

## Background

On September 19, 2016 the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) adopted a set of commitments to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants. These commitments are known as the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

Annex I of the New York Declaration sets out a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), with specific actions needed to ensure: rapid and well-supported reception and admission measures; support for immediate and ongoing needs (e.g. protection, health, education); assistance to national/local institutions and communities receiving refugees; and expanded opportunities for durable solutions. It further calls upon UNHCR to apply the framework to particular situations, in close coordination with relevant States and involving other UN agencies, and stakeholders and assess its impact with a view to refining it further.

On the basis of this work, the High Commissioner for Refugees is requested to propose a ‘global compact on refugees’ (GCR) in his annual report to the GA in 2018, to be considered by the Assembly at its seventy-third session.

## Global compact on refugees

While the form of a GCR is yet to be determined, it could include:

- 1. Preamble:** setting out the reasons for a global compact and the principles and norms upon which it is based.
- 2. The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework:** as agreed by Member States in Annex I to the New York Declaration.
- 3. Programme of Action:** a set of complementary commitments and actions to implement the CRRF.

While the compact would be a standing document, there could be opportunities on an annual or biannual basis for States and other stakeholders to pledge the contributions that they will make towards the programme of action.

## Next steps

Work towards a global compact on refugees is proceeding along three tracks:

- 1. Application of the CRRF:** To specific countries or situations (including through pilots and case studies).
- 2. Expanding partnerships:** Engaging a wide range of partners to contribute to the application of the CRRF and to the thinking around a GCR. This includes existing and new partners, including national and local authorities, international organizations, international financial institutions, regional organizations, regional bodies, civil society partners, including faith-based organizations and academia, the private sector, media and the refugees themselves.
- 3. Thematic discussions:** To further refine what is needed to ensure that commitments in the New York Declaration can be put into practice and thereby feed into the GCR. The programme for these discussions will be developed in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders and will utilize existing meetings and processes where possible.

The December 2017 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges will provide an opportunity to take stock of the progress made following which a ‘zero draft’ of the GCR will be circulated in February 2018 and formal consultation will commence.

The GCR will be presented in the High Commissioner’s 2018 Annual Report to the GA.

