

TOWARDS A GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES
FORMAL CONSULTATIONS 2
20-21 March 2018

NGO intervention on follow-up arrangements (Part IV)
Agenda item 3

Dear Chairperson, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

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

We acknowledge UNHCR's efforts to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation framework in order to measure progress towards the implementation of the Global Compact. Including indicators of success for the Global Compact and providing a timeline for the development of indicators to evaluate progress respond to proposals made by Member States and NGOs during the first formal consultations. An improved system for responsibility-sharing is an ambitious objective in a context where contributions remain voluntary, which clearly means a follow-up system needs to be developed to ensure accountability, meaningful pledges and maintain momentum. A clear follow-up system also contributes to increased predictability, another major objective of the Compact.

As mentioned yesterday, we appreciate that paragraph 5 now further articulates measures of success. The Programme of Action now also lists a number of mechanisms and avenues to measure progress and impact at various levels. We would recommend that a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and accountability framework be included as an annex, bringing together all the different follow-up measures proposed in one document. This would help build clarity, coherence and complementarities among the various measures proposed. It would also help identify how the measures are interrelated, what are the potential gaps to be addressed and help ensure there are no undue duplications as unnecessary additional heavy mechanisms should be avoided.

More specifically, we welcome the reference – in paragraph 91 – to the 'collective' development, by 2019, of measurable and detailed key Monitoring and Evaluation indicators for the Compact. There will be probably less than a year to work on this. We therefore suggest the organization of regular and periodical consultations with civil society on this issue. There is no time to waste and several NGOs and inter-agency initiative have already suggested or are working towards developing indicators and defining accountability mechanisms that can feed into the discussion.¹ For example, we consider that measuring refugees' and host communities' improvement in socio-economic conditions against Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is vital to ensuring no one is left behind. Furthermore, indicators should not only be measurable, but also specific, assignable and time bound. In this regard, and to ensure coherence, the programme of action could refer to the monitoring and evaluation approach developed by UNHCR in relation to the CRRF, which includes a global dashboard of outcomes and indicators.

¹ e.g. Child Rights in the Global Compacts: Recommendations for protecting, promoting and implementing the human rights of children on the move in the proposed Global Compacts: http://www.childrenonthemove.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/working_document_En_171201.pdf

Of equal importance to socio-economic measures will be the monitoring of legal frameworks and policies that create the enabling conditions for refugee self-reliance. This includes monitoring laws, policies, and practices at the national level – for example, national governance frameworks – in their fulfilment of refugees’ ability to move freely, live safely, work lawfully and access education, health, and other essential services. We recommend that measurable indicators include fulfilment of key human rights standards and States’ efforts toward respecting and promoting such rights. This way, as mentioned under Agenda Item 2 today, the programme of action should not only measure the cost and impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, but also refugees’ contributions to host societies. Moreover, to link this to follow-up processes, we believe that efforts need to be made to measure improvements in refugee welfare, which will allow this exercise to be comprehensive. Parameters for measurement should be all encompassing and include social, economic and protection dimensions.

At the global level, the first draft includes proposals for several follow-up measures. We note that the global refugee summit will provide an opportunity to monitor implementation against pledges every three years. But we will still need clarity on how pledges made at the global refugee summits relate to pre-defined indicators and other mechanisms such as the Platform and solidarity conferences. We would recommend that States provide targeted progress reports on their pledges before each refugee summit, which should be made available openly. We would also appreciate further details on how UNHCR’s annual reporting to the General Assembly links with the three-year stocktaking cycle of the global refugee summits. The role of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme (ExCom) *vis-à-vis* the follow-up mechanisms and the global refugee summits also needs to be clarified and specified since ExCom is mentioned at paragraph 26, in relation to the Global Support Platform, but not in the Follow-up section. Moreover, clearer linkages will also need to be created between global refugee summits and SDG reviews, not only until 2030, but also along the way. Stronger links with human rights and accountability processes will also be important.

For specific structures aimed at mobilising support including the Global Support Platform, solidarity conferences and country Compacts, collective outcomes, targets and associated follow-up and review mechanisms will have to be defined. We note that the follow-up mechanisms mentioned in the zero draft in relation to solidarity conferences has now been removed. While global refugee summits allow for stocktaking of pledges every three years, it is equally important to be able to follow-up on pledges made in relation to specific situations. In addition, development of comprehensive plans at the national and regional levels offer an opportunity to measure progress. Detailing how these plans will be developed and clearly laying out the objectives and parameters of these plans, and the related follow-up mechanisms, will be crucial to ensure accountability.

We note that the first draft remains vague on defining accountability towards refugees and host populations. In particular, there is only passing mention of refugee participation in platforms such as the global refugee summits, the Global Support Platform and national arrangements. The global refugee summits should provide refugees the opportunity to participate in monitoring progress towards the implementation of the goals of the Global Compact because ultimately success will need to be measured in terms of concrete improvements in the lives of refugees and host communities. We would like to reiterate that the programme of action should underline the importance of accountability to affected populations and facilitate refugee participation at all levels. Women, youth, girls and boys, and refugee with disabilities must be systematically included in decision-making on how we measure progress on the Global Compact, including in both the development of indicators and their monitoring and evaluation. Indicators must be gender and age sensitive.

On this note, we thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on the first draft of the Global Compact on Refugees. We look forward to our engagement with UNHCR, member States and all other stakeholders in the next round of consultations.

Thank you.