



UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

(English only)

DRAFT OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PLEDGES

[EXTRACTS RELATING TO STATELESSNESS]

Follow-up of the pledges made during the Intergovernmental event at the ministerial level of Member States of the United Nations in December 2011

Explanatory note

To mark the anniversaries of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, UNHCR facilitated an Intergovernmental event at the ministerial level of Member States of the United Nations in December 2011.

In the lead-up to of this event, over 90 States made pledges relating to refugees and asylum-seekers, including on the protection of women and children and durable solutions. Over 60 States made pledges on the reduction and prevention of statelessness. Additionally, some States signalled their readiness to engage in finding solutions for the internally displaced and those facing particular protection challenges, e.g. mixed migration, human trafficking and smuggling, as well as natural disaster-induced movements linked to climate change.

UNHCR is pleased to share with you a new working document to track progress to date in fulfilling pledges made in December 2011. Pledges made after this date have also been reflected, in the interest of completeness.

The following table is a compilation of all the pledges made, categorized by topic and with information on their implementation:

- If the pledge was a one-off activity and has been completed, the name of the country is in a green box.
- If the pledge relates to a process, some information on the status is provided.
- If one of those process-related pledges has been completed but others are outstanding, the fulfilled pledge is written in green.

It would be appreciated if States would comment on the accuracy of the information reflected in the table and, if necessary, correct it in a communication to UNHCR (riera@unhcr.org) by October 2013, or to include progress made on the implementation of the pledges in their general statements to the 64th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme from 30 September to 4 October 2013. A revised table will be posted in November 2013.

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STATELESSNESS

State	Pledge	Update
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**Accession to, or taking steps to accede to, one or both of the statelessness conventions
or other treaty action**

AFRICA		
Benin	Pledges to accede to the 1954 Convention ¹ and to the 1961 Convention ² .	Accession to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on 8 December 2011.
Burundi	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention.	Domestic accession procedure is in progress.
Central African Republic (The)	Pledges to ratify the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.	
Côte d'Ivoire	Pledges to ratify the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.	The State Council adopted (21 May 2013) 2 Draft laws on ratification: - Draft law authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the 1961 Convention. - Draft law authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the 1954 Convention. Adoption by the national assembly is pending.
Gambia (The)	The government pledges to continue lobbying in parliament for the adoption and ratification of the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	Accession has received approval from both the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice. The statement needs to be endorsed by the Cabinet, before the conventions can be sent to parliament for ratification.
Guinea	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention.	A draft law for accession to the convention has been prepared by

¹ The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

² The 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

		the executive, but not yet submitted to the Parliament.
Guinea-Bissau	Pledges to continue to work towards formalizing accession to the legal instruments concerning stateless persons: 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	There has been a change in administration since December 2011. UNHCR has obtained assurances from the new government that pledges will be fulfilled.
Madagascar	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention.	
Mozambique	Mozambique is in the advanced stages of acceding to the Conventions related to statelessness, whose principles and practices are already enshrined in its law.	
Sierra Leone	Pledges to examine both Conventions with a view to signing them as soon as possible.	UNHCR is following up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
South Africa	The Government of South Africa pledges to become a signatory and party to the 1954 Convention and the subsequent 1961 Convention. These principles find expression in the South African Constitution and law.	
South Sudan	The Government of South Sudan aspires to accede and ratify, in the near future, the 1954 Convention and the 1961 Convention.	
Togo	Pledges to accelerate the process of ratification of the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	The domestic procedure for accession to the 1954 Convention was completed in May 2012. The instrument of accession has not yet been deposited.
United Republic of Tanzania (The)	Pledges to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	
Zambia	The Government of the Republic of Zambia pledges to take all necessary measures to become party to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.	

AMERICAS		
Argentina	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention.	The Executive is examining the issue of accession to the 1961 Convention.
Colombia	The Government is committed to the process of approval by Congress of the law for ratification of the 1961 Convention.	The 1954 Convention and the 1961 Convention were approved by Congress. The Constitutional Court is yet to approve.
Ecuador	The Government renews its commitment to conclude as soon as possible the internal regulatory process for ratification of the 1961 Convention.	Accession to the 1961 Convention on 24 September 2012.
Haiti	Pledges to accede to the 1954 and to the 1961 Conventions. The Government is requiring that both ratifications be done in French.	Discussions with the Executive are ongoing.
Honduras	The Government announces the finalization of the ratification process for the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.	Accession to the 1954 Convention was completed on 1 October 2012 and to the 1961 Convention on 18 December 2012.
Paraguay	Pledges to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Convention.	Acceded to the 1961 Statelessness Convention on 6 June 2012.
Peru	Pledges to accede to the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.	Both Conventions were submitted to the Congress in January 2013 and subsequently approved by the External Relations Commission of Congress.
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
Kyrgyz Republic (The)	Pledges to uphold a policy of prevention and reduction of statelessness and continue actively working in that direction in accordance with the National Action Plan (NAP) on Statelessness.	

	<p>The 2011 Action Plan contains the following element of accession:</p> <p>7. To initiate accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.</p>	
Philippines (The)	Pledges to initiate the process of accession to the 1961 Convention.	
EUROPE		
Belgium	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention in the near future.	
Bulgaria	Preliminary work for the accession of Bulgaria to the 1954 UN Convention and the 1961 UN Convention has been completed, including proposals for changing the legal framework guaranteeing the implementation of our commitments under the Conventions.	On 22 March 2012, Bulgaria acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions. A statelessness determination procedure has yet to be established under the 1954 Convention.
Georgia	Pledges to ratify 1954 Convention and to carry out relevant legislative activities with a view to implementing the full harmonization of its legislation with the Convention. These activities, among others, include elaboration of a detailed procedure for determination of the status of stateless persons, which will secure for the stateless person the possibility to enjoy his/her rights and benefits in the future.	Georgia acceded to the 1954 Convention in December 2011.
Hungary	To initiate the legislation procedure aimed at modifying Act II of 2002, promulgating the 1954 Convention. This modification will create the possibility for Hungary to withdraw the declaration made to Article 23 and 24 of the 1954 Convention, thus ensuring the full enjoyment of the rights contained in those articles to all stateless recognized by the Republic of Hungary.	The reservations to Articles 23 and 24 were formally lifted on 3 July 2012.

Luxembourg	Pledges to accede to the 1961 Convention. The procedures for accession are being started at the national level.	
Portugal	The Government pledges to continue to work towards accession to both the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	Accession to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on 1 October 2012.
Republic of Moldova (The)	Pledges to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	The Republic of Moldova acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on 19 April 2012.
Spain	Spain has initiated internal procedures to accede to the 1961 Convention.	Domestic accession procedure is in process.
Sweden	Pledges to review the reservations that Sweden has to the 1954 Convention with the intention of withdrawing the reservations that are possible. The formal process for this is currently under way.	
Turkey	Pledges to accede to the 1954 Convention and to the 1961 Convention.	The draft laws on Turkey's ratification of the two UN Conventions on Statelessness are pending on the agenda of the Turkish Parliament.
Ukraine	Ukraine is actively considering accession to the 1954 Convention and to the 1961 Convention.	Ukraine acceded to both Conventions on 25 March 2013.
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA		
Yemen	Pledges to give consideration to adopting the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.	

Law reform to prevent and reduce statelessness

AFRICA		
Benin	The Ministry will be sure to seek assistance of UNHCR as regards the technical details of this process of updating the nationality	UNHCR is following up with the Ministry of Justice.

	code.	
Central African Republic (The)	Pledges to continue its initiatives to complete ongoing work on the reform of the Nationality Code as well as to better manage migratory flows.	
Guinea	The government will pay particular attention to statelessness and will specifically ensure the elimination and the prevention of any and all forms of discrimination in administrative and judicial practices and procedures that are liable to lead to statelessness.	
Liberia	Pledges to amend the 1973 Alien and Nationality laws to ensure that nationality is equally transmitted by any of the parents, as enshrined in the Constitution.	The process of revising the Alien and Naturalization law to conform with the Constitution on issues relating to the transmission of nationality is ongoing.
Nigeria	Pledges to domesticate the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	The constitutional reform process is ongoing.
Rwanda	Pledges to prevent statelessness by reviewing nationality laws and procedures relating to the acquisition of nationality in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and other internationally recognized documentation.	
Senegal	Pledges to correct gender discrimination in its nationality law in order to enable Senegalese women to transmit their nationality to their foreign spouse and to their children born of a foreign father.	An amended citizenship law was adopted by the Senegalese Parliament on 28 June 2013, which eliminates gender discrimination in the right to transmit nationality to children and spouses.
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
Thailand	Pledges to continue to consider, where appropriate, further amendment of the Nationality Act of Thailand, as well as to provide greater access to birth registration and individual documentation services, including late birth registration, to build on	

	Thailand's progress in reducing vulnerability to statelessness.	
Kyrgyz Republic (The)	<p>Pledges to uphold a policy of prevention and reduction of statelessness and continue actively working in that direction in accordance with National Action Plan (NAP) on the prevention and Reduction of Statelessness.</p> <p>The 2011 Action Plan contains a number of elements, including:</p> <p>4. To bring relevant laws, by-laws and instructions in compliance with the 2007 Law on Citizenship of Kyrgyzstan;</p> <p>7.. To develop accelerated procedure for the naturalization of spouses of Kyrgyz citizens residing on the territory of Kyrgyzstan without deregistration or possessing expired passports</p>	<p>In March 2012, the law "On citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic" was amended in order to facilitate access to Kyrgyz citizenship to persons of Kyrgyz ethnicity who hold foreign citizenship or are stateless, former citizens of Kyrgyzstan returning to the country, and to female foreign and stateless persons married to Kyrgyz citizens.</p> <p>From March to April 2013, an inter-agency working group under the Citizenship Commission of the Apparatus of the President of Kyrgyzstan developed draft amendments to a by-law on consideration of citizenship issues to prevent and reduce statelessness. Proposed amendments have been submitted for final Government approval.</p>
EUROPE		
Armenia	Pledges to amend the provisions of the citizenship law that may cause statelessness.	Amendments to the Citizenship Law are being prepared that will introduce safeguards against statelessness in situations of renunciation of citizenship. The introduction of safeguards for otherwise stateless children is also being considered. UNHCR has supported the process through the preparation of annotated comments on the Citizenship Law, a study on statelessness in Armenia and a seminar on statelessness in November 2012.

Georgia	Pledges to continue creating safeguards for the protection of the rights of Stateless persons and to take relevant measures, including the identification and registration of stateless persons, which basically implies the determination of the status of stateless persons and entry into the electronic database of the registry of stateless persons and the relevant information about such persons.	<p>In the process of harmonizing its legislation with the Convention, the Georgian government has made changes to the following normative acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Georgian Organic Law on “Georgian citizenship”; - Georgian Law on “Legal status of Foreigners”; - Georgian Law on “Health Care”; - Georgian Law on “Trafficking”; - Georgian Law on “Internally Displaced People – Refugees”; - Georgian Law on “Adoption and Foster-care”; - Georgian Law on “Fees for Service provided by the Civil Registry Agency”; - Georgian Law on “Status of Military Servicemen”; - Georgian Law on “General Education”; - Georgian “Criminal code”; - Georgian Law on “Approval of Instruction of issuance Georgian Citizen’s, Foreigners Living in Georgia Identity documents (residence permit) and Georgian Citizen’s Passport”. <p>However, amendments to the Georgian Law on “Georgian Citizenship” in line with the 1961 convention remain pending.</p>
Montenegro	Pledges to proceed with harmonization of national legislation and procedures related to refugees and statelessness with the corresponding international standards and	The harmonization of legislation has started but remains limited. Two laws are pending adoption at the parliament: the new Law on Social and Child Protection and the

	to actively cooperate with other countries in order to ensure reduction of statelessness.	Draft Law on Social Housing.
Sweden	Pledges to intensify its efforts for the avoidance of statelessness at both the national and international level.	The Swedish nationality legislation is currently under review. In April 2013, a Government Bill for the amendment of, inter alia, the Citizenship Act was issued. With regard to statelessness, the Bill proposes enhanced possibilities for children who are born stateless in Sweden to be granted Swedish citizenship. Another important aspect of the Bill is that it proposes that Sweden accedes to the Council of Europe Convention to the Avoidance of Statelessness upon State Succession.
Russian Federation (The)	Pledges to introduce additional simplifications in the procedure for acquiring citizenship of the Russian Federation or residency permits for certain categories of stateless persons.	Federal law number 182-3 dated November 2012 on introducing amendments to the federal law "On citizenship of the Russian Federation" simplifies the process for acquisition of citizenship for certain categories of persons, such as former Soviet citizens, compatriots and those individuals whose Russian Federation passports were withdrawn earlier. The implementation of this law is pending due to the need to adopt additional by-laws.

Civil registration/documentation to prevent and reduce statelessness

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
Central African Republic (The)	Pledges to continue its current efforts which should enable the delivery of birth certificates and national identity cards to all	

	people affected by the conflicts, with a particular attention to people at risk of statelessness, such as Peulhs/Mbororos.	
Côte d'Ivoire	Pledges to find a solution to help Ivorians to obtain documents proving their nationality.	<p>A partnership agreement was signed on 28 January 2013 between UNHCR and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire on prevention and reduction of statelessness.</p> <p>Law #2011-258 (28 September 2011) related to the exceptional registration of birth that occurred during the conflicts was extended for two years.</p>
Democratic Republic of the Congo (The)	Pledges to take initiatives such as registering children by the Registrar of Civil Status, encouraging civil marriage, and applying the provisions of law number 04/024 of 12/11/2004 on Congolese nationality.	
Namibia	Namibia will further improve birth registration from the current percentage of 67% taking cognizance of the fact that poor birth registration could contribute to statelessness. The Government of the Republic of Namibia further pledges to increase registration points in the country, by opening more registration centers in the region, cities and towns to enable all migrants entering the country to be registered in order to determine their origins.	
Rwanda	Pledges to take measures to ensure a lawful birth registration for all children of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons.	
Somalia	Pledges to put in place a system to register all new-born babies inside and outside Somalia as a means to guarantee their citizenship.	

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

<p>Kyrgyz Republic (The)</p>	<p>Pledges to uphold policy of prevention and reduction of statelessness and continue actively working in that direction in accordance with the National Action (NAP) on the prevention and reduction of statelessness.</p> <p>The 2011 National Action Plan contains the following element on civil registration/documentation:</p> <p>5. To introduce relevant changes in national legislation and administrative practices to ensure that all new-born children on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic are provided with birth certification, as stipulated in the National Children Act and in accordance with the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p>	<p>The Working Group on Citizenship is discussing legislative amendments on birth registration to implement the National Action Plan's Point #5.</p>
<p>Philippines (The)</p>	<p>Issue machine-readable travel documents to refugees and stateless persons in accordance with Philippine law.</p>	
<p>Thailand</p>	<p>Pledges to continue to consider, where appropriate, further amendment of the Nationality Act of Thailand, as well as to provide greater access to birth registration and individual documentation services, including late birth registration, to build on Thailand's progress in reducing vulnerability to statelessness.</p>	

EUROPE

<p>Croatia</p>	<p>At the local level Croatia will facilitate access to civil registration and documentation with the final aim to reduce number of stateless persons and particular attention in this process will be given to the Roma. In this vein, we plan to strengthen relevant municipal services, in particular that of civil registration and social welfare centers to identify and address registration and</p>	<p>Legislative changes have been made, in favor of persons at risk of statelessness, predominantly within the Foreigners Act. The Foreigners Act entered into force in January 2012 and provides changes in the process for approving residence for foreigners thus facilitating access to</p>
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	<p>documentation issues.</p> <p>Croatia also plans to further enhance cooperation at the regional level particularly to encourage the reciprocal recognition of documents, conduct awareness raising activities amongst potential target groups and stakeholders and cooperate with other countries in the region with a view to establishing adequate, accelerated and facilitated procedures to assist civil documentation and registration. In this context, cooperation and exchange of information among stakeholders, including responsible authorities and civil society representatives, shall be ensured.</p>	<p>documentation:</p> <p>Elimination of the need to present proof of property as one of the conditions for temporary and permanent residences now facilitates the application process for residence procedures because a great majority of Roma resides in illegally built dwellings for which they have no title.</p> <p>Proof of medical insurance is no longer a prerequisite for residency.</p> <p>The procedure for granting temporary and permanent residences is now much shorter and it no longer depends on procedures in other state institutions.</p> <p>A further change is the obligation for foreigners older than 12 years to obtain an ID card for foreigners within eight days from the date of approval of residence.</p> <p>The regulation on the Status and Work of Foreigners entered into force on 9 May 2012, regulating documents for temporary residence. The most important changes that have been adopted concern the birth certificate and the certificate of a good conduct/non-criminal conviction from the home country of a foreigner. These are no longer required. The issuance of required documents is not as expensive as it used to be and also is less time-consuming for low-income beneficiaries, reducing the need to</p>
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		<p>travel to the country of origin.</p> <p>Croatia assumed the Presidency of the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 with enormous enthusiasm and planned a number of events and actions around the four priority areas identified:</p> <p>Linking the Decade of Roma Inclusion and EU framework.</p> <p>Linking Decade Success in Education with EU Education Policy.</p> <p>Roma Youth in Action for Tolerance and Recognition, while not specifically targeting status issues, addresses a number of cross-cutting issues aimed at improving the situation of Roma at risk of Statelessness in the Decade countries.</p> <p>The Zagreb Declaration was included as a topic for a short discussion at the first Steering Committee of the Presidency.</p>
Georgia	Pledges to continue creating safeguards for the protection of the rights of Stateless persons and to take relevant measures, including the issuance of ID papers to the stateless persons, which implies issuance of biometrical passports and electronic residence permits under the most simplified procedure.	A dedicated statelessness determination procedure has been adopted which allows individuals to be recognized and documented as stateless persons, including the issuance of 1954 Travel Documents and residence permits.
Montenegro	Pledges to facilitate and to accelerate procedures for obtaining civil documentation, both at the national level and in cooperation with countries of origin, in order to regulate the legal status of all refugees, DPs and IDPs now residing in Montenegro, enabling them to fully and	Some improvements continue to be made as regards documentation needed to apply for new legal status, e.g. revision of status of rejected persons during last re-registration of I/DPs, information meetings in the field,

	effectively enjoy their rights and minimizing the possibility of statelessness and deprivation of any rights they may enjoy.	organising bus visits to places of origin to help refugees acquire personal documents (activities undertaken with strong support of UNHCR). These activities resulted in 57% of the concerned population applying for the new legal status before expiry of the deadline.
Russian Federation (The)	<p>Pledges to improve the mechanism for the documentation of asylum-seekers in the Russian Federation as well as for stateless persons.</p> <p>Pledges to introduce additional simplifications in the procedure for acquiring citizenship of the Russian Federation or residency permits for certain categories of stateless persons</p>	Residence permits for stateless persons in the Russian Federation now include biometric data.

Establishing statelessness determination procedures or status; or,

Taking measures to consider establishing a statelessness determination procedure

AMERICAS		
Brazil	In 2012, a Bill establishing a mechanism for the determination of stateless status in Brazil will be sent to parliament. The Federative Republic of Brazil has already asked for UNHCR's contribution in drafting a suitable text that will implement the provisions of the 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons.	The Executive has prepared a draft law.
Costa Rica	Pledges to adopt a statelessness determination procedure to duly implement the provisions of both international	The Executive has prepared a draft decree.

	instruments on statelessness signed by Costa Rica: the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.	
Peru	Pledges to encourage the development of a draft national law that enables the necessary regulation of statelessness issues.	
United States of America (The)	<p>Pledges to actively work with Congress to introduce legislation that provides a mechanism for stateless persons in the United States to obtain permanent residency and eventually citizenship.</p> <p>Pledges to consider the revision of administrative policies to allow the circumstance of stateless persons to inform decision-making regarding their detention, reporting requirements, and opportunity to apply for work authorization.</p>	<p>The administration worked with Congress to include language in the final comprehensive immigration reform legislation bill that was passed in the Senate on 27 June, 2013.</p> <p>The administration issued new reporting guidance which permits a level of discretion to be exercised with respect to stateless persons.</p>
Uruguay	Pledges to introduce, by the adoption of appropriate legislation, a formal statelessness status determination procedure that grants to the recognized persons a status consistent with international standards.	Draft law pending before Congress.
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
Australia	Pledges to better identify stateless persons and assess their claims. Australia is committed to minimizing the incidence of statelessness and to ensuring that stateless persons are treated no less favorably than people with an identified nationality. Australia will continue to work with UNHCR, civil society and interested parties to progress this pledge.	An administrative procedure to better identify stateless people seeking refugee status was established in 2012.
Kyrgyz Republic (The)	Pledges to uphold a policy of prevention and reduction of statelessness and continue actively working in that direction in accordance with the 2011 National Action Plan (NAP) on the prevention and reduction	

	<p>of statelessness.</p> <p>The 2011 Action Plan contains the following element on statelessness determination:</p> <p>4. To bring relevant laws, by-laws and instructions in compliance with the 2007 Law on Citizenship, structure of the Government and applicable international standards.</p>	
Philippines (The)	<p>Pledges to continue to develop the policy and operational framework to address statelessness after the ratification of the 1954 Convention, with the support of and in cooperation with UNHCR.</p>	<p>A dedicated statelessness determination procedure was adopted in 2012.</p>
EUROPE		
Belgium	<p>The new coalition agreement provides for the introduction of a new procedure for the recognition of statelessness to be conducted by the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons.</p>	
Bulgaria	<p>Pledges to do preliminary work for the accession of Bulgaria to the 1954 UN Convention and the 1961 UN Convention have been completed, including proposals for changing the legal framework guaranteeing the implementation of our commitments under the Conventions.</p>	<p>A statelessness determination procedure has yet to be established under the 1954 Convention.</p>
Georgia	<p>Pledges to elaborate a detailed procedure for determination of the status of a stateless person, which will secure to the stateless person the possibility to enjoy his/her rights and benefits in the future.</p>	<p>In July 2012, the Georgian Government made changes to the Law on Legal Status of Aliens and Stateless Persons which paved the way to approval and enforcement of the Procedures for Stateless Status Determination. The procedures are implemented by the Public Services Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice (PSDA). Since commencement of the Procedures, 77 applicants have applied to the PSDA and 50</p>

		obtained Statelessness Status.
Hungary	Pledges to create/establish together with UNHCR a quality assurance mechanism for the statelessness determination procedure.	Within the framework of a project, a Quality Assurance Manual, the joint product of the Office of Immigration and Nationality and UNHCR's Hungary Unit, was developed and agreed upon as a follow-up of the pledge.
Republic of Moldova (The)	Pledges to amend its domestic legislation in order to establish a statelessness determination procedure.	In February 2012, Moldova established a statelessness determination procedure in line with international standards by introducing relevant provisions in the Law on the regime of Foreigners. The legal provisions were drafted in close cooperation with UNHCR, take into account its recommendations, as well as best practices from the Hungarian, French and Spanish procedures.

Studies/awareness campaigns

AFRICA		
Benin	The work to be done to implement both conventions on statelessness will include conducting a full-scale sociological study combined with the general census of population and housing, planned for 2012, in order to have reliable data on stateless persons or people at risk of statelessness living in Benin.	UNHCR is following up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Burundi	Pledges to carry out in the shortest possible time and with the support of UNHCR the detailed profiling of people who are at risk of statelessness in Burundi, and to authorize their stay on Burundi's territory during the profiling operation and the establishment	In fulfillment of this pledge, the Government of Burundi worked with UNHCR to map the situation of some 1,300 potentially stateless persons of Omani origin in the country through registration and a

	and implementation of a strategy relating to the risks they face.	series of focus-group discussions. Following the registration exercise, temporary residence permits were issued by Burundi to all members of this group who were registered, until their nationality is clarified.
Democratic Republic of the Congo (The)	Pledges to take initiatives, such as identifying cases of statelessness on its national territory; preventing statelessness by setting up national mechanisms in compliance with its national legislation and through registering children by the Register of Civil Status, encouraging civil marriage, and applying to provisions of law number 04/024 of 12/11/2004 on Congolese nationality.	
Namibia	The Government of Republic of Namibia pledges to carry out awareness campaigns on statelessness and to educate the government machinery and the general public on matters of statelessness.	
Rwanda	Pledges to compile data on the number of stateless persons within the country during the next population census in 2012.	
Zambia	Zambia will require support from the UNHCR to conduct an independent study on the issue of statelessness in the country.	
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
Kyrgyz Republic (The)	Pledges to promote a comprehensive survey of the scale and situation of stateless persons residing in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.	In cooperation with the Government, UNHCR supported an independent mapping survey to define and count stateless persons in the Kyrgyz Republic.
Philippines (The)	Pledges to continue the study of statelessness in the Philippines and among its nationals that are at risks of statelessness, in continuation of efforts	During 2012 and 2013 the Government of the Philippines continued to work closely with UNHCR in taking steps to map

	initiated in 2011.	statelessness in the Philippines. In particular, research to identify the extent of statelessness amongst persons of Indonesian descent in Southern Mindanao is expected to be completed in 2013.
EUROPE		
Azerbaijan	The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan stated its intension to continue the close cooperation with UNHCR for the elimination of protection gaps, strengthening the protection regime and asylum system, the thorough study and analysis of statelessness in the country, as well as in the field of regulation of participation of refugees in the labor market.	
Croatia	Croatia plans to further enhance cooperation at the regional level particularly to encourage the reciprocal recognition of documents, conduct awareness raising activities amongst potential target groups and stakeholders and cooperate with other countries in the region with a view to establish adequate, accelerated and facilitated procedures to assist civil documentation and registration.	
Republic of Moldova (The)	Pledges to map and gather information on stateless persons in Moldova with a view to finding a solution for their predicament.	The exact number of stateless persons in Moldova remains unclear as there is conflicting information about the figure. The situation, however, may become clearer following a national census planned for April 2014.

Addressing statelessness through foreign policy initiatives

AFRICA		
South Africa	South Africa will renew its efforts to work regionally and internationally towards the	

	important goal of the prevention and reduction of statelessness. An important mechanism which will prevent statelessness is the incorporation of National Population Registers in countries where these do not exist or are incomplete.	
AMERICAS		
United States of America (The)	<p>Pledges to focus US diplomacy on preventing and resolving statelessness among women and children, including efforts to raise global awareness about discrimination against women in nationality laws and to mobilize governments to repeal nationality laws that discriminate against women.</p> <p>Pledges to promote a child's right to nationality through multilateral and bilateral engagement, including efforts to promote universal birth registration.</p>	<p>The Women's Initiative launched by Secretary Clinton included both multilateral and bilateral diplomacy.</p> <p>2012: Human Rights Council resolution on right to nationality tabled by US with core group of sponsors.</p> <p>2013: Side event on statelessness organised by the U.S. at UN Human Rights Council.</p> <p>Inclusion of statelessness in annual State Department human rights reports.</p> <p>At the 46th session of the UN Commission on Population and Development, the U.S. successfully incorporated language into the "New Trends on Migration: Demographic Aspects" resolution, which recognizes the right to a nationality for all migrant including children.</p>
EUROPE		
Hungary	The Government pledges to continue the promotion of the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions. They pledge to share their best practices, tools and experiences with all interested states in the framework of seminars or study visits.	<p>The implementation of this pledge is in progress.</p> <p>A regional delegation of 13 senior Government officials from Bulgaria, Czech Republic (The), Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia was received in Hungary on a study visit</p>

		relevant to statelessness (10-11 December 2012) with a view to promoting accession and/or establishment of national status determination mechanisms.
Sweden	Pledges to intensify its efforts for the avoidance of statelessness at both the national and the international level.	UNHCR is currently conducting a mapping exercise with regard to statelessness within the Nordic region, including Sweden.

Reduction of Statelessness

EUROPE		
Belarus	In our country, concrete measures are taken to reduce statelessness, including legislative measures, allowing the creation of a steady trend of reducing the number of stateless persons permanently residing in the country. By the end of 2013, we expect that this trend will be strengthened through the implementation of measures aimed at facilitating the acquisition of Belarusian citizenship by this category of individuals.	In 2012, 1074 stateless persons with different types of residence acquired Belarusian citizenship.
Montenegro	Pledges to proceed with harmonization of national legislation and procedures related to refugees and statelessness with the corresponding international standards and to actively co-operate with other countries in order to ensure reduction of statelessness.	
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
Kyrgyz Republic (The)	Pledges to uphold a policy of prevention and reduction of statelessness and continue actively working in that direction in accordance with National Action Plan (NAP) on the prevention and Reduction of Statelessness.	From January to December 2012, the State Registration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic exchanged 16,773 USSR passports for passports of the Kyrgyz Republic. From January to March 2013,

	<p>The 2011 National Action Plan contains the following element on reduction of statelessness:</p> <p>1. To continue accelerated exchange of old 1974 standard Soviet passports by the State Registration Service of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.</p>	<p>1,574 persons had their USSR passports replaced with the KR passport.</p>
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General pledges on respect for international principles and action on statelessness

AMERICAS		
Bolivia	<p>Pledges to continue strengthening the integration between countries of the Latin American continent, as well as cooperation of policies on the protection of refugees and stateless persons.</p> <p>Pledges to continue promoting values of solidarity, respect, tolerance and multiculturalism, stressing the non-political and humanitarian nature of the protection of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, while recognizing their rights and obligations as well as their positive contribution to society.</p>	
Mexico	<p>Pledges to continue promoting national mechanisms for the determination of the status of stateless persons.</p>	
Panama	<p>Pledges to ensure protection in its territory to stateless persons, so that they can live in safety and dignity, and to put an end to this condition, as stated in its new rules on statelessness.</p>	
EUROPE		
Denmark	<p>Denmark recognizes the overall importance of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and pledges to continue its efforts for the general avoidance of</p>	

	statelessness.	
France	To modernize the travel documents issued to refugees, stateless persons as well as to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who reside in France. The aim is to issue documents in conformity with the most recent international requirements in order to enable the holders to travel easily.	
Liechtenstein	Pledges to assume its responsibility to reduce statelessness by applying its national legislation in the spirit of the 1961 Convention and in close cooperation with UNHCR.	
Montenegro	Pledges to be fully committed to the highest principles of international protection, support and help for refugees and statelessness persons.	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (The)	Pledges to restate its commitment to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and undertakes to review its response to those that fall under that convention.	

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

African Union	The African Union Commission pledges to work with UNHCR to raise awareness and foster common understanding about statelessness, and urge the remaining African states that they are yet to sign or ratify the Convention to do so at this earliest opportunity. In this regard the African Union Commission will bring the issue of statelessness and the determination of nationality to the attention of the AU member states, with a view to adopting a common position on two issues as well as adopting continental guidelines on elements for the determination of nationality	
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