

TOWARDS THE FIRST GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM: A ROADMAP OF THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution [73/151](#), affirming the Global Compact on Refugees as presented by the High Commissioner in part II of his 2018 annual report to the General Assembly. The objectives of the global compact are to: i) ease pressures on host countries; ii) enhance refugee self-reliance; iii) expand access to third country solutions; and iv) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. The global compact will seek to achieve these four interlinked and interdependent objectives through the mobilization of political will, a broadened base of support, and arrangements that facilitate more equitable, sustained, and predictable contributions among States and other stakeholders.¹

2. The global compact establishes that follow-up and review of progress made towards achieving its objectives will be conducted at the global level through the ministerial-level Global Refugee Forum, to be held every four years, with high-level officials meetings held every two years between forums.²

3. The Global Refugee Forums will have three main elements: (i) a ministerial-level meeting, where States and other stakeholders can announce pledges and contributions towards the objectives of the global compact; (ii) a platform to exchange good practices and explore ways in which responsibility-sharing can be increased; and (iii) the opportunity to take stock of progress towards achievement of the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

4. This paper sets out the organizational preparations for the first Global Refugee Forum, scheduled to take place on 17 and 18 December 2019, in room XIX at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

II. Format

5. The first Global Refugee Forum will take place in Geneva and will be co-hosted and co-convened by one or more States and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. To help generate relevant pledges and contributions, including at the regional level, a system of co-sponsorship will be established to give States and other stakeholders an opportunity to act as “champions” of the first Forum. Further details on these arrangements will be shared in advance of the first preparatory meeting.

III. Organizational matters

6. In preparation of the first Global Refugee Forum, the following preparatory meetings and updates are foreseen:

Meetings	Dates
Meetings with the four UN regional groups (<i>facilitated and/or chaired by members of the ExCom Bureau</i>)	28 February and 1 March
Meetings with other stakeholders	March
Oral update at 74 th meeting of the Standing Committee	5-7 March
First preparatory meeting GRF	29 March

¹ Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Part II, Global Compact on Refugees ([A/73/12 \(part II\)](#)), paragraph 7.

² *Idem*, paragraphs 101-107.

Oral update at 75th meeting of the Standing Committee	18-20 June
Second preparatory meeting GRF	25 June
A dedicated discussion at the NGO consultations	5 July
Oral update at 76 th meeting of the Standing Committee	18-19 September
Third preparatory meeting GRF	14 November
Global Refugee Forum	17-18 December

7. An annotated agenda will be shared in advance of each preparatory meeting, as well as other background papers.

8. Invitations to participate in the preparatory meetings will be extended to all Member and non-Member Observer States of the United Nations. Specialized and intergovernmental agencies with which the Secretary-General has established a working relationship will be invited. Relevant non-governmental organizations will be invited as well and are requested to coordinate their statement with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).

9. Focal points within UNHCR are: Ms. Perveen Ali, Head of the GRF Coordination Team (alip@unhcr.org) and Ms. Ellen Hansen (hansene@unhcr.org), Head of the Governance Service. The GRF Coordination Team may be contacted at hqgrf@unhcr.org.

10. Further information on the preparatory meetings, including an organizational note, will be provided in due course. Please check the [Global Refugee Forum website](#) for regular updates.

*UNHCR,
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