



Global Refugee Forum 2023

Second Formal Preparatory Meeting
17 May 2023

Background Note

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction and organizational arrangements	2
II. Proposed key outcomes for the Global Refugee Forum 2023	2
III. Key considerations for the event structure and programme	2
IV. Event modalities	3
V. Visibility for pledges and good practices	4
<i>Annex</i>	
I. GRF 2023 proposed key outcomes	5
II. GRF 2023 zero draft programme	6

I. INTRODUCTION AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. This note sets out the proposed key outcomes and structure for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2023, with a view to consultation during the 17 May second formal preparatory meeting for the GRF. Following the formal preparatory meeting, the note will be further updated based on feedback received, and a final version will be posted on the [GRF webpage](#).

2. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) states that a quadrennial ministerial-level Forum will be convened for all United Nations Member States, together with relevant stakeholders, to announce concrete pledges and contributions towards the objectives of the GCR, and to consider opportunities, challenges and ways in which burden- and responsibility-sharing can be enhanced. This note sets out the organizational arrangements and proposed structure for the second Global Refugee Forum, building on the paper on [preliminary considerations for the development of the programme](#) and discussions at the first formal preparatory meeting that was convened on 2 February 2023.

3. The Global Refugee Forum 2023, which will be convened at the ministerial level and above, will take place from 13 to 15 December 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland, with an advance day for side events and meetings on 12 December 2023. The Forum will be co-hosted by Switzerland and co-convened by **Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, the Niger, and Uganda**, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In a [joint statement](#), the co-hosts and co-convenors encouraged stakeholders to “go beyond the implementation of the existing pledges and initiatives – to truly bring the comprehensive approach to refugee situations to life”.

4. Invitations are being sent to States, intergovernmental organizations, international and non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholder groups. The United Nations Secretary-General is also expected to participate in the Forum.

II. PROPOSED KEY OUTCOMES FOR THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023

5. The GRF 2023 aims to be a transformational and significant event that results in real, sustainable and positive change for the world’s forcibly displaced and stateless people. Taking into consideration the recommendations from the [2021 GCR Indicator Report](#) (2023 edition forthcoming), the [2021 High-Level Officials Meeting](#), and the 2022 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges, as well as the GRF 2023 [concept note](#), the Forum aims to advance of **proposed key outcomes (see annex I)** linked to each objective of the GCR that will guide future engagement in comprehensive responses. These outcomes will be advanced through high quality individual and joint [pledges](#) of financial, material, technical and other support; **stocktaking**, based on the GCR indicator report; and **learning** to draw lessons from the implementation of pledges and initiatives since 2019 and inform and inspire further burden- and responsibility-sharing. They will also inform the development of the programme.

III. KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE EVENT STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMME

6. Some 3,000 participants from around the world are expected to engage in the Forum. The structure and the programme will aim to:

- Underscore the **centrality of burden- and responsibility-sharing**, the importance of pledges and contributions responding to host country needs, and the translation of inclusive policy pledges into practice through [matching](#) to support host countries in advancing protection, inclusion and solutions.
- Demonstrate the achievement of the **key outcomes**.
- **Demonstrate how the GCR is making a difference** at local, country and regional levels, by showcasing impactful contributions and good practices since 2019, and galvanizing transformative support in areas of need going forward.
- Highlight the **critical role** that leaders can play in mobilizing support and contributions towards the objectives of the GCR.
- Promote a **multi-stakeholder and partnership approach** to broaden the base of support for implementing the GCR and comprehensive responses, for example, by facilitating joint and matched pledges or initiatives and comprehensive responses, and highlighting their

impact on refugee situations.

- Enable the **meaningful participation of refugees and stateless persons**, taking into account age, gender and other forms of diversity. UNHCR is working with partners to engage refugees in preparation for the GRF 2023 and related events. These efforts include supporting refugee-led groups and networks to participate in preparatory meetings, and ensuring that refugees and stateless persons are central to the discussions as experts and advisers on pledges and GCR initiatives, and as speakers, moderators and participants at the GRF.
- Ensure the **visibility of contributions** made by States and other stakeholders, particularly new high-quality pledges, mega pledges, support for policy pledges, and **good practices** to inspire them.

IV. EVENT MODALITIES

Plenary session

7. As detailed in the zero draft of the programme for the GRF 2023 (see annex II), the **plenary session** will be held from 13 to 15 December 2023. The opening on 13 December will include high-level representation from the co-hosts and co-convenors, together with the United Nations Secretary-General. During the plenary, governments and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to make interventions and announce pledges in accordance with protocol. Moreover, **opportunities will be embedded in the plenary for the announcement of key multi-stakeholder pledges toward each of the GCR objectives** that are linked to the proposed key outcomes.

Side events

8. There will also be space dedicated for **side events** to spotlight key pledges, contributions and multi-stakeholder initiatives supporting the GCR objectives and proposed key outcomes. Side events will be organized by UNHCR, together with partners (including those engaged in the relevant GCR initiatives), on the advance day on 12 December as well as during select times of the Forum from 13 to 15 December. Stakeholders wishing to be involved with these events may explore joining a **GCR initiative** contact hqgcr@unhcr.org to learn more.

Linked events

9. As part of the GRF ecosystem, stakeholders may wish to independently organize **linked events** in Geneva, that are outside of the institutional arrangements for the Forum. Organizers will need to identify their own venue and assume all responsibility for preparing and funding linked events. **These events can be featured in the GRF 2023 programme**, provided that they align with the objectives of the GCR and the purpose of the Forum, and that they do not conflict with the GRF opening, multi/stakeholder pledging announcements and closing.

10. It is envisioned that there could be **public-facing events or exhibitions** taking place throughout the city of Geneva and beyond to build broader awareness and support for refugee matters. These events may be organized in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office at Geneva, the City and Canton of Geneva, and other authorities and institutions.

11. Stakeholders wishing to organize linked events or public events that would be featured in the GRF 2023 programme may contact hqgcr@unhcr.org for more information.

All side events and linked events would:

- **Showcase impactful, multi-stakeholder pledges and contributions** in support of the GCR objectives and proposed key outcomes, including the pledges fulfilled since 2019 and new ones announced in 2023.
- **Use dynamic and diverse formats** such as Davos-style dialogues, roundtables, talks and interactive panels, among others.
- **Be organized in a spirit of partnership and inclusiveness**, featuring a broad array of stakeholders, including refugees and stateless persons, as moderators and experts.

V. VISIBILITY FOR PLEDGES AND GOOD PRACTICES

12. States and other stakeholders are encouraged to share their [pledges and contributions](#) and [good practices](#) with UNHCR as early as possible in advance of the Forum. They can be kept confidential prior to announcement at the Forum but will enable the organizers to consider how best to reflect them in the event. If contributions and good practices are shared immediately before or during the dates of the Forum, they will be reflected in the written summary of outcomes.
13. Good practices can be [submitted online](#) at any time. [Sign up to receive the GRF newsletter](#) and other updates on the preparations for the GRF.
14. During the Forum, **pledges and contributions** can be publicized in the following ways:
- They can be announced in the plenary and further highlighted in relevant side events.
 - They will be consolidated and available for viewing online during and after the Forum through the [GRF pledging portal](#). When submitting the pledge, the pledging entity may indicate when they wish for the pledge to be made publicly visible.
 - They will be compiled into the summary document following the Forum.
 - They can be broadcast through communications channels for added visibility.
15. During the Forum, **good practices** can be publicized in the following ways:
- Those relevant to GCR objectives and the proposed key outcomes can be highlighted during the plenary and other events.
 - All shared good practices will be consolidated and available to view online on the [GCR digital platform](#).
 - Selected good practices can be shared in exhibits set up during the Forum.
16. For more information, please contact hqgcr@unhcr.org and visit the [GRF webpage](#).

ANNEX I

GRF 2023 PROPOSED KEY OUTCOMES

The GRF 2023 will aim to secure the following key outcomes that will guide future engagement in comprehensive responses:

The high-level outcomes will be secured through **individual or joint pledges** of financial, material, technical, and other support. Pledging entities are encouraged to:

- **Contribute to mega-pledges** that are transformative, high impact, organized around a common theme, multi-year, and high quality, and have a resource base
- **Fulfil implementation of 2019 pledges** currently reported as “in progress” or “in planning”
- **Develop new high-quality pledges** that are additional, quantifiable and needs-based, and ideally pre-matched between host countries and other actors



GCR Objective 1 Ease pressure on host countries	GCR Objective 2 Enhance refugee self-reliance	GCR Objective 3 Expand access to third-country solutions	GCR Objective 4 Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity
<p>Additional, multi-year, innovative and quality financing for humanitarian, development and peace cooperation</p> <p>New support for climate action, adaptation and resilient human settlements</p>	<p>New financial, technical and material support for host country policies, services and systems that advance inclusion, pending a durable solution</p> <p>New job opportunities and access to financial products and services to advance economic inclusion</p>	<p>Increased opportunities for resettlement and family reunification</p> <p>Access to additional safe complementary pathways, including labour mobility, education and others</p>	<p>Strengthened financial and political support for voluntary sustainable return and reintegration, including access to services</p> <p>Strengthened measures to address root causes, prevent conflict and build peace in countries of origin</p>
<p>Enabling measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling protection and solutions environments for displaced and stateless persons and returnees, including access to asylum, documentation, justice, fundamental rights, national systems for i.a. health, social protection and education; law and policy reform; measures to prevent and reduce statelessness; and resilient human settlements. • Commitments by donors to sustain and strengthen engagement in humanitarian, development and peace efforts in displacement and stateless contexts which are linked to human security and stability, are key to achieving the sustainable development goals and can contribute to the global public good. • Expanded and strengthened partnerships with new and current donor States, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector, cities and local authorities, international and regional organizations, parliaments, refugees, civil society organizations (including local actors and refugee, stateless, youth, women-led and sport and cultural organizations), faith-based actors, media and academic experts. • Meaningful participation of displaced and stateless persons in the development and implementation of pledges towards the GCR objectives, taking into account age, gender and other forms of diversity • Data availability and quality to support effective action and investment in displacement and stateless contexts. 			

ANNEX II

GRF 2023 ZERO DRAFT PROGRAMME

12 December		
	Advance events	
13 December		
07:00-08:45	Arrival and security control	
09:00-13:00	High-level plenary session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Opening of the Forum by the Co-Hosts · Statements by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Co-Convenors · <u>GCR in Action</u>: Easing the pressure on host countries (multi-stakeholder pledge announcements) 	
13:00-15:00	Lunch break	13:30-15:00: Parallel side events
15:00-18:00	Plenary session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Plenary interventions on burden- and responsibility-sharing 	15:30-17:00: Parallel side events
Evening	Nansen Refugee Award ceremony and reception	
14 December		
10:00-13:00	Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <u>GCR in Action</u>: Increasing self-reliance (multi-stakeholder pledge announcements) · Plenary interventions on burden- and responsibility-sharing, continued 	11:00-12:30: Parallel side events
13:00-15:00	Lunch break	13:30-15:00: Parallel side events
15:00-18:00	Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <u>GCR in Action</u>: Expanding access to third-country solutions (multi-stakeholder pledge announcements) · Plenary interventions on burden and responsibility sharing, continued 	16:00-17:30: Parallel side events
15 December		
10:00-13:00	Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <u>GCR in Action</u>: Supporting conditions for return in safety and dignity (multi-stakeholder pledge announcements) · Plenary interventions on burden- and responsibility-sharing, continued 	11:00-12:30: Parallel side events
13:00-15:00	Lunch break	13:30-15:00: Parallel side events
15:00-18:00	Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Plenary interventions on burden- and responsibility-sharing, continued · Conversation with refugees on the outcomes of the GRF and way forward · Closing of the Global Refugee Forum 	15:15-16:45: Parallel side events

Exhibition space
Marketplace
Media and social media zones
Linked events