

**74<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee  
5-7 March 2018**

**Agenda item 8  
Oral update on the Global Compact on Refugees  
and on preparations for the first Global Refugee Forum**

**Daniel Endres, Director of the Division of Resilience and Solutions**

- These **lessons learned** make a compelling case for how best to refine and apply the tools set out in the GCR to transition from the CRRF pilot phase from 2016-2018 to the application of the GCR more broadly in 2019 and beyond.
- The Global Compact on Refugees also establishes that follow-up and review of progress made towards achieving its objectives will be conducted at the global level through the ministerial-level **Global Refugee Forum**, to be held every four years, with high-level officials meetings held every two years between forums.
- The first Global Refugee Forum, planned for **17 and 18 December** this year, is a key benchmark in the implementation of the Global Compact, and presents an opportunity to translate the principle of responsibility sharing into action.
- The first Global Refugee Forum in December will be **co-hosted and co-convened** by the High Commissioner with one or more States. The **Secretary-General** of the United Nations will participate in and address the opening plenary of the Forum.
- To help generate pledges and contributions, including at regional level, a system of **co-sponsorship** will be established to give States and other stakeholders an opportunity to act as “champions” of the first Forum. Further details on these arrangements will be shared in advance of the first preparatory meeting.
- The Forum will have **three main elements**: (i) a ministerial-level meeting, where States and other stakeholders can announce pledges and contributions towards the objectives of the GCR; (ii) a platform for sharing good practices and explore ways in which responsibility-sharing can be increased; and (iii) the opportunity to take stock of progress towards achievement of the objectives of the GCR.
- In preparation for the first Global Refugee Forum, three **preparatory meetings** with United Nations Member States and other stakeholders will be convened on 29 March, 25 June, and 14 November 2019. An annotated agenda, as well as other background papers, will be shared in advance of each meeting.
- **Invitations** to the preparatory meetings will be extended to all United Nations Member States and non-Member State observers; relevant specialized and intergovernmental agencies, with which the Secretary-General has established a working relationship, non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council or are a member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA); and other stakeholders.

- An **oral update** on preparations for the Global Refugee Forum will also be provided at the 75<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meetings this year.
- States are encouraged to take part in the Global Refugee Forum at the **highest political level**, to show their successes to date in addressing refugee situations, and to announce pledges and contributions indicating bold next steps that they will take, individually or in partnership with others, to further contribute to increased solidarity for an improved response to refugee situations.

### **Perveen Ali, Head of the Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team**

- The first preparatory meeting on 29 March will be dedicated to a discussion of considerations for making **pledges and contributions**, and **indicators** to measure progress towards the objectives of the GCR. This discussion will inform the development of a template and guidance on the development of pledges and contributions, which will be issued in April.
- Pledges and contributions will be guided by the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees and could **include**: financial, material, and technical assistance; resettlement places and complementary pathways for admission to third countries; and other actions that States have elected to take at the national level. The actual content of the pledges and contributions would be informed by the thematic areas set out in the Global Compact on Refugees.
- States and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to facilitate the meaningful **participation of refugees**, including women, persons with disabilities, and youth in Global Refugee Forums, ensuring the inclusion of their perspectives in the development of pledges and contributions and in participation in the forum.
- Pledges and contributions can be made at global, regional, or national level and could be presented as: **individual** pledges or contributions made by States or other stakeholders, **joint** pledges or contributions – “mini compacts” by States and other stakeholders towards a common theme or situation, or **matching** pledges or contributions.
- A pledges and contributions **tracking tool** will be developed for the Global Refugee Forum, and a concept note for this tracking tool will be shared in advance of the Forum. The tracking tool could also be used to track pledges made at other events in 2019, such as the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in October.
- UNHCR is available to support States and other stakeholders at any stage in the process of developing pledges and contributions. We would encourage States and other stakeholders to consider how other **regional and global events** and processes in 2019 can assist in reflecting upon possible pledges and contributions at the GRF.