

**Eighty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
8-10 March 2022**

**Agenda item 5
Oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges**

Introduction

The 2022 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges will be convened from 7 to 8 December. It will focus on strengthening development cooperation to advance protection, inclusion and solutions for refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons. Development actors play a vital role in displacement settings, from prevention to the onset of an emergency through to solutions. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) reaffirms the role of development actors as part of a multi-stakeholder and partnership approach to addressing displacement and ensuring comprehensive responses. Development cooperation is essential to advancing burden- and responsibility-sharing in support of the objectives of the GCR.

In recent years, multilateral development banks, bilateral development agencies, international financial institutions, the United Nations and other international organizations, the private sector, parliamentarians, academia, local authorities, civil society and refugee-led organizations, among others, have expanded their efforts to enhance development cooperation in displacement and stateless contexts. Many donor governments have put displacement on the agendas of their development agencies, and a number of major host governments have included displacement considerations in their national development planning.

UNHCR has been closely engaged in these efforts. The High Commissioner's [strategic directions for 2022 to 2026](#) include accelerating efforts to mainstream development engagement from the outset of responses to displacement. The High-Level Officials Meeting, convened in December 2021 to take stock of progress towards the GCR objectives, emphasized the importance of strengthening development cooperation in support of inclusion and solutions. The [GCR indicator report](#), issued in November 2021, made recommendations to advance development cooperation and increase official development assistance to support the GCR objectives. Similarly, an [evaluation](#) of UNHCR's engagement in humanitarian-development cooperation, released in September 2021, set out key recommendations.

Objectives

Building upon these initiatives, the Dialogue will consider how development cooperation in support of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees, stateless persons and their host communities can (1) strengthen protection, including through policy development and support; (2) facilitate inclusion in national and local services at all phases of displacement; and (3) foster solutions, including by supporting the conditions for voluntary and sustainable return. Participants will reflect on lessons learned and consider how policy approaches, promising practices, multi-stakeholder and partnership arrangements, and the integration of humanitarian and development assistance can contribute to these efforts.

Outcomes

The Dialogue will put forth recommendations and advance initiatives at the global, regional and national levels for strengthening development cooperation in displacement and statelessness contexts. These recommendations will also inform the cultivation of pledges and initiatives for the next Global Refugee Forum in 2023.

Roadmap

September - November: Situational roundtables

The Dialogue will be informed by a series of virtual roundtables focused on specific situations where development cooperation can advance protection, inclusion and solutions. The roundtables will stimulate reflection on learnings, challenges and opportunities in these situations that will inform thematic discussions at the Dialogue.

7-8 December: High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

Building on the outcomes of the situational roundtables, the Dialogue will pursue the discussions at the global level. The event will be chaired by the High Commissioner and will be livestreamed to ensure a broad audience.