions on Statelessness are pending on the agenda of the Turkish Parliament.
<b>Ukraine</b>	Ukraine is actively considering accession to the 1954 Convention and to the 1961 Convention.	Ukraine acceded to both Conventions on 25 March 2013.
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>		
<b>Yemen</b>	Pledges to give consideration to adopting the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.	

### Law reform to prevent and reduce statelessness

<b>AFRICA</b>		
<b>Benin</b>	The Ministry will be sure to seek assistance of UNHCR as regards the technical details of this process of updating the nationality	UNHCR is following up with the Ministry of Justice.

	code.	
<b>Central African Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to continue its initiatives to complete ongoing work on the reform of the Nationality Code as well as to better manage migratory flows.	
<b>Guinea</b>	The government will pay particular attention to statelessness and will specifically ensure the elimination and the prevention of any and all forms of discrimination in administrative and judicial practices and procedures that are liable to lead to statelessness.	
<b>Liberia</b>	Pledges to amend the 1973 Alien and Nationality laws to ensure that nationality is equally transmitted by any of the parents, as enshrined in the Constitution.	The process of revising the Alien and Naturalization law to conform with the Constitution on issues relating to the transmission of nationality is ongoing.
<b>Nigeria</b>	Pledges to domesticate the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	The constitutional reform process is ongoing.
<b>Rwanda</b>	Pledges to prevent statelessness by reviewing nationality laws and procedures relating to the acquisition of nationality in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and other internationally recognized documentation.	
<b>Senegal</b>	Pledges to correct gender discrimination in its nationality law in order to enable Senegalese women to transmit their nationality to their foreign spouse and to their children born of a foreign father.	An amended citizenship law was adopted by the Senegalese Parliament on 28 June 2013, which eliminates gender discrimination in the right to transmit nationality to children and spouses.
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Thailand</b>	Pledges to continue to consider, where appropriate, further amendment of the Nationality Act of Thailand, as well as to provide greater access to birth registration and individual documentation services, including late birth registration, to build on	

	Thailand's progress in reducing vulnerability to statelessness.	
<b>Kyrgyz Republic (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to uphold a policy of prevention and reduction of statelessness and continue actively working in that direction in accordance with National Action Plan (NAP) on the prevention and Reduction of Statelessness.</p> <p>The 2011 Action Plan contains a number of elements, including:</p> <p>4. To bring relevant laws, by-laws and instructions in compliance with the 2007 Law on Citizenship of Kyrgyzstan;</p> <p>7.. To develop accelerated procedure for the naturalization of spouses of Kyrgyz citizens residing on the territory of Kyrgyzstan without deregistration or possessing expired passports</p>	<p>In March 2012, the law "On citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic" was amended in order to facilitate access to Kyrgyz citizenship to persons of Kyrgyz ethnicity who hold foreign citizenship or are stateless, former citizens of Kyrgyzstan returning to the country, and to female foreign and stateless persons married to Kyrgyz citizens.</p> <p>From March to April 2013, an inter-agency working group under the Citizenship Commission of the Apparatus of the President of Kyrgyzstan developed draft amendments to a by-law on consideration of citizenship issues to prevent and reduce statelessness. Proposed amendments have been submitted for final Government approval.</p>
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Armenia</b>	Pledges to amend the provisions of the citizenship law that may cause statelessness.	Amendments to the Citizenship Law are being prepared that will introduce safeguards against statelessness in situations of renunciation of citizenship. The introduction of safeguards for otherwise stateless children is also being considered. UNHCR has supported the process through the preparation of annotated comments on the Citizenship Law, a study on statelessness in Armenia and a seminar on statelessness in November 2012.

<b>Georgia</b>	Pledges to continue creating safeguards for the protection of the rights of Stateless persons and to take relevant measures, including the identification and registration of stateless persons, which basically implies the determination of the status of stateless persons and entry into the electronic database of the registry of stateless persons and the relevant information about such persons.	<p>In the process of harmonizing its legislation with the Convention, the Georgian government has made changes to the following normative acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Georgian Organic Law on “Georgian citizenship”;</li> <li>- Georgian Law on “Legal status of Foreigners”;</li> <li>- Georgian Law on “Health Care”;</li> <li>- Georgian Law on “Trafficking”;</li> <li>- Georgian Law on “Internally Displaced People – Refugees”;</li> <li>- Georgian Law on “Adoption and Foster-care”;</li> <li>- Georgian Law on “Fees for Service provided by the Civil Registry Agency”;</li> <li>- Georgian Law on “Status of Military Servicemen”;</li> <li>- Georgian Law on “General Education”;</li> <li>- Georgian “Criminal code”;</li> <li>- Georgian Law on “Approval of Instruction of issuance Georgian Citizen’s, Foreigners Living in Georgia Identity documents (residence permit) and Georgian Citizen’s Passport”.</li> </ul> <p>However, amendments to the Georgian Law on “Georgian Citizenship” in line with the 1961 convention remain pending.</p>
<b>Montenegro</b>	Pledges to proceed with harmonization of national legislation and procedures related to refugees and statelessness with the corresponding international standards and	The harmonization of legislation has started but remains limited. Two laws are pending adoption at the parliament: the new Law on Social and Child Protection and the

	to actively cooperate with other countries in order to ensure reduction of statelessness.	Draft Law on Social Housing.
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to intensify its efforts for the avoidance of statelessness at both the national and international level.	The Swedish nationality legislation is currently under review. In April 2013, a Government Bill for the amendment of, inter alia, the Citizenship Act was issued. With regard to statelessness, the Bill proposes enhanced possibilities for children who are born stateless in Sweden to be granted Swedish citizenship. Another important aspect of the Bill is that it proposes that Sweden accedes to the Council of Europe Convention to the Avoidance of Statelessness upon State Succession.
<b>Russian Federation (The)</b>	Pledges to introduce additional simplifications in the procedure for acquiring citizenship of the Russian Federation or residency permits for certain categories of stateless persons.	Federal law number 182-3 dated November 2012 on introducing amendments to the federal law "On citizenship of the Russian Federation" simplifies the process for acquisition of citizenship for certain categories of persons, such as former Soviet citizens, compatriots and those individuals whose Russian Federation passports were withdrawn earlier. The implementation of this law is pending due to the need to adopt additional by-laws.

**Civil registration/documentation to prevent and reduce statelessness**

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
<b>Central African Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to continue its current efforts which should enable the delivery of birth certificates and national identity cards to all	

	people affected by the conflicts, with a particular attention to people at risk of statelessness, such as Peulhs/Mbororos.	
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Pledges to find a solution to help Ivorians to obtain documents proving their nationality.	<p>A partnership agreement was signed on 28 January 2013 between UNHCR and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire on prevention and reduction of statelessness.</p> <p>Law #2011-258 (28 September 2011) related to the exceptional registration of birth that occurred during the conflicts was extended for two years.</p>
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo (The)</b>	Pledges to take initiatives such as registering children by the Registrar of Civil Status, encouraging civil marriage, and applying the provisions of law number 04/024 of 12/11/2004 on Congolese nationality.	
<b>Namibia</b>	Namibia will further improve birth registration from the current percentage of 67% taking cognizance of the fact that poor birth registration could contribute to statelessness. The Government of the Republic of Namibia further pledges to increase registration points in the country, by opening more registration centers in the region, cities and towns to enable all migrants entering the country to be registered in order to determine their origins.	
<b>Rwanda</b>	Pledges to take measures to ensure a lawful birth registration for all children of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons.	
<b>Somalia</b>	Pledges to put in place a system to register all new-born babies inside and outside Somalia as a means to guarantee their citizenship.	

**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

<p><b>Kyrgyz Republic (The)</b></p>	<p>Pledges to uphold policy of prevention and reduction of statelessness and continue actively working in that direction in accordance with the National Action (NAP) on the prevention and reduction of statelessness.</p> <p>The 2011 National Action Plan contains the following element on civil registration/documentation:</p> <p>5. To introduce relevant changes in national legislation and administrative practices to ensure that all new-born children on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic are provided with birth certification, as stipulated in the National Children Act and in accordance with the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p>	<p>The Working Group on Citizenship is discussing legislative amendments on birth registration to implement the National Action Plan's Point #5.</p>
<p><b>Philippines (The)</b></p>	<p>Issue machine-readable travel documents to refugees and stateless persons in accordance with Philippine law.</p>	
<p><b>Thailand</b></p>	<p>Pledges to continue to consider, where appropriate, further amendment of the Nationality Act of Thailand, as well as to provide greater access to birth registration and individual documentation services, including late birth registration, to build on Thailand's progress in reducing vulnerability to statelessness.</p>	

**EUROPE**

<p><b>Croatia</b></p>	<p>At the local level Croatia will facilitate access to civil registration and documentation with the final aim to reduce number of stateless persons and particular attention in this process will be given to the Roma. In this vein, we plan to strengthen relevant municipal services, in particular that of civil registration and social welfare centers to identify and address registration and</p>	<p>Legislative changes have been made, in favor of persons at risk of statelessness, predominantly within the Foreigners Act. The Foreigners Act entered into force in January 2012 and provides changes in the process for approving residence for foreigners thus facilitating access to</p>
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	<p>documentation issues.</p> <p>Croatia also plans to further enhance cooperation at the regional level particularly to encourage the reciprocal recognition of documents, conduct awareness raising activities amongst potential target groups and stakeholders and cooperate with other countries in the region with a view to establishing adequate, accelerated and facilitated procedures to assist civil documentation and registration. In this context, cooperation and exchange of information among stakeholders, including responsible authorities and civil society representatives, shall be ensured.</p>	<p>documentation:</p> <p>Elimination of the need to present proof of property as one of the conditions for temporary and permanent residences now facilitates the application process for residence procedures because a great majority of Roma resides in illegally built dwellings for which they have no title.</p> <p>Proof of medical insurance is no longer a prerequisite for residency.</p> <p>The procedure for granting temporary and permanent residences is now much shorter and it no longer depends on procedures in other state institutions.</p> <p>A further change is the obligation for foreigners older than 12 years to obtain an ID card for foreigners within eight days from the date of approval of residence.</p> <p>The regulation on the Status and Work of Foreigners entered into force on 9 May 2012, regulating documents for temporary residence. The most important changes that have been adopted concern the birth certificate and the certificate of a good conduct/non-criminal conviction from the home country of a foreigner. These are no longer required. The issuance of required documents is not as expensive as it used to be and also is less time-consuming for low-income beneficiaries, reducing the need to</p>
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		<p>travel to the country of origin.</p> <p>Croatia assumed the Presidency of the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 with enormous enthusiasm and planned a number of events and actions around the four priority areas identified:</p> <p>Linking the Decade of Roma Inclusion and EU framework.</p> <p>Linking Decade Success in Education with EU Education Policy.</p> <p>Roma Youth in Action for Tolerance and Recognition, while not specifically targeting status issues, addresses a number of cross-cutting issues aimed at improving the situation of Roma at risk of Statelessness in the Decade countries.</p> <p>The Zagreb Declaration was included as a topic for a short discussion at the first Steering Committee of the Presidency.</p>
<b>Georgia</b>	<p>Pledges to continue creating safeguards for the protection of the rights of Stateless persons and to take relevant measures, including the issuance of ID papers to the stateless persons, which implies issuance of biometrical passports and electronic residence permits under the most simplified procedure.</p>	<p>A dedicated statelessness determination procedure has been adopted which allows individuals to be recognized and documented as stateless persons, including the issuance of 1954 Travel Documents and residence permits.</p>
<b>Montenegro</b>	<p>Pledges to facilitate and to accelerate procedures for obtaining civil documentation, both at the national level and in cooperation with countries of origin, in order to regulate the legal status of all refugees, DPs and IDPs now residing in Montenegro, enabling them to fully and</p>	<p>Some improvements continue to be made as regards documentation needed to apply for new legal status, e.g. revision of status of rejected persons during last re-registration of I/DPs, information meetings in the field,</p>

	effectively enjoy their rights and minimizing the possibility of statelessness and deprivation of any rights they may enjoy.	organising bus visits to places of origin to help refugees acquire personal documents (activities undertaken with strong support of UNHCR). These activities resulted in 57% of the concerned population applying for the new legal status before expiry of the deadline.
<b>Russian Federation (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to improve the mechanism for the documentation of asylum-seekers in the Russian Federation as well as for stateless persons.</p> <p>Pledges to introduce additional simplifications in the procedure for acquiring citizenship of the Russian Federation or residency permits for certain categories of stateless persons</p>	Residence permits for stateless persons in the Russian Federation now include biometric data.

**Establishing statelessness determination procedures or status; or,**

**Taking measures to consider establishing a statelessness determination procedure**

<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>Brazil</b>	In 2012, a Bill establishing a mechanism for the determination of stateless status in Brazil will be sent to parliament. The Federative Republic of Brazil has already asked for UNHCR's contribution in drafting a suitable text that will implement the provisions of the 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons.	The Executive has prepared a draft law.
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Pledges to adopt a statelessness determination procedure to duly implement the provisions of both international	The Executive has prepared a draft decree.

	instruments on statelessness signed by Costa Rica: the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	
<b>Peru</b>	Pledges to encourage the development of a draft national law that enables the necessary regulation of statelessness issues.	
<b>United States of America (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to actively work with Congress to introduce legislation that provides a mechanism for stateless persons in the United States to obtain permanent residency and eventually citizenship.</p> <p>Pledges to consider the revision of administrative policies to allow the circumstance of stateless persons to inform decision-making regarding their detention, reporting requirements, and opportunity to apply for work authorization.</p>	<p>The administration worked with Congress to include language in the final comprehensive immigration reform legislation bill that was passed in the Senate on 27 June, 2013.</p> <p>The administration issued new reporting guidance which permits a level of discretion to be exercised with respect to stateless persons.</p>
<b>Uruguay</b>	Pledges to introduce, by the adoption of appropriate legislation, a formal statelessness status determination procedure that grants to the recognized persons a status consistent with international standards.	Draft law pending before Congress.
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Australia</b>	Pledges to better identify stateless persons and assess their claims. Australia is committed to minimizing the incidence of statelessness and to ensuring that stateless persons are treated no less favorably than people with an identified nationality. Australia will continue to work with UNHCR, civil society and interested parties to progress this pledge.	An administrative procedure to better identify stateless people seeking refugee status was established in 2012.
<b>Kyrgyz Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to uphold a policy of prevention and reduction of statelessness and continue actively working in that direction in accordance with the 2011 National Action Plan (NAP) on the prevention and reduction	

	<p>of statelessness.</p> <p>The 2011 Action Plan contains the following element on statelessness determination:</p> <p>4. To bring relevant laws, by-laws and instructions in compliance with the 2007 Law on Citizenship, structure of the Government and applicable international standards.</p>	
<b>Philippines (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to continue to develop the policy and operational framework to address statelessness after the ratification of the 1954 Convention, with the support of and in cooperation with UNHCR.</p>	<p>A dedicated statelessness determination procedure was adopted in 2012.</p>
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Belgium</b>	<p>The new coalition agreement provides for the introduction of a new procedure for the recognition of statelessness to be conducted by the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons.</p>	
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<p>Pledges to do preliminary work for the accession of Bulgaria to the 1954 UN Convention and the 1961 UN Convention have been completed, including proposals for changing the legal framework guaranteeing the implementation of our commitments under the Conventions.</p>	<p>A statelessness determination procedure has yet to be established under the 1954 Convention.</p>
<b>Georgia</b>	<p>Pledges to elaborate a detailed procedure for determination of the status of a stateless person, which will secure to the stateless person the possibility to enjoy his/her rights and benefits in the future.</p>	<p>In July 2012, the Georgian Government made changes to the Law on Legal Status of Aliens and Stateless Persons which paved the way to approval and enforcement of the Procedures for Stateless Status Determination. The procedures are implemented by the Public Services Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice (PSDA). Since commencement of the Procedures, 77 applicants have applied to the PSDA and 50</p>

		obtained Statelessness Status.
<b>Hungary</b>	Pledges to create/establish together with UNHCR a quality assurance mechanism for the statelessness determination procedure.	Within the framework of a project, a Quality Assurance Manual, the joint product of the Office of Immigration and Nationality and UNHCR's Hungary Unit, was developed and agreed upon as a follow-up of the pledge.
<b>Republic of Moldova (The)</b>	Pledges to amend its domestic legislation in order to establish a statelessness determination procedure.	In February 2012, Moldova established a statelessness determination procedure in line with international standards by introducing relevant provisions in the Law on the regime of Foreigners. The legal provisions were drafted in close cooperation with UNHCR, take into account its recommendations, as well as best practices from the Hungarian, French and Spanish procedures.

### Studies/awareness campaigns

AFRICA		
<b>Benin</b>	The work to be done to implement both conventions on statelessness will include conducting a full-scale sociological study combined with the general census of population and housing, planned for 2012, in order to have reliable data on stateless persons or people at risk of statelessness living in Benin.	UNHCR is following up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
<b>Burundi</b>	Pledges to carry out in the shortest possible time and with the support of UNHCR the detailed profiling of people who are at risk of statelessness in Burundi, and to authorize their stay on Burundi's territory during the profiling operation and the establishment	In fulfillment of this pledge, the Government of Burundi worked with UNHCR to map the situation of some 1,300 potentially stateless persons of Omani origin in the country through registration and a

	and implementation of a strategy relating to the risks they face.	series of focus-group discussions. Following the registration exercise, temporary residence permits were issued by Burundi to all members of this group who were registered, until their nationality is clarified.
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo (The)</b>	Pledges to take initiatives, such as identifying cases of statelessness on its national territory; preventing statelessness by setting up national mechanisms in compliance with its national legislation and through registering children by the Register of Civil Status, encouraging civil marriage, and applying to provisions of law number 04/024 of 12/11/2004 on Congolese nationality.	
<b>Namibia</b>	The Government of Republic of Namibia pledges to carry out awareness campaigns on statelessness and to educate the government machinery and the general public on matters of statelessness.	
<b>Rwanda</b>	Pledges to compile data on the number of stateless persons within the country during the next population census in 2012.	
<b>Zambia</b>	Zambia will require support from the UNHCR to conduct an independent study on the issue of statelessness in the country.	
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Kyrgyz Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to promote a comprehensive survey of the scale and situation of stateless persons residing in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.	In cooperation with the Government, UNHCR supported an independent mapping survey to define and count stateless persons in the Kyrgyz Republic.
<b>Philippines (The)</b>	Pledges to continue the study of statelessness in the Philippines and among its nationals that are at risks of statelessness, in continuation of efforts	During 2012 and 2013 the Government of the Philippines continued to work closely with UNHCR in taking steps to map

	initiated in 2011.	statelessness in the Philippines. In particular, research to identify the extent of statelessness amongst persons of Indonesian descent in Southern Mindanao is expected to be completed in 2013.
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan stated its intension to continue the close cooperation with UNHCR for the elimination of protection gaps, strengthening the protection regime and asylum system, the thorough study and analysis of statelessness in the country, as well as in the field of regulation of participation of refugees in the labor market.	
<b>Croatia</b>	Croatia plans to further enhance cooperation at the regional level particularly to encourage the reciprocal recognition of documents, conduct awareness raising activities amongst potential target groups and stakeholders and cooperate with other countries in the region with a view to establish adequate, accelerated and facilitated procedures to assist civil documentation and registration.	
<b>Republic of Moldova (The)</b>	Pledges to map and gather information on stateless persons in Moldova with a view to finding a solution for their predicament.	The exact number of stateless persons in Moldova remains unclear as there is conflicting information about the figure. The situation, however, may become clearer following a national census planned for April 2014.

### Addressing statelessness through foreign policy initiatives

<b>AFRICA</b>		
<b>South Africa</b>	South Africa will renew its efforts to work regionally and internationally towards the	



	important goal of the prevention and reduction of statelessness. An important mechanism which will prevent statelessness is the incorporation of National Population Registers in countries where these do not exist or are incomplete.	
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
<b>United States of America (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to focus US diplomacy on preventing and resolving statelessness among women and children, including efforts to raise global awareness about discrimination against women in nationality laws and to mobilize governments to repeal nationality laws that discriminate against women.</p> <p>Pledges to promote a child's right to nationality through multilateral and bilateral engagement, including efforts to promote universal birth registration.</p>	<p>The Women's Initiative launched by Secretary Clinton included both multilateral and bilateral diplomacy.</p> <p>2012: Human Rights Council resolution on right to nationality tabled by US with core group of sponsors.</p> <p>2013: Side event on statelessness organised by the U.S. at UN Human Rights Council.</p> <p>Inclusion of statelessness in annual State Department human rights reports.</p> <p>At the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Population and Development, the U.S. successfully incorporated language into the "New Trends on Migration: Demographic Aspects" resolution, which recognizes the right to a nationality for all migrant including children.</p>
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Hungary</b>	The Government pledges to continue the promotion of the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions. They pledge to share their best practices, tools and experiences with all interested states in the framework of seminars or study visits.	<p>The implementation of this pledge is in progress.</p> <p>A regional delegation of 13 senior Government officials from Bulgaria, Czech Republic (The), Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia was received in Hungary on a study visit</p>

		relevant to statelessness (10-11 December 2012) with a view to promoting accession and/or establishment of national status determination mechanisms.
<b>Sweden</b>	Pledges to intensify its efforts for the avoidance of statelessness at both the national and the international level.	UNHCR is currently conducting a mapping exercise with regard to statelessness within the Nordic region, including Sweden.

### Reduction of Statelessness

EUROPE		
<b>Belarus</b>	In our country, concrete measures are taken to reduce statelessness, including legislative measures, allowing the creation of a steady trend of reducing the number of stateless persons permanently residing in the country. By the end of 2013, we expect that this trend will be strengthened through the implementation of measures aimed at facilitating the acquisition of Belarusian citizenship by this category of individuals.	In 2012, 1074 stateless persons with different types of residence acquired Belarusian citizenship.
<b>Montenegro</b>	Pledges to proceed with harmonization of national legislation and procedures related to refugees and statelessness with the corresponding international standards and to actively co-operate with other countries in order to ensure reduction of statelessness.	
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
<b>Kyrgyz Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to uphold a policy of prevention and reduction of statelessness and continue actively working in that direction in accordance with National Action Plan (NAP) on the prevention and Reduction of Statelessness.	From January to December 2012, the State Registration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic exchanged 16,773 USSR passports for passports of the Kyrgyz Republic.  From January to March 2013,

	<p>The 2011 National Action Plan contains the following element on reduction of statelessness:</p> <p>1. To continue accelerated exchange of old 1974 standard Soviet passports by the State Registration Service of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.</p>	<p>1,574 persons had their USSR passports replaced with the KR passport.</p>
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### General pledges on respect for international principles and action on statelessness

AMERICAS		
<b>Bolivia</b>	<p>Pledges to continue strengthening the integration between countries of the Latin American continent, as well as cooperation of policies on the protection of refugees and stateless persons.</p> <p>Pledges to continue promoting values of solidarity, respect, tolerance and multiculturalism, stressing the non-political and humanitarian nature of the protection of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, while recognizing their rights and obligations as well as their positive contribution to society.</p>	
<b>Mexico</b>	<p>Pledges to continue promoting national mechanisms for the determination of the status of stateless persons.</p>	
<b>Panama</b>	<p>Pledges to ensure protection in its territory to stateless persons, so that they can live in safety and dignity, and to put an end to this condition, as stated in its new rules on statelessness.</p>	
EUROPE		
<b>Denmark</b>	<p>Denmark recognizes the overall importance of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and pledges to continue its efforts for the general avoidance of</p>	

	statelessness.	
<b>France</b>	To modernize the travel documents issued to refugees, stateless persons as well as to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who reside in France. The aim is to issue documents in conformity with the most recent international requirements in order to enable the holders to travel easily.	
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	Pledges to assume its responsibility to reduce statelessness by applying its national legislation in the spirit of the 1961 Convention and in close cooperation with UNHCR.	
<b>Montenegro</b>	Pledges to be fully committed to the highest principles of international protection, support and help for refugees and statelessness persons.	
<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (The)</b>	Pledges to restate its commitment to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and undertakes to review its response to those that fall under that convention.	

#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

<b>African Union</b>	The African Union Commission pledges to work with UNHCR to raise awareness and foster common understanding about statelessness, and urge the remaining African states that they are yet to sign or ratify the Convention to do so at this earliest opportunity. In this regard the African Union Commission will bring the issue of statelessness and the determination of nationality to the attention of the AU member states, with a view to adopting a common position on two issues as well as adopting continental guidelines on elements for the determination of nationality	
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## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

State	Pledge	update
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**In Africa, several countries pledged to ratify and/or incorporate into national law/policy the Kampala Convention**

AFRICA		
<b>Burundi</b>	Pledges to continue the process of ratifying the Kampala Convention <sup>3</sup> , signed by Burundi in October 2009.	Burundi is in the process of implementing its pledges.
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Pledges to ratify the Kampala Convention.	Côte d'Ivoire is in the process of implementing its pledges.
<b>Guinea</b>	Pledges to accede to the Kampala Convention.	
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	Pledges to complete within a short time ratification of the Kampala Convention. This Convention has already been agreed by Parliament and promulgated by the President of the Republic. All that remains to be done is publication in the Official Gazette and the last step – transmission of the instrument of ratification to the depositary.	
<b>Liberia</b>	Pledges that the Kampala Convention will be ratified in 2012.	
<b>Nigeria</b>	The Federal Executive Council in furtherance of its commitment approved the ratification of the Kampala Convention and the Government of Nigeria pledges to ratify and domesticate the Kampala Convention.	Ratified the Convention on 17 April 2012.
<b>Republic of the Congo (The)</b>	Pledges to ratify the Kampala Convention and to adopt legislation for its implementation at the national level by 2013.	

<sup>3</sup> The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa

<b>Somalia</b>	The country ratified the Kampala Convention on 15 March 2011 and, with a view to allowing the Convention to be fully implemented in the Somalia context, the country commits to adopting a national IDP policy.	Somalia is in the process of implementing its pledges.
<b>South Sudan</b>	Pledges to accede to and ratify the Kampala Convention and to develop the related domestic legal framework so as to give this treaty full effect in the country.	
<b>United Republic of Tanzania (The)</b>	Pledges to ratify and domesticate the Kampala Convention.	Still in process of completing the ratification process.

### Protection for internally displaced

AFRICA		
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	<p>Pledges to review Law number 06/2008 of 27 May, which approves the status of refugees and internally displaced persons, and creates the National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.</p> <p>Pledge to establish the internal regulation of the National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.</p>	
AMERICAS		
<b>Bolivia</b>	Pledges to continue promoting values of solidarity, respect, tolerance and multiculturalism, stressing the non-political and humanitarian nature of the protection of refugees and IDPs, while recognizing their rights and obligations as well as their positive	

	contribution to society.	
<b>Colombia</b>	1. The Government is committed to implement the Law for Victims and Land Restitution with adequate protection measures and the search for the solutions of return, rural resettlement and local integration for the displaced population.	Victims Law was adopted in June 2012. The Victims Unit has been established and is in charge of implementing it.  Implementing regulations for the application of the Victims Law to Colombian residing outside the country, including refugees and asylum-seekers, is being drafted.
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Japan</b>	Pledges to play a leading role and to continue to actively support UNHCR in the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons around the world towards achieving durable solution to refugee issues.	
<b>Indonesia</b>	Pledges to continue to prioritize migration issues, specifically where these related to the protection of refugees, IDPs, stateless persons and other persons of concern to the UNHCR, and to focus on the issue of irregular migration in particular.	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Armenia</b>	Pledges to urgently address, with the support of donor governments and development organisations, the dire housing needs of Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan, as well as internally displaced persons.	
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Pledges to contribute to increasing, on the global scale, public awareness of the problems faced by internally displaced persons.	
<b>Georgia</b>	Pledges to continue their efforts to address the challenges of displacement and to protect and promote rights of individuals	In 2012 the Action Plan for 2009-2012 was extended for the period 2012-2014 as a result of a consultative process under the leadership of the Ministry for Internally



	<p>affected by displacement.</p>	<p>Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories of Georgia, Accommodation and Refugees (MRA) and having on board key donors, international organisations and local NGOs as well as the Public Defender's office.</p> <p>The state budget serving IDPs has been significantly increased.</p> <p>The government has initiated an inclusive process of drafting a new national IDP Law and there is a high probability that (i) discrepancies between the IDP definition in national legislation and the UN Guiding Principles are narrowed, (ii) that the level of assistance offered to IDP is expanded and a (iii) more harmonized approach is taken vis-à-vis IDPs residing in collective centers and those in private accommodation.</p> <p>The Government also initiated a debate on the need for and possible concept of legislation governing the treatment of IDPs displaced by natural or man-made disasters.</p> <p>The Government adopted guiding principles and criteria on allocation of durable housing solutions to IDPs in June 2013 and is going to conduct a nationwide re-registration exercise of IDPs as from 1 August 2013 in order to better manage limited resources.</p> <p>The Constitutional Court of Georgia admitted for review a case examining inconsistencies between the IDP definition in national legislation and the UN Guiding Principles. The Court has recently decided that the exclusion from national IDP status of displaced persons, who for reasons of security and complete loss of livelihoods cannot return to their homes, located on</p>
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		or in the immediate vicinity of the Administrative Border Line with South Ossetia, constitutes discrimination.
<b>Germany</b>	Pledges to create better conditions for the return of Afghan refugees and IDPs in the areas where they settle down.	
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	Pledges to maintain its support of UNHCR as one of its main partners within International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development, especially with regard to the protection of internally displaced persons and with regard to forgotten conflicts.	

## OTHER FORMS OF DISPLACEMENT

State	Pledge	Update
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**Addressing mixed migration, human trafficking and people smuggling**

AFRICA		
<b>Kenya</b>	VIII. Pledges to give a window of opportunity for mixed migration cases to access to its asylum system. Indeed, Kenya gave asylum to numerous mixed migration caseloads and access to its asylum system. An example of such a group is one rescued at sea by the American Navy who was admitted to Kakuma refugee camp.	
AMERICAS		
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Pledges to promote a comprehensive approach at the regional level to assist persons involved in mixed migration flows.	A new Law Against Trafficking and Related Activities came into force on 8 February 2013.  In Costa Rica, UNHCR and IOM participate in the National Coalition against Trafficking and Emergency Response Team to support identification and assistance of victims of trafficking, particularly those in need of international protection.
<b>Mexico</b>	Pledges to continue working to ensure that, within the context of migration flows, asylum-seekers are adequately identified and that the protection-sensitive entry systems are reinforced with differentiated procedures and processes (particularly regarding victims of trafficking and unaccompanied girls, boys and adolescents).	The new General Law to Prevent, Sanction, and Eradicate Human Trafficking and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims (LGPSETP-2012) was published on 14 June 2012.
<b>Panama</b>	Pledges to rigorously implement Law number 79 of 9 November 2011 “On Trafficking in Persons and Related	

	Activities”, a legal instrument to address international organised crime offences in which migrants and those seeking international protection become entangled, mainly women and children.	
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>		
<b>Australia</b>	Pledges to enhance regional cooperation and burden-sharing on refugee protection and international migration in the Asia-Pacific by working with our partners in the Bali Process to operationalize the Regional Cooperation Framework, including by working closely with our Bali Process Co-Chair towards the establishment of a Regional Support Office.	The Regional Support Office (RSO) was established in Bangkok, Thailand (September 2012).
<b>Indonesia</b>	Pledges to address dimensions of mixed migration: human trafficking and smuggling (together with Australia, Kazakhstan, the Philippines and Thailand as well as a number of other states from Africa, Americas and MENA).	<p>In its national statement, Indonesia renewed its support to the operationalization of the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Bali Regional Ministerial Conference with a view to promote inter-state cooperation to reducing irregular movements throughout the region.</p> <p>During 2012 and as of to May 2013, Indonesia continued to take full ownership of its co-chairmanship responsibilities of the Bali Process and to lend a strong support to the new protection dimension of the Bali Process agenda. Among others, Jakarta played an important role in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The establishment of the Regional Support Office (RSO) in Bangkok, Thailand (September 2012).</li> <li>- The organisation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Bali Process Anniversary (November 2012).</li> </ul>

		<p>- The co-organisation with UNHCR through the RSO of the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by sea (March 2013).</p> <p>- The organisation this year of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bali Regional Ministerial Conference (April 2013).</p>
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Pledges to propose to convene a meeting in Astana on the level of diplomatic missions representing the states of the region in order to discuss further steps after the Regional Conference on Protection of Refugees and on International Migration.	A second ministerial conference was organised in Almaty in June 2013 and formally launched the Almaty Process.
<b>Kyrgyz Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to actively participate in the regional processes on regulation of mixed-migration flows.	<p>The government of Kyrgyzstan appointed its National Coordinator for the Almaty Process on Mixed Migration at the level of Deputy Foreign Minister.</p> <p>The Kyrgyz government delegation participated in the first meeting on National Coordinators on 7 September 2012 in Almaty as well as in the second ministerial meeting.</p>
<b>Philippines (The)</b>	Pledges to continue leadership in ASEAN in the development of a human rights framework dealing with issues relating to migrants, trafficked persons, refugees and stateless persons.	<p>The Philippines hosted the 1st National Consultation Meeting of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights on Trafficking in Persons on 11 September 2012.</p> <p>The President of the Philippines approved the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 on 6 February 2013 and it was published on 13 February 2013.</p>
<b>Thailand</b>	Pledges to address dimensions of mixed migration: human trafficking and smuggling (together with Australia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and the Philippines as well as a number of other states from Africa, Americas	

	and MENA).	
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA		
<b>Israel</b>	Pledges to provide the necessary assistance and medical care to victims of human trafficking, among them many women who, on their way to Israel, were kidnapped, tortured and raped.	
<b>Yemen</b>	<p>Pledges to develop, in cooperation with UNHCR and other international organisations and neighboring countries, a regional strategic plan to combat human trafficking/ smuggling.</p> <p>Pledges to host a regional conference in 2012 on mixed migration challenges with the participation of relevant international organisations, Horn of Africa States and countries from the Arabian Peninsula.</p>	<p>The UNODC and League of Arab States held an anti-trafficking legislation drafting workshop for Yemen's Ministry of Justice and other government officials between 28 and 30 January 2013.</p> <p>In late 2012, the Government established two National Committees to combat Human Trafficking.</p>

### Natural disasters/climate change

AMERICAS		
<b>Argentina</b>	Pledges to strengthen the implementation of those mechanisms that have been adopted to cope with new situations that are not envisaged in the international instruments for refugee protection, including the application of criterion for temporary residence on humanitarian ground pursuant to the regulations established in the Regulatory Decree of the Migration Act (Decree 616-2010), which envisages the situation of people who, notwithstanding the fact that	

	<p>they are not refugees, have international protection needs; and the criterion of special temporary settlement (Article 24, subparagraph h, Law No. 25.871) whose regulations include the situation of those people who “despite not requiring international protection, are temporarily unable to return to their countries of origin due to the prevailing humanitarian conditions or owing to the consequences generated by natural disasters or man-made environmental disasters”, and may take into account non-return advisories issued by UNHCR.</p>	
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**GROUP PLEDGE**

<p><b>Norway, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Germany and Mexico</b></p>	<p>A more coherent and consistent approach at the international level is needed to meet the protection needs of people displaced externally owing to sudden-onset disasters, including where climate change plays a role. They therefore pledged to cooperate with interested states, UNHCR and other relevant actors with the aim of obtaining a better understanding of such cross border movements at relevant regional and sub-regional levels, identifying best practices and developing consensus on how best to assist and protect the affected people.</p>	<p>Switzerland together with Norway launched the Nansen Initiative in Geneva and in New York in October 2012. The two countries are funding the Envoy of the Nansen Initiative, Walter Kälin, as well as a Secretariat located in Geneva, and they co-chair the Steering Committee composed of eight States. Additionally, a Consultative Committee has been established to feed the Steering Committee with up-to-date research. The aim, through sub-regional consultations (funded by UNHCR) and a Global Dialogue, will be to arrive at a sort of action plan or protection agenda which would highlight areas for international cooperation and solidarity, standards of treatment of affected persons and operational responses.</p>
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## COOPERATION WITH UNHCR

State	Pledge	Update
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**Cooperation with UNHCR by supporting projects, continuing or increasing funding and by building or expanding partnerships**

AFRICA		
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Ethiopia is committed to continue its close cooperation with UNHCR and with the international community in finding durable solutions to the emerging refugee and displacement problems.	
<b>Ghana</b>	Pledges to continue its support to UNHCR as well as its readiness to work in accordance with the ministerial Communiqué adopted at the UNHCR intergovernmental event at the ministerial level held in Geneva on 7-8 December 2011.	
AMERICAS		
<b>Dominican Republic (The)</b>	Pledges to continue the joint work with UNHCR, facilitating its collaboration with the CONARE in order to achieve the objectives of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.	
<b>United States of America (The)</b>	Pledges to work with UNHCR in fiscal year 2012 to strengthen local partner capacity, particularly in humanitarian emergencies, through facilitating partnerships between international and national actors.	In 2012, PRM funded a UNHCR proposal whose goal is to strengthen capacity for national and local NGOs to operate in complex emergency environments. The project is progressing well and is in phase three out of four. PRM is continuing to follow the implementation of this project closely.
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
<b>Australia</b>	Pledges to continue their long-	

	<p>standing support for UNHCR's mandate and operations through the provision of core and un-earmarked funding. We recognize that humanitarian funding that is both predictable and flexible best enables UNHCR to plan, prioritize and program critical protection work. We also recognize that humanitarian funding alone will not resolve protracted refugee situations, and pledge to continue efforts to support durable solutions for refugees through enhanced linkages between humanitarian assistance, early recovery and development programming.</p>	
<b>China</b>	<p>Pledges to continue to support the work of UNHCR and gradually increase, within its capacity and in various forms, donations or other forms of support to UNHCR.</p>	
<b>Indonesia</b>	<p>No pledge in December 2011, but right after this event, UNHCR received a letter from the Permanent Mission of the Indonesians (dated 16 January 2012), confirming Indonesia's decision to re-start its funding of UNHCR programmes with a contribution of USD 50,000.</p>	
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<p>Kazakhstan is firmly committed to its obligations under the 1951 Convention and it will remain an active partner of the UNHCR in the region and will expand cooperation in order to improve the situation of refugees and stateless persons.</p> <p>A Regional Conference on Protection of Refugees and on International Migration was held in Almaty on 15-</p>	<p>The Almaty process was launched during the second ministerial meeting in June 2013.</p>

	<p>16 March 2011, in close collaboration with UNHCR and IOM. The Conference adopted a Declaration that envisages the creation of a Regional Framework Structure uniting under its umbrella all stake-holders: Governments, international organisations and NGOs. In this regard, Kazakhstan proposes to convene a meeting in Astana on the level of diplomatic missions representing the states of the region in order to discuss further steps in establishing the Framework Structure.</p>	
<b>Philippines (The)</b>	<p>Pledges to increase its contribution for 2012 to USD 100,000 in support of UNHCR programs.</p>	
<b>EUROPE</b>		
<b>Austria</b>	<p>The cooperation between the UNHCR office in Vienna and the Ministry of the Interior has proven to be very efficient and productive over the past years. Therefore it is intended to sign a Memorandum of Understanding reflecting the existing cooperation and showing ways for further cooperation in all areas covered by the mandate of the UNHCR.</p>	
<b>Finland</b>	<p>Finland is a reliable donor to UNHCR and pledges to provide UNHCR un-earmarked core funding of 7 million euro according to our multi-year commitments. In addition, Finland continues to provide UNHCR with additional funding in response to emergencies and protracted needs. All Finnish funding is subject to parliamentary approval.</p>	<p>Finland has lived up to this commitment.</p>

<b>France</b>	Pledges to cooperate with UNHCR with a view to seeking durable solutions for refugees.	
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	Pledges to maintain its support of UNHCR as one of its main partners within International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development, especially with regard to the protection of IDPs and with regard to forgotten conflicts.	
<b>Netherlands (The)</b>	Pledges to continue to finance the work of UNHCR primarily in an un-earmarked way and will keep on encouraging other donors to do the same.	
<b>Romania</b>	Pledges to continue to financially support the work of UNHCR, primarily with un-earmarked contributions.	
<b>Sweden</b>	Continue its strong financial support for UNHCR. The Swedish Government's suggested core contribution to the UNHCR for 2012 amounts to SEK 613 million. The decision is subject to Parliamentary approval (a). In addition to the core contribution, Sweden will make a biennial contribution towards the biennial UNHCR Global Appeal including geographical and regional support. (b) A biennial contribution will give UNHCR predictable, rapid and flexible financing and promotes a long-term perspective and operational flexibility in UNHCR operations.	Pledge (a) has been implemented.  Pledge (b) refers to the Swedish Development Agency contributions (TSI, SGBV, appeals) to UNHCR's biennial Global Appeal, which has also been implemented.
<b>Switzerland</b>	Pledges to increase its financial contribution to UNHCR for the coming year.	

<b>Turkey</b>	Reiterates Turkey's commitment to continue the close, fruitful and satisfactory cooperation with the UNHCR in matters related to asylum.	The Law on Foreigners and International Protection, promulgated on 11 April 2013, contains a specific article confirming the commitment of Turkey to cooperate with UNHCR in fulfillment of its supervisory role.
<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (The)</b>	The Government will strengthen the international efforts to protect and assist refugees by increasing its donor contributions to UNHCR, which performed well in the UK Multilateral Aid Review.	DFID has increased its contribution to UNHCR.
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>		
<b>Israel</b>	<p>Pledges to increase their annual contribution to UNHCR.</p> <p>Pledges to offer UNHCR the use of Israel's expertise and to work together through MASHAV – Israel's International Development Agency – to create and implement professional and vocational programs in mutually agreed locations of UNHCR's refugee camps around the world, with the aim of uplifting the refugees' standard of living and helping them to obtain a better future.</p>	
<b>Qatar</b>	Renews its commitment to the noble humanitarian principles of UNHCR and its pledge to continue providing necessary support to UNHCR's different activities to ensure a dignified life for all.	
<b>Yemen</b>	Pledges to work together with UNHCR.	
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS</b>		
<b>European Union</b>	The European Union is committed to support UNHCR efforts and to prevent and end statelessness in	

	<p>compliance with the principles of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.</p> <p>The European Union reaffirms its strong commitment to assist and protect, in accordance with international obligations, all those men, women and children, who are compelled against their will to leave their homes and their countries in order to escape fear of persecution.</p>	
<b>Organisation of Islamic Cooperation</b>	<p>Reaffirms its willingness to work with its traditional partners, such as UNHCR, in order to find together viable and durable solutions for the situation of refugees in its member countries, since it fully appreciates the impact of the burden of refugees and displaced in those countries.</p>	