

TOWARDS A GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES
FORMAL CONSULTATIONS 4
8-9-10 May 2018

NGO intervention on Follow-up and review arrangements (Part IV)

Agenda item 6

Dear Chairperson,

This intervention has been drafted following wide consultations with NGOs, and reflects a diversity of views within the NGO community.

To start with, we welcome more details in the follow-up section. We will also provide comments on this agenda item based on the 25 April 2018 presentation by UNHCR on indicators, ahead of the May consultations. This informal exchange laid out the key elements of a monitoring and evaluation framework UNHCR intends to develop, and we consider it vital to base our comments on this with a view to providing detailed inputs.

Measuring progress towards the achievement of high-level objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees is positive. We note that success will now be measured against the objectives set out in paragraph 7. We also support proposals to define short and mid-term indicators of success, as well as targets, but reiterate the need to maintain a long-term orientation in measuring fair responsibility-sharing and improved socio-economic conditions for refugees. We highlight that those two levels of change are closely interlinked: without a fair and equitable responsibility-sharing, improvements in the lives of refugees will remain elusive. Therefore, for better outcomes for refugees and host communities, much work will have to be done to broaden the support base. We would also urge that a monitoring framework be defined, with targets and indicators developed, by the end of 2018, as the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection proposed at the 25 April informal briefing on indicators, through regular multi-stakeholder consultations, including with NGOs. Many NGOs are working on developing indices, targets and indicators to measure fair responsibility-sharing as well as socio-economic outcomes for refugees, and they stand ready to contribute to this process.

We note that, at the global level, the refugee forum will serve to follow-up on pledges, thus providing indication of progress in terms of fair and equitable responsibility sharing. We particularly welcome the proposal to measure the impact of pledges. However, these would allow holding to account only those who make pledges in the first place. As such, we reiterate our call to establish a “*state of protection report*”, which would go beyond monitoring national refugee protection policies and legal frameworks, to also track contributions of each stakeholder. This would have the advantage of creating incentives as well as positive peer-pressure. A high-level panel comprised of representatives from the United Nations, States, civil society as well as academics could be mandated to produce the report. Such a report could complement the impact study UNHCR intends to release coinciding with the four-yearly global refugee forums. UNHCR’s reporting to the United Nations General Assembly and its Executive Committee could allow for annual follow-up.

The monitoring framework for the Global Compact on Refugees should align with, and complement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework. While only a few SDG targets and indicators

specifically mention refugees, the global compact could allow the international community to specifically track improvements in their lives. The domains for measurement must encompass social, economic and protection dimensions including progress towards the fulfilment of key human rights standards. Taking stock of progress must be timed with periodic SDG reviews through to 2030. Periodic evaluations of the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees to better understand what works, what doesn't and why is also vital. As challenging as it is, these evaluations will be essential to improve the international response to refugee situations.

At the country level, refugees must be included in national development plans, especially because this will allow for tracking of progress in their socio-economic conditions against nationally-defined indicators and targets. We note that data for measuring progress against indicators will be collected through secondary means. As such, it will be important that refugees are included as a specific category in existing data collection efforts in order to avoid placing further burden on States. Commitments to collect data disaggregated by age, gender, disability and diversity must also reflect in the choice of indicators that allow for measuring progress in socio-economic conditions of women, girls, boys, men, youth, elderly and people living with disabilities. Financial and technical support must therefore be provided to States so that they can strengthen their national statistical systems.

For national and regional multi-stakeholder approaches – including the support platform, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and national arrangements – progress must be measured against collective outcomes, instead of outputs and activities. To collectively define outcomes, joint analysis and planning will be necessary and all stakeholders must be ready to take responsibility for the achievement of progress towards these outcomes. At the same time, it will be important to conduct regional reviews with a view to sharing best practices and promoting learning. Support platforms and solidarity conferences should also have specific targets capturing their ability to generate additional resources.

With regard to accountability, all stakeholders must be encouraged to report, and these should be made available to the public, in an open and transparent manner. In this regard, we note again that including refugees in national efforts to achieve the SDGs will facilitate State reporting. At the same time, refugee forums could be an opportunity for States to report on their contributions towards fairer responsibility-sharing. We note, however, that accountability remains directed towards states. It is vital to promote accountability towards refugees who are at the centre of this compact. Refugee participation in global refugee forums, support platforms, solidarity conferences and national or sub-regional fora is primordial but, we believe, remains ill-defined in the current draft. As such, refugee participation must be actively encouraged in various refugee-focused planning and decision-making platforms. These should include efforts towards supporting their mobilisation efforts.

On this note, we thank you, Chairperson, for the opportunity to provide comments on the second draft of the programme of action. The NGO community looks forward to subsequent consultations. We will continue to collaborate with UNHCR, Member States, and other stakeholders to ensure that we all deliver on the important commitments of the New York Declaration and meet the expectations of refugees and host communities.