



## High-Level Officials Meeting, December 14-15, 2021

### Statement of UN Women

Three years since the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees by the UN General Assembly, two years since the convening of the First Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, and in the context of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, the need to step up global action is more urgent than ever. We must promote the rights, protection and self-reliance of women refugees and women and girls in host communities, recognizing the unique agency, potential and talent that they bring.

Traditional, siloed responses to protracted crises have proven inadequate with increasing numbers of people being left without access to durable solutions. To that end, it is imperative to respond using a combined humanitarian-development-peace approach – in understanding underlying causes of humanitarian crises and conflicts; and in developing innovative solutions that recognize and address the diverse needs of women, girls, boys, and men, protect human rights, and provide stability and resilience.

Central to this must be funding and scale up of self-reliance and empowerment interventions in refugee response – especially for women and girls – so they can build futures of their own choosing. In addition, recognition of unpaid care work by women and girls in refugee settings; enhanced protection including from GBV, stepping up commitments to the ‘do no harm’ principle and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse are vital elements.

Ahead of the Second Global Refugee Forum in 2023, UN Women calls for strengthened global partnerships to bring durable solutions to refugee women and girls with focus on:

- Increased and quality funding programming related to gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment in refugee settings, including through quality partnerships and funding for local women’s organizations and networks.
- Scaling up refugee response programmes targeting refugee women and girls that provide opportunities for livelihoods through acquisition of new skills, including in IT, responding to climate change, and providing opportunities for Second Chance Education to displaced girls and young women who have missed out on formal education.
- Increasing investments and partnerships around the collection and dissemination of sex- and age-disaggregated data, as well as gender statistics and analysis throughout the displacement cycle. This will inform gender transformative programming across priority sectors; and contribute to the design of relevant responses that address the underlying causes of conflict and displacement.
- Addressing the issue of statelessness and further scaling up global partnerships for the elimination of gender discrimination in birth registration laws and policies through the review and repeal of discriminatory civil laws.



In close collaboration with UNHCR, other UN agencies, INGOs, local women's organizations and networks, as well as national governments, UN Women reiterates its commitment to support the integration of gender equality, as well as age- and diversity-sensitive approaches, into legislative frameworks, protection, and solutions strategies, and to translate these into actions that have a tangible impact on the lives of refugee women and girls.

UN Women calls for the creation of increased synergies between the Global Refugee Forum and other inter-agency and multi-stakeholder platforms dedicated to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in conflict, crisis, and displacement settings.

Through Generation Equality, the Action Coalitions and the Global Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, UN Women will continue to advocate for innovative financing and initiatives for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in refugee and humanitarian crisis, and across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus.