

Eighty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
7-9 March 2023
Agenda item 6

Oral update on the outcomes of the High Commissioner's Dialogue

The High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges provides a unique forum for informal and action-oriented multi-stakeholder discussions on emerging global protection issues. In 2022, the Dialogue was held on 7 and 8 December in Geneva, Switzerland and focused on the role of development cooperation in advancing protection and solutions for displaced and stateless people. The Dialogue convened over 500 stakeholders from States, inter-governmental and international organizations, development actors, international financial institutions, peace actors, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and refugee-led organizations. [Twenty refugees](#) travelled from 14 host countries to join the Dialogue.

The Dialogue included focused conversations around three areas: early action, inclusion and solutions, with protection as a central and cross-cutting theme throughout. Two spotlight sessions, which were co-moderated by UNHCR and a partner, explored each area. The [programme](#) also featured a plenary discussion, during which the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund spoke, as well as special sessions, a speakers' corner and exhibitions.

Prior to the Dialogue, UNHCR convened [seven preparatory regional roundtables](#). These roundtables explored the theme of the Dialogue in the context of actual displacement and stateless situations in each region. Stakeholders also had the opportunity to propose and organize a series of innovation labs to advance on key issues related to development cooperation, bringing together an array of partners.

Outcomes

The Dialogue reaffirmed the importance of development cooperation and responsibility-sharing to support host governments. It also helped drive forward policy pledges and other initiatives on early action, inclusion and solutions ahead of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. The discussions demonstrated how development cooperation has advanced, with a significant number of development partnerships operationalized and further advanced since the 2019 Global Refugee Forum. The Dialogue also made clear that development cooperation can yield positive protection outcomes and facilitate solutions. From the preparatory roundtables and the Dialogue itself, a series of cross-cutting themes and corresponding proposed actions emerged.

- National leadership should spearhead development initiatives to address the causes and impacts of forced displacement and statelessness. Stakeholders echoed the need to integrate refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and stateless people into development planning, as well as emergency response and climate adaptation strategies – with support from partners for implementation.
- Rights-based and protection-sensitive coordination between humanitarian, development and peace actors should be strengthened. Discussions emphasized the need to ensure flexible and multi-year financing to support transitions from humanitarian to development assistance in protracted displacement situations.
- The link between climate action and preparedness and response planning emerged as critical, and discussions pointed to the need to increase the coverage of climate risk analysis and improve access to climate financing.
- In all sessions, participants recalled the importance of collecting and analysing quality data to enable evidence-informed operational responses, development programmes and inclusive policies.
- Since 2019, over 50 governments have made policy pledges to support refugees within their national systems. Advancing inclusion policies was a central discussion of the Dialogue, and initiatives with strong government leadership highlighted the cost benefit of inclusion. Tools such as the [Refugee Policy Review Framework](#) and UNHCR's efforts to facilitate [pledge matching](#) were highlighted as promising ways to strengthen responsibility-sharing.
- On solutions, stakeholders advocated ways to promote sustainable returns and reintegration, such as scaling up support for area-based approaches and building the skills of refugees in host countries. Tools such as the [regional support platforms](#) were highlighted as ways to support legal, judicial, policy and administrative reforms led by governments to enable solutions.

Towards the 2023 Global Refugee Forum

The Dialogue served as a springboard for preparations for the [2023 Global Refugee Forum](#), which Switzerland and UNHCR will co-host in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2023. During the Dialogue's closing plenary discussion, it was [announced](#) that six States will co-convene the Forum together with UNHCR – Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, the Niger and Uganda.

To inform preparations for the 2023 Forum, the Dialogue provided a platform for stock-taking and sharing best practices on development cooperation in displacement and statelessness contexts. The forthcoming outcome document of the Dialogue will provide policy messages and proposed actions to drive country, regional and global efforts towards the 2023 Forum. The [Digital Resources Hub](#) contains a repository of resources shared by stakeholders.

Refugee representatives were represented at the Dialogue and provided policy and programmatic inputs. Enhancing the depth and quality of the meaningful participation of displaced and stateless people during the preparations for and at the 2023 Forum was seen as critical. The Dialogue reinforced the importance of ensuring that the voices and perspectives of those most affected by displacement and statelessness are heard and incorporated in the discussions and decisions that will shape their futures.

The Dialogue also emphasized the value of multi-stakeholder partnerships in realizing responsibility-sharing. From the innovation labs, [nine multi-stakeholder initiatives on development cooperation](#) were launched and will mobilize pledges towards their respective areas of focus. Overall, the Dialogue's outcomes provide fertile ground for stakeholders to advance the implementation of pledges made at the 2019 Forum pledges and to cultivate new high-quality pledges towards the 2023 Forum.

For further information, please visit the Dialogue [webpage](#).

UNHCR, 2 March 2023