

GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023

Resettlement

Snapshot of the Resettlement multi-stakeholder pledge and other Resettlement pledges

Executive summary

The [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF) 2023 took place from 13 to 15 December in Geneva, Switzerland, with linked events held in other locations from 11 December. Held every four years, the GRF is the world's largest international gathering on refugees, designed to support the practical implementation of the objectives set out in the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR): Ease pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, increase access to third-country solutions and improve conditions in countries of origin.

Resettlement provides protection and a durable solution for refugees, but is also a demonstration of solidarity among States, a way of sharing burden and reducing the impact of large refugee situations on host countries. In support of the objective of increasing access to third country solutions, the GCR calls on States to establish, or enlarge the scope, size, and quality of resettlement programmes.

To this end, the GCR mandated a [Three-year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways](#) (2019 – 2021) to grow the pool of resettlement places and consolidate emerging resettlement programmes. The successor [Third Country Solutions for Refugees: Roadmap 2030](#) expands on the Strategy's objectives and reaffirms its long-term goals, one of which is to have one million refugees access resettlement by 2030. This can be achieved through targeted legal and policy reform to support new and scaled up resettlement programmes that are sustainable and that respond to identified needs and have maximum protection impact. Through the GRF, pledging entities have reaffirmed their commitment to advocate for, and implement relevant reforms to help achieve the outcome of 1 million refugees resettled by 2030.

Mainly, the pledges made at the GRF brought renewed commitment and showed a clear wish from various stakeholders to increase third-country solutions by growing resettlement, by engaging new and smaller resettlement countries and increasing resettlement quota (including humanitarian admission), increasing advocacy to grow resettlement, strengthening equitable access to resettlement, and increasing LGBTIQ+ refugee pathways. In addition, improving resettlement outcomes through meaningful refugee participation was a focus of pledges, as well as maintaining commitment to predictable, responsive, quality sustainable resettlement (including, e.g., through flexible and remote approaches and funding resettlement).

GRF & THE FRIENDS OF RESETTLEMENT NETWORK

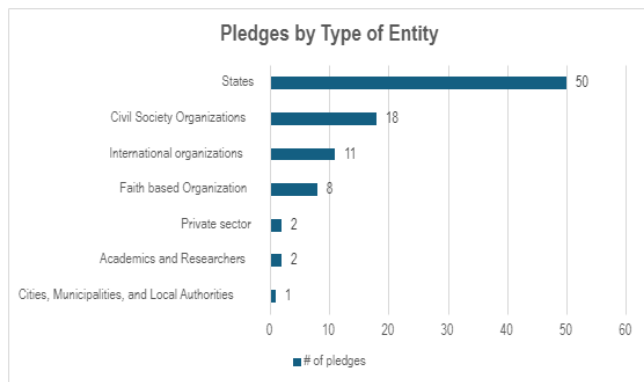
Ahead of the GRF, the Friends of Resettlement Network was created to build a diverse multistakeholder initiative that would support and consolidate GRF pledge ideas relating to resettlement. It led to the [Multi-stakeholder pledge on Resettlement](#). This Multi-stakeholder pledge aims to obtain support on funding and other infrastructure to support global resettlement activities, to improve policies and practices to promote equitable, needs-based access to resettlement, to promote innovation, and to increase meaningful refugee participation to improve resettlement processes and outcomes. The Network's second purpose was to organize a 'Parallel High-Level Event on Resettlement' during the GRF. The organized event was a major success. It recognized commitment to resettlement by the major resettlement countries and highlighted the positive impact of smaller programmes and emerging resettlement countries. In addition, it explored and demonstrated the value of resettlement from a variety of perspectives, as well as the role played by a broad range of state and non-state stakeholders including refugees in making resettlement a success.

GRF Statistics

Over 4,200 participants from 168 countries attended the GRF in 2023, including over 300 refugee delegates. A further 10,000 people followed the proceedings online. It garnered over 1,600 pledges, of which an approximate 243 pledges are related to third country solutions. Thus, **approximately 15% of all pledges are related to third-country solutions, indicating this to be a clear priority outcome of the GRF.**



A total of 92 pledges were made on resettlement. There are 69 pledges (as of April 2024) linked to the Resettlement Multi-Stakeholder pledge on Resettlement. In addition, 23 resettlement related pledges (not linked) were submitted by various entities and potential linking should be explored to increase visibility and ease tracking.



Breakdown of type of pledging entities: Over half of all resettlement-related pledges (50 pledges) were made by States, compared to one-third State/two-third non-State pledges overall across the GRF pledging, reaffirming leadership and support by States for resettlement. An additional 18 pledges were made by civil society organizations, 8 by faith-based organizations, 11 by international organizations, 2 by private sector entities, 2 by academics and researchers and 1 by a city.

Regions: 26 pledges were submitted by stakeholders in the Americas, 17 pledges by entities in Asia and the Pacific, 44 by entities based in Europe, 1 from MENA (Egypt), 3 pledges by entities that operate globally, and 1 by an entity based in West & Central Africa (Cameroon).

High level overview of pledges

Resettlement pledges centred around:

- 1) Growing resettlement** (increasing resettlement quota including humanitarian admission);
- 2) Advocacy to grow resettlement;**
- 3) Strengthening equitable access to resettlement,**
- 4) Increasing LGBTIQ+ refugee pathways;**
- 5) Meaningful refugee participation;**
- 6) Commitment to predictable, responsive, quality sustainable resettlement** (Including, e.g., through flexible and remote approaches and funding resettlement);
- 7) Improving post-arrival settlement, integration, and participation;** and
- 8) Support to specific refugee populations,** including Rohingya, Afghan and Syrian refugees.



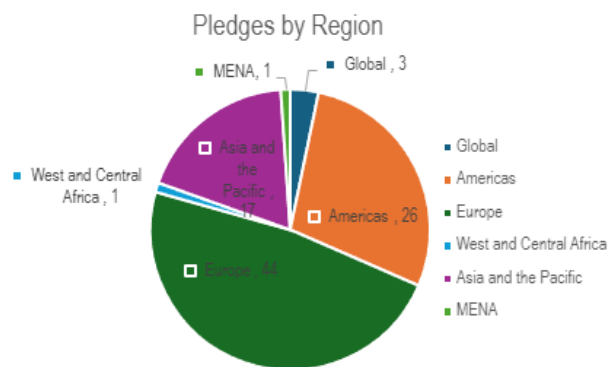
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States including Australia, Belgium, USA, Canada, EU, Germany, Ireland, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, and the UK **pledged to increase their resettlement quotas**. In the case of several, the pledge is a commitment to re-start previously halted programs or to expand the numbers of yearly acceptances. For Argentina, Brazil, Lithuania, pledges indicated a **commitment to design and initiate new resettlement programs**. For other States, including France, Italy, Korea, Spain, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, New Zealand, pledges committed to maintaining their existing resettlement programs.

Australia, Canada, the USA, Amnesty International Australia submitted pledges reiterating the need for third-country solutions, particularly resettlement, for **Rohingya refugees**. Mercosur (joint pledge by various States in the Americas), the USA and Canada, Niskanen Center, focused in their pledges on the need for third-country solutions for **refugees in the Americas** and the need to expand innovative solutions such as the Safe Mobility Offices (SMOs). Several entities, in addition, pledged on the need to provide increased third-country solutions for **Afghans**, including ICMPD, Terre d'Asile France and the EU. The EU simultaneously reiterated its commitment to resettlement for **Syrian refugees**. Canada and the USA re-affirmed its commitment to increasing pathways for **human rights defenders** in need of resettlement, while Canada also pledged on the need for evidence-based research on **climate-induced displacement and subsequent need for resettlement** in countries (in 5 different regions) highly vulnerable to climate change. Canada, Rainbow Railroad, the USA, HIAS and Sweden placed focus on identification and **increased access of LGBTIQ+ individuals to third-country solutions**.

The need to strengthen **equitable access to resettlement** was highlighted in pledges by the USA, RefugePoint, HIAS, IRAP, CWS Global, Mennonite Central Committee, the Synagogue Congregation B'nai Emunah, the Jesuit Refugee Services in Portugal, and Anglican Communion Canada.



There was significant commitment to continue to **advocate for Resettlement**. States pledging on this were Australia (as CRCP 2024 Chair), the EU, Thailand, the USA and Mercosur. Civil Society overwhelmingly pledged on commitment for increased advocacy: Refugee Council USA, Mennonite Central Committee, Refugee Council Australia, Amnesty International Australia, Resettlement Diplomacy Network, HIAS, IOM, SSI and Niskanen Center all submitted pledges centred around increased advocacy.

Meaningful refugee participation and the need for enhanced inclusion was not only a clear priority in the composition of GRF delegations and the high number of participation of refugees at the GRF. It was also clear in the significant number of pledges submitted on this topic. States including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Norway pledged to increase meaningful refugee participation in the development of resettlement policies and operations. The Dutch Refugee Council, SSI, RefugePoint, HIAS, Refugee Council USA and ICMPD similarly pledged on the need for refugee participation, increasing staff with lived experience of forced displacement in their workforce and empowering those with lived experience to advocate for resettlement.

Improving post-arrival settlement, integration and participation was a theme of great importance in the pledges. Australia, Belgium, Norway, Portugal pledged on the need for improved systems. A wide range of stakeholders pledged on their support for the same; DLA Piper, the Episcopal Church, HIAS, IOM, Terre d'Asile France, Forum Refugees, Jesuit Services Portugal, Reach Clinic Saskatoon, Settlement Council Australia, Kingston Council, International Students Overcoming War (ISOW), the Synagogue Congregation B'nai Emunah, and Guru Nanak

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Nishkam Sewak Jatha. It is worth noting the wide diversity in stakeholders pledging their support on welcoming resettled refugees and supporting their integration into their new communities.

Key take aways & the way forward:

- It is key to assess to what extent resettlement related pledges are 'additional' or new (or reflect discrepancies), compared to existing initiatives and programs (particularly pledges on quota) and follow-up with resettlement partners accordingly.
- Public pledging on resettlement increases transparency and allows for (needed) scrutiny and engagement.
- A key take-away is the commitment to strengthen meaningful refugee participation. Accordingly, substantive steps should be taken on all sides, to engage displaced persons as active and able participants in Resettlement & Complementary Pathways processes and platforms. Steps should also be taken to ensure that the CRCP Refugee Advisory Group (RAG) is institutionalised, empowered, and sufficiently engaged in CRCP and resettlement processes and policies globally and at all levels.
- It is important to ensure institutional knowledge of relevant pledges as part of regular interactions with resettlement counterparts, at all levels, to ensure commitments are met.
- Engage with relevant stakeholders, in particular resettlement States, in collaborative manner on the implementation of their resettlement related pledges, inter alia as part of the Consultations on Resettlement & Complementary Pathways (CRCP, formerly ATRC) in June 2024 (as well as consecutive CRCPs) and its Working Group in Sydney February 2024 (and CRCP Working Groups).
- Sufficiently engage on collaborative and indirect advocacy together with, and through various partners with similar interests and goals. In addition, sufficiently link up partners with similar goals and purpose, to collaboratively engage in pledge follow-up.
- Link up with relevant UNHCR teams, within the Division of International Protection (DIP) and outside.
- Work together closely with relevant entities to ensure the pledged funds materialize.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MILESTONES

EVENT/MILESTONE	WHEN
Global Refugee Forum	December 2023
Clean-up & analysis of pledges by RCPS	Jan-March 2024
Working Group of the Consultations on Resettlement & Complementary Pathways (CRCP) in Sydney and Auckland	February 2024
RCPS to contact relevant UNHCR Regional Bureaux & Operations to initiate engagement and follow-up process with pledging entities and to develop work plans where needed.	March-May 2024
Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways (CRCP)	4-7 June 2024
Technical Engagement with pledging entities to track status	June 2024 -June 2025
Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways	June 2025
High-Level Officials Meeting	December 2025