

Summary of the Fourth Quarterly Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees

2 December 2024, 15:00-17:00 hours CET

The Fourth Quarterly Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was held on 2 December 2024 to present updates on the Roadmap to the High-Level Officials Meeting 2025 (HLOM) and on multi-stakeholder pledges focused on the theme of Solutions. Following opening remarks by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Gustavo Gallón and the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (AHC-P), Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, the Head of the GCR Coordination Team, Mr. Nicolas Brass, presented updates on the HLOM and stocktaking process, followed by presentations on behalf of multi-stakeholder pledges. Stakeholders then had the opportunity to intervene from the floor, before closing remarks by the AHC-P.

Opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Gustavo Gallón, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva

H.E. Gallón highlighted progress made under the Peacebuilding Multi-stakeholder Pledge, which now includes 33 stakeholders, among them Member States, UN entities and other organizations, with hopes for broader participation. The initiative aims to address the root causes of forced displacement through actions in countries of origin such as Burkina Faso, Colombia, and Somalia. It is supported by the relevant regional pledges and initiatives as well as through potential pledge matching. Commitments span institutional strengthening, reconciliation, socio-economic inclusion, and access to justice, among others. Leading examples include Egypt's dual focus on climate-displacement links and holistic post-conflict development; Norway's collaboration with the UN Peacebuilding Commission to elevate forced displacement as a priority; and Colombia's efforts to implement its Truth Commission's recommendations, honouring victims of conflict, and fostering reconciliation.

The Pledge underscores the need for inclusive, multi-stakeholder collaboration that integrates displaced populations as active participants. H.E. Gallón shared Colombia's experience linking national peacebuilding efforts to international frameworks like the GCR and called for technical and financial support for countries of origin. The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund and initiatives such as Egypt's capacity-building workshops were noted as valuable tools towards this end. Ambassador Gallón emphasized the importance of ensuring displaced persons' meaningful participation in shaping peace and conflict prevention policies and called for sustained action leading up to the HLOM. He concluded by urging the global community to view sustainable peace as a shared responsibility, deeply aligned with the principles of the GCR.

Opening remarks by Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection

The AHC-P provided an update on the GCR, emphasizing its role in addressing forced displacement through coordinated, multi-stakeholder efforts. She noted progress since the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023, where over 2,000 pledges were made to enhance host community support, create durable solutions, and strengthen refugee self-reliance. Many pledges are in progress or completed, including the expansion of resettlement programmes and innovative sponsorship pathways. However, demand for third-country solutions continues to exceed availability, prompting a call for increased resettlement quotas and access to complementary pathways. Ms. Menikdiwela also highlighted the importance of addressing conditions in countries of origin to support safe, voluntary return, citing initiatives like Cartagena+40 and peacebuilding efforts that address root causes of displacement. Recognizing that the GRF cycle may not align with pledging entities' programme and budgetary cycles, she encouraged stakeholders – donors in particular – to support and match host countries' unfulfilled pledges made since the first GRF in 2019 in their next round of pledging.

Ms. Menikdiwela emphasized the importance of sustained, coordinated action across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding spheres, with a focus on inclusive participation by refugees, local communities, and other stakeholders. She noted the issuance of new guidance on refugee participation in pledge implementation and stocktaking and emphasized the role of local, regional, and international collaboration in closing protection gaps. The upcoming HLOM and stocktaking process were identified as key opportunities to assess progress and renew commitments. Ms. Menikdiwela concluded by underscoring the need for continued investment in solutions that enhance refugee resilience and host community support, reinforcing the GCR's role as a framework for achieving these objectives.

Opening remarks by Mr. Nicolas Brass, Senior Policy Adviser and Head of the Global Compact on Refugees Coordination Team, UNHCR

Mr. Brass provided a summary on preparations for the HLOM, stocktaking, and pledge follow-up, informing that the HLOM will take place from 15–17 December 2025 and that UNHCR will continue to hold quarterly meetings and issue the next GCR Indicator Report in 2025.

In terms of pledge implementation, as of 2024, 3,302 pledges have been made since the first GRF in 2019, with 56% of 2019 pledges fulfilled. As part of the October 2024 pledge update campaign, 691 pledge updates were received with 503 pledges being reported to be in progress, 153 fulfilled, and 35 in the planning phase. Most updates came from Europe and the Americas and were made by States and civil society actors. Moreover, with respect to the multi-stakeholder pledges, those most reported on related to self-reliance, third-country solutions, and cross-cutting areas such as gender and meaningful refugee participation.

Mr. Brass updated on the stocktaking process leading to the HLOM, which will serve as a platform for accountability and assessment of GCR implementation, demonstrating impact of individual and multi-stakeholder pledges, and addressing gaps in achieving the GCR objectives. In 2025, the stocktaking process will build on ongoing individual reporting, focusing on the regional and multi-stakeholder pledge group levels. The aim will be to identify key results and trends, utilizing data from the GCR indicator framework and engaging stakeholders, including refugees, to ensure inclusivity. The outcomes will guide strategic priorities leading to the next GRF in 2027. Pledging entities are encouraged to report on their progress, leverage existing mechanisms, and collaborate with partners to overcome challenges while maintaining focus on measurable outcomes and results.

Multi-stakeholder pledge presentations moderated by Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection

- Ambassador Warner Ten Kate, Head of Migration and Development Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands, reported progress on the **ReSolve Pledge for Resilience and Solutions for the Afghanistan Situation**, developed under the auspices of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) Support Platform. The pledge offers a vital platform for collaboration, solutions, knowledge exchange, and matching. In the coming year, there will be efforts to reinvigorate the process among the relevant countries and the Support Platform Core Group. Several updates were provided on repatriation in Pakistan and Iran, all in the context of sustainable solutions which requires increased financial support and political goodwill.
- Mr. Eyad Jabaary of Fundación Amal Argentina presented on the **Resettlement and Community-Based Sponsorship** Multi-stakeholder Pledges, updating that 155,000 refugees were submitted for resettlement in 2023 and calling for increased funding, better policies, and more States to establish resettlement programmes. Efforts to expand third-country solutions through community sponsorship programmes have led to new initiatives in Brazil, Ireland, and the United States, alongside tools like the Sponsorship Group Formation Toolkit and the Global Sponsorship Summit in Dublin. Notable milestones include the welcoming of one million refugees through sponsorship since 2016 and progress toward establishing a Global Sponsorship Fund with initial contributions from the Bosch Foundation and Italy.

- Mr. David Crawford, Managing Partner and Executive Committee Member of Fragomen, reported progress on the **Skills-Based Complementary Pathways, Machine-Readable Travel Documents, and Family Reunification** Multi-stakeholder Pledges. Commitments include expanding skills-based complementary pathways, targeting 200,000 refugees accessing labour mobility and education pathways within five years, and enhancing the provision and acceptance of machine-readable refugee travel documents to ensure safe movement without refoulement risks. Additionally, the Global Family Reunification Network aims to reunite one million refugees with their families by 2030 through improved laws, facilitation support, and strengthened data systems.
- Norway reported progress on the Multi-stakeholder Pledge to combat **Misinformation, Disinformation, and Hate Speech**, which aims to reduce the harmful impact on displaced and stateless communities while contributing to the GCR's fourth objective on safe, dignified and voluntary return. The pledge has brought together 23 partners, including governments, civil society, private sector actors like Google and Meta, refugee-led organizations, and UN agencies, supporting diverse interventions such as research, capacity building, and advocacy in under-resourced languages. Norway's commitment includes funding and technical support through the Humanitarian Innovation Programme, with projects like a South Africa initiative focused on combating online risks through stakeholder collaboration and refugee participation. These efforts have demonstrated how community resilience to misinformation can enhance information integrity and prevent hate proliferation on digital platforms.
- Representing two regional multi-stakeholder pledges made under the auspices of the **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Support Platform**, Madam Fathia Alwan, Director for Health and Social Development of IGAD, highlighted IGAD's efforts in delivering solutions for forcibly displaced populations. She noted the importance of peacebuilding and addressing the root causes of displacement and provided updates on initiatives in South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Djibouti. IGAD launched the National Durable Solution Strategy and revised Action Plan for South Sudan, supported the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Ethiopia, and rehabilitated vocational colleges in Djibouti. IGAD also launched the Refugee Engagement Forum to promote meaningful refugee participation and addressed climate change impacts through initiatives such as the development of standard operating procedures for cross-border disaster displacement, modelling displacement risks due to climate change and revising National Adaptation Plans to include human mobility. IGAD emphasized the need for pledge matching in the spirit of burden and responsibility sharing, given increasing displacement in the region.
- Germany provided an update on the **Gender Equality and Prevention of Gender-based Violence** Multi-stakeholder Pledge and highlighted support for women-led organizations and the importance of safe and dignified access to gender-based violence services. Specific initiatives by Australia and the UN Trust Fund were highlighted as well as Germany's allocation of an additional EUR 11 million in 2024 to advance the participation and leadership of displaced women and girls. This funding supports grassroots projects in Lebanon, Moldova, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Ukraine. The call to action on protection from GBV in emergencies includes more organizations led by refugee women in its core processes.

Discussions and interventions, moderated by H.E. Mr. Gustavo Gallón, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva :

States and stakeholders highlighted the following updates on pledge progress and other key issues:

- Denmark - **Localization Pledge**: Emphasized the importance of supporting local and national actors in displacement responses. Highlighted the progress made in various contexts globally, including Nigeria, Uganda, and Ukraine.
- Canada - **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways**: Highlighted Canada's commitment to resettlement and complementary pathways, including the Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP). Mentioned the exploration of a new complementary pathway for refugee students.

- France: Reaffirmed its strong support for Colombia's peacebuilding efforts, emphasizing the importance of **international cooperation in addressing the root causes of displacement**. Called for collective international efforts to support peacebuilding and solutions, ensuring safe and dignified returns for displaced persons and adequate support for host communities.
- Australia – **Resettlement & Complementary Pathways**: Shared its efforts in resettlement, complementary pathways, and meaningful refugee participation. Highlighted establishment of a refugee advisory panel and expansion of the skilled refugee labor agreement pilot.
- Olympic Refugee Foundation - **Sport for Refugees Coalition**: Highlighted the role of sport in supporting displaced people and promoting inclusion. In 2024, more than 140 entities contributed to the multistakeholder pledge on Sports for Inclusion and Protection by giving access to sports and play-based opportunities, reaching 445,000 people affected by forced displacement in over 80 countries.
- Refugee Advisory Board to UNHCR's Task Team on Engagement and Partnership with Organizations led by Displaced and Stateless Persons - **Great Step Initiative**: Emphasized the importance of meaningful refugee participation in decision-making processes and called for increased funding and support for refugee-led organizations.
- BRAC - **Rohingya Situation**: Discussed BRAC's initiatives in Bangladesh to support Rohingya refugees and host communities through localization and integrated service delivery. Highlighted the need for economic models that support both refugees and host communities.
- APNOR - **Meaningful Refugee Participation**: Highlighted the progress and challenges in ensuring meaningful refugee participation in decision-making. Emphasized the need to dismantle barriers and create inclusive spaces.
- Yarmouk University (Jordan) - **Higher Education Alliance**: Discussed efforts to facilitate refugees' access to higher education in Jordan. Highlighted the goal of increasing the percentage of refugee students enrolled in higher education to 15% by 2030.
- Uganda - **Peacebuilding and Solutions**: Emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of displacement and supporting peace processes. Highlighted the need for international support and funding for peace efforts.
- United States of America - **Resettlement & Complementary Pathways**: Highlighted the Welcome Corps initiative and Safe Mobility Initiative in the Americas and the expansion of the Welcome Corps to include private sponsors and launch of the Welcome Corps at Work pilot.
- European Union - **Durable Solutions**: Updated on the EU's commitments to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, economic inclusion and resettlement and support for emergency transit mechanisms and allocation of resettlement and humanitarian admission places.
- Iraq - **International Cooperation**: Emphasized the importance of international cooperation in addressing migration and displacement. Highlighted Iraq's commitment to providing comprehensive and sustainable solutions for refugees and migrants.
- Brazil - **Resettlement Programme**: Discussed Brazil's new resettlement program and the role of private and community sponsorship. Highlighted the priority given to Afghan refugees and the launch of the first public call for NGOs to become resettlement agreement holders.
- Ethiopia - **Solutions for Refugees**: Highlighted Ethiopia's efforts in providing durable solutions and the importance of international cooperation. Emphasized the need for investments in basic infrastructure in countries of origin to facilitate safe returns.
- Kenya - **Solutions and Peacebuilding**: Emphasized the need for solutions from the start of a crisis and the importance of peacebuilding. Highlighted the need for increased resettlement quotas and support for sustainable peace.
- PILnet - **Legal Community Pledge**: Discussed the role of the legal community in supporting refugees through pro bono work. Highlighted the establishment of multi-stakeholder cross-border pro bono projects to increase access to legal information and assistance.

- **IFRC - Localization and Climate Action:** Highlighted the importance of locally led action and climate-smart initiatives. Mentioned the mobilization of funds to support community-led climate action in climate-vulnerable countries.
- **UNDP - HDP Nexus Pledge:** Provided updates on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Multi-stakeholder Pledge and the support provided to various countries. Highlighted the importance of resilience-driven responses to forced displacement.
- **FAO - Agriculture and Self-Reliance:** Emphasized the role of agriculture in supporting refugee self-reliance.

Responses and closing remarks by Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection

Ms. Menikdiwela thanked all the presenters and stakeholders for their interventions and for their hard work and progress, highlighting Denmark for updating on the localization pledge and emphasizing the importance of localization in supporting refugees and host communities and acknowledging the contributions from entities like BRAC and IFRC.

She appreciated the updates on resettlement and complementary pathways from Canada, Australia, the United States, and Brazil and emphasized the critical role of resettlement and complementary pathways as solutions for refugees. She further underscored the importance of addressing root causes of displacement and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, noting the eloquent interventions from Uganda, Kenya, and UNDP on the significance of peace processes and solutions from the start of a crisis.

She echoed the importance of regional and international cooperation, as highlighted by Iraq and Ethiopia and encouraged continued commitment to providing assistance and protection to refugees. The good work being done by the Olympic Refugee Foundation was acknowledged to emphasize the role of sports in refugee protection and solutions. The contribution of the alliance of universities in Jordan in promoting education as a tool for refugee self-reliance was also highlighted. She further recognized Ethiopia and Kenya for their proactive efforts in integrating refugees and promoting socioeconomic inclusion and called for international assistance to support these efforts. Finally, she thanked FAO for highlighting the role of agriculture in supporting refugee self-reliance and emphasized the importance of climate action, as discussed by IFRC, and also appreciated PILnet for providing legal assistance and counseling to refugees through pro bono work.

Thanking everyone for their engagement, Ms. Menikdiwela concluded the fourth Quarterly Informal Briefing on the GCR, noting that the next briefing will be held in March next year.