



UNHCR

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

TOWARDS THE FIRST GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM: Organizational note for the first preparatory meeting - 29 March 2019 CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

I. BACKGROUND

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 for Refugees in his 2018 annual report to the General Assembly. The Global Compact on Refugees aims to provide a basis for predictable and equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing among all United Nations member States, together with other relevant stakeholders.

2. The objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees 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 establishes that follow-up and review of progress made towards achieving its objectives will be conducted at the global level every four years through the Global Refugee Forum, at ministerial level. This will be complemented by high-level officials' meetings, held every two years between Forums, to provide an opportunity for "mid-term review".

3. At the first Global Refugee Forum, which will take place on 17 and 18 December 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, all United Nations member and non-member observer States as well as relevant stakeholders will have the opportunity to announce concrete pledges and contributions towards the objectives of the global compact.

4. In preparation of the first Global Refugee Forum, a series of preparatory meetings will be held to provide States and other relevant stakeholders an opportunity to discuss the pledging process as well as other preparations.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

5. Three preparatory meetings for the first Global Refugee Forum will be held at the *Centre International de Conférences Genève* (CICG). The dates and locations are as follows:

- Preparatory meeting 1: 29 March 2019 (room 1)
- Preparatory meeting 2: 25 June 2019 (room 2)
- Preparatory meeting 3: 14 November 2019 (room 2)

III. FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING

Participation

6. All United Nations member and non-member observer States will be invited to participate in the preparatory meeting. Specialized and intergovernmental agencies with which the Secretary-General has established a working relationship will be invited. A number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders will also be invited. The first preparatory meeting will be private; it will not be webcast, nor will it be open to the media.

7. The first preparatory meeting will be co-chaired by the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Mr. Volker Türk, and a member of the Bureau of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme.

Conduct of the meeting

8. Seating will follow the United Nations General Assembly seating for the seventy-third session, with Mali occupying the first seat to be followed by other countries in English alphabetical order. Intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders will be seated behind States. As seating in the conference rooms will be limited, States will be allocated one seat at the desk and one seat behind for the meetings. Seating for other participants will be arranged according to capacity. A reserved microphone will be made available to any participants who are not seated at a desk.

9. For the first preparatory meeting, there will be no formal list of speakers nor rules of procedure. Participants wishing to make an intervention will be asked to raise their nameplates and to limit their remarks to three minutes or less. Those speaking on behalf of a group or region are requested to notify the UNHCR Secretariat in advance and to limit their interventions to five minutes or less.

10. Depending on the number of delegations that wish to take the floor, the co-chairs may reduce the speaking time. NGOs and refugee representatives will be able to make an intervention under each agenda item. NGOs are requested to coordinate their intervention with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).

Interpretation

11. Interpretation will be provided in English and French.

IV. REGISTRATION

12. Delegations are requested to register for each preparatory meeting during a two-week period, which will end on the Friday prior to the meeting. A list of key dates for registration is as follows:

- Preparatory Meeting 1: 22 March 2019
- Preparatory Meeting 2: 21 June 2019
- Preparatory Meeting 3: 8 November 2019

Participants will be advised via email when registration for each preparatory meeting has opened and is about to close.

13. To register, all participants, except NGOs, must send a note verbale or letter of accreditation with exact names and titles of all members of the delegation in order of seniority to the UNHCR Secretariat: hqgovern@unhcr.org. NGOs are requested to send their letter of accreditation to the UNHCR Partnership Section (partnership@unhcr.org). Due to seating limitations, NGOs are asked to limit the size of their respective delegations to two people.

Badges

14. Participants who have a UNOG badge are requested to bring their badge with them and present it to security at the entrance of the meeting room.

15. Participants who do not possess a UNOG badge must present an identity document – such as a passport – along with the note verbale or letter of accreditation that contains their name in order to receive their visitor's badge at the entrance of the meeting room.

V. OTHER

16. For any questions and/or assistance, please contact the UNHCR Secretariat (hqgovern@unhcr.org). NGOs should contact UNHCR's Partnership Section (partnership@unhcr.org).

17. Please visit the webpage for the Global Refugee Forum (unhcr.org/global-refugee-forum) regularly for updates.