



## Virtual Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees

### Summary

30 March 2022, 15:00-17:00 hrs CEST

The first quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) for 2022 was convened on 30 March to provide a summary of key takeaways and recommendations from stocktaking and the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) in 2021 and the roadmap for the next Global Refugee Forum in 2023. The briefing was moderated by Ms. Anne Keah, Head of the Governance Service, and included opening remarks from Ms. Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, and a briefing on the roadmap by Ms. Perveen Ali, Head of the GCR Coordination Team, UNHCR, followed by interventions from the virtual floor.

#### Opening Remarks by Ms. Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR

Ms. Triggs spoke to the challenging global situation, exacerbated by continuing COVID-19 pandemic and now the crisis in Ukraine. Ms. Triggs expressed a strong hope that the solidarity witnessed in the context of Ukraine would extend to other displacement crises.

The first [GCR indicator report](#), launched in advance of the HLOM, provides the evidence base which will guide the development of new pledges and initiatives as we look ahead to the next GRF. Ms. Triggs commended all stakeholders for their strong engagement in the GRF/GRF follow-up process, and recalled the remarks H.E. Ignacio Cassis, President of the Swiss Confederation, at the HLOM that this demonstrated a strong “can-do attitude”. Providing a summary of the main takeaways from the HLOM, Ms. Triggs noted that 58 new pledges were made at the HLOM, complementing the nearly 1,600 pledges already made in an effort to operationalise the GCR. Three-quarters of the 800 pledge updates received were reported as in progress, and 162 were fulfilled. Furthermore, a series of high-impact initiatives were announced on [connected learning](#), [innovative financing](#), private sector investment, and [climate action](#).

To recall the key findings from the GCR indicator report that will guide future action, a [video](#) summarizing the current state of burden and responsibility sharing was shown. Ms. Triggs then outlined [20 key recommendations from the HLOM](#), both cross-cutting and against the four GCR objectives. These recommendations will be the basis of mobilization towards the next GRF are featured in the [HLOM Outcome Document](#). The recommendations are accompanied by concrete actions that could be translated into new commitments, pledges, and initiatives in the months ahead.

Ms. Triggs spoke to the eight recommendations that **cut across the four GCR objectives**. These include the need to implement current and develop new pledges; increase access to international protection; make good on our promises to reduce statelessness; and greater engagement and cooperation towards

development action. Cross-cutting recommendations are also focused on climate action, meaningful refugee participation, data, and private sector engagement.

In relation to **GCR objective 1** (ease pressures on host countries), there are recommendations to diversify and broaden the base of support, foster synergies between humanitarian and development funding, identify innovative approaches to financing for refugee situations, and ensure more flexible, predictable, and multi-year funding. Under **GCR objective 2** (enhance refugee self-reliance) recommendations are focused on better inclusion of refugees, economically and socially, as well as in the education and health sectors. Under **GCR objective 3** (expand access to third-country solutions), stakeholders are urged to redouble efforts to increase resettlement opportunities and complementary pathways. Under **GCR objective 4** (support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity), more resources will need to be mobilized, and better planning is required in support of voluntary return.

Ms. Triggs stressed that much needs to be done to realise the vision of the GCR and maintain the momentum, so as to translate the commitments and ambitions of the GCR into concrete action, and she invited States and other stakeholders to engage accordingly.

### **Proposed Roadmap for the GRF in 2023 by Ms. Perveen Ali, Head of GCR Coordination Team**

Ms. Ali outlined the proposed roadmap to the GRF in 2023, developed based on the lessons learned since the first GRF and the recommendations outlined in the HLOM outcome document. With respect to the **pledges and initiatives**, a number of steps are envisaged. Based on the recommendations from the outcome document, pledging guidance will be developed, focused on developing quantifiable, needs-driven and, ideally, pre-matched pledges and commitments. Draft pledging guidance will be shared in the second quarter of this year for feedback. Furthermore, country profiles based on information publicly available in the GRF pledges dashboard, will be developed, showcasing pledges made, progress, and areas in need of support. A pledges validation process is ongoing, focused on pledges where no updates have been provided to date. By the end of the validation process, pledges that have not been updated will be listed as inactive on the [dashboard](#). In relation to matching, while some progress has been made thus far, additional focus will be made to better facilitate pledge matching between donors and hosts, including through the launch of a dedicated pledge matching portal. Ms. Ali referred to the [various initiatives](#) which remain ongoing, inviting stakeholders involved to commence thinking around roadmaps for these initiatives in the lead-up to the next GRF to help define entry-points for interested stakeholders. In relation to pledge development, new pledges can be made on a rolling basis.

In terms of **tracking progress**, UNHCR will continue to request updates on pledges during the second and fourth quarter of each year and will be modifying the pledge update form. Furthermore, the current pledges dashboard will be revamped. Ms. Ali invited feedback from all stakeholders towards this end. A technical refinement of the GCR indicator framework is planned, an annual data collection on the GCR indicators will commence in the spring. Newsletters outlining good practices and pledge progress are planned for each quarter of this year, and stakeholders with powerful stories to tell demonstrating the impact of the GCR in action were invited to share these stories with the GCR Coordination Team.

Regarding **events**, the terms of references around leadership arrangements will be developed during the first half of the year, including for co-hosts, co-conveners, and co-sponsors, based on an assessment of what went well with the first GRF and what needs to be modified for the next one. A proposal will be shared

prior to the next quarterly briefing for feedback with the aim of launching these arrangements in the second half of the year. Preparations for the High Commissioner's Dialogue in December 2022 are already underway, the focus of which will be on development cooperation, an area where there is an opportunity for more to be done in particular in host countries. Development cooperation is also part of UNHCR's Strategic Directions for the next five years. Ms. Ali noted that the Dialogue will also help in identifying challenges and outlining ways to address them. It is hoped that the Dialogue would not only bring about key recommendations but also concrete initiatives to try to advance in this area, in the lead-up to the GRF in 2023. Furthermore, four quarterly briefings are planned for this year, to serve as an opportunity to share essential updates and to hear from the GCR stakeholders. Ms. Ali presented plans to develop GCR and GRF webpages as well as a GCR brand, to help all showcase the impact of the GCR across all pledges, initiatives, arrangements, and related communications. Three formal preparatory meetings are planned for 2023, to consult and prepare for the GRF.

Ms. Ali closed by presenting questions for reflection and eventual feedback focused on how the GRF aligns with existing processes, pledging guidance, matching, and the co-sponsorship groups.

### Summary of Discussion

All interventions reaffirmed commitment to the GCR and the need for its implementation as well as the recommendations outlined within the HLOM outcome document. Statements were made by Peru, Switzerland, Uganda, Ukraine, the United States of America, the European Union, and the Great Step Initiative in Nigeria. Statements included references to the Ukraine situation and how the GCR could guide engagement in the displacement response. Interventions also noted the progress made towards the GCR objectives, as demonstrated through the GCR indicator report and strong multi-stakeholder engagement, but also noted key challenges that need to be addressed, particularly in light of the alarming increases in the numbers of people who are forcibly displaced. More efforts to strengthen burden and responsibility sharing, including through financing and matching of pledges, will be key to addressing growing needs more equitably across all large refugee situations. Commitments were made to continue to implement, build upon, and develop pledges and diverse partnerships. Pledging entities were encouraged to pledge based on needs identified in specific refugee situations and to focus on matching. Good practices were shared in the context of refugee documentation, facilitating refugees' access to bank accounts, and ensuring meaningful refugee participation.

In response, Ms. Triggs commended States and other stakeholders for the encouraging levels of support, referring to the significant progress made by faith groups, academia, parliaments, and others, and also committed to continuing to ensure and strengthen the meaningful engagement of refugees. Ms. Triggs stressed that while great strides have been made in terms of resettlement and service provision, needs continue to grow, and commended matching as an important mechanism to facilitate responsibility sharing. She confirmed that UNHCR is doing its utmost to support Ukraine, noting that the situation put a spotlight on the need for more effective burden and responsibility sharing, open-borders, access to asylum, and non-refoulement. Ms. Triggs committed to reverting on potential linkages and plans towards better applying the GCR in the context of the Ukraine. She also spoke to UNHCR's commitment to ensuring that other major crises and emergencies in all parts of the world continue to receive the needed support, referring to the displacement situations in Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Niger, the Sahel, Myanmar, Syria, and many others.

Ms. Ali clarified that country profiles will be developed for all States based on information made available by pledging entities themselves. Co-sponsorship group themes are still under consideration, and that exact dates of events and milestones within the roadmap are being confirmed and will shortly be communicated to all stakeholders.