



NEW YORK DECLARATION

UNHCR Quick Guide

June 2017 update

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Hungary. A family walking to the collection point from the border with Serbia. © UNHCR/Mark Henley.

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Refugees from South Sudan arrive in northern Uganda. Francis Inyani (right) waits in line with his family for a medical screening at the UNHCR collection point in Elegu. They fled the capital Juba when fighting broke out on 7 July 2016. ©UNHCR/Will Swanson

New York Declaration

On September 19, 2016 the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a set of commitments to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants. These commitments are known as the *New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants*.¹ The following sets out the main elements of the New York Declaration and why they are important for refugees and those we seek to protect, for UNHCR and the wide array of partners we are working with in this process. More information about the New York Declaration can be found on the UNHCR website: www.unhcr.org/newyorkdeclaration

¹ The NY Declaration adopted at UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants can be found at <http://undocs.org/a/res/71/1>

General

The New York Declaration is based on the recognition that the world is facing an unprecedented level of human mobility, most of it positive, enriching and voluntary. It recognizes, however, that the number of persons who are forcibly displaced from their homes is at a historically high level, and that more and more refugees and migrants are moving in circumstances where their lives are at risk, and their reception is overwhelming for countries on the front lines.

In adopting the Declaration, States declare profound solidarity with persons who are forced to flee, reaffirm their obligations to fully respect the human rights of refugees and migrants, and pledge robust support to those countries affected by large movements of refugees and migrants.

Significance for Refugee Protection

- States reaffirm the importance of adhering to the international protection regime (the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as international human rights law and international humanitarian law).
- They specifically acknowledge that protection of refugees and assistance to host States are a shared international responsibility.
- They pledge to strengthen and facilitate a well-funded emergency response and a smooth transition to sustainable approaches that invest in resilience of both refugees and local communities.
- They commit to providing additional and predictable humanitarian funding and development support.
- They commit to wider avenues for refugees to be admitted to third countries, including through increased resettlement.
- They pledge to support comprehensive refugee responses for large-scale refugee movements, including protracted situations, which engage all stakeholders.
- They commit to working towards the adoption of a global compact on refugees in 2018.

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)

The New York Declaration recognizes that while each refugee situation differs in nature, the elements outlined in the CRRF provide for a **more comprehensive, predictable and sustainable response** that benefits both refugees and their hosts, rather than responding to refugee displacement through a purely, and often underfunded, humanitarian lens. The comprehensive framework is designed to ensure: rapid and well-supported reception and admission measures; support for immediate and ongoing needs (including protection, health and education); assistance to national and local institutions and communities receiving refugees; and expanded opportunities for durable solutions.

The overall objectives of the CRRF are four-fold: to ease pressures on countries that host large number of refugees, to enhance refugee self-reliance, to expand access to third-country solutions, and to support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

A CRRF is broader than a typical refugee response in the following ways:

1. It engages a wide array of stakeholders

- national and local authorities
- international and regional organisations and financial institutions
- civil society partners (including faith-based, academia, media, and private sector)
- refugees

2. It is inclusive of, but not limited to, a UN refugee operational plan and funding appeal

- It includes both humanitarian responses and development actions early on to strengthen the overall response
- It supports local service provision in areas hosting refugees
- It links national and local humanitarian and development strategies
- It invests in resilience of refugees and local communities to address poverty and lessen aid dependence.

3. It embraces private sector engagement, diverse forms of investment and innovative humanitarian delivery.

4. It initiates long-term planning for solutions, setting out specific responsibilities of countries of origin, host countries, and third countries and international support required.

CRRF Implementation

The New York Declaration calls upon UNHCR to “develop and initiate” the comprehensive framework “for each situation involving large movements of refugees, (...) in close coordination with relevant States, including host countries, and involving other UN entities”. It invites UNHCR “to engage with States and relevant stakeholders to evaluate the detailed application of the CRRF and assess the scope for refinement and further development”.

In consultation with States, UNHCR has initiated comprehensive refugee responses (CRRs) in various countries and situations, namely: Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, the Somalia refugee situation, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The comprehensive responses are applied in full partnership with relevant national and local authorities, UN entities, NGO partners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. For more information, visit www.unhcr.org/crrf

UNHCR will work closely with partners to assess progress and results of the comprehensive refugee responses in each country by early 2018, in order to take stock of their application, identify gaps and inform the global compact with operational practices and lessons learned.

The global compact on refugees

In the New York Declaration, States committed to work towards the adoption in 2018 of a global compact on refugees. States asked the High Commissioner for Refugees to propose the text of the compact in his annual report to the General Assembly in 2018. The compact will be based on the practical application of the CRRF in different refugee situations, the results of a series of thematic discussions, and a process of stocktaking that will take place in 2017. In 2018, UNHCR will share for formal consultations with States and other stakeholders a draft text of the global compact on refugees.

The global compact will comprise two parts: the CRRF, as agreed to by Member States in the New York Declaration, and a complementary programme of action that will set out the concrete actions that can be taken—by States and other relevant stakeholders—to operationalize the CRRF. For further information on these elements, and the process that will be used to develop and consult on the global compact on refugees, please visit www.unhcr.org/refugeecom pact

Significance for Migrants

In addition to commitments for refugees, the New York Declaration includes separate commitments for migrants and a set of commitments that apply equally to refugees and migrants (including those aimed at saving lives, addressing specific needs, countering racism, xenophobia and human trafficking).

In relation to migrants, States commit to addressing the drivers of irregular migration; ensuring migration is a choice and not a necessity; assisting, on the basis of needs, migrants in countries facing conflict or natural disasters; reducing the costs of labour migration; promoting ethical recruitment policies; and, applying minimum labour standards.

The New York Declaration also provides for the negotiation of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which is to be adopted in 2018.² The global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration will aim to set out a range of principles, commitments and understandings regarding international migration, enhance coordination on international migration and present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants.

The New York Declaration asks UNHCR to contribute its expertise to the development of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, including the elaboration of non-binding principles for migrants in vulnerable situations.

² For more information on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, please see <http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>

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