



High-Level Commemoration of the 75th year of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, held in the margins of the eighty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly

Australian Statement

23 September 2026

For 75 years, the Refugee Convention has helped protect the rights of people forced to flee their homes.

Australia is proud of its longstanding humanitarian contribution and has welcomed more than one million refugees since the end of World War II.

Australia continues to make a significant contribution to international responsibility-sharing, maintaining 20,000 Humanitarian Resettlement Program places in 2026–27, and working closely with UNHCR, refugee-hosting countries and other resettlement states to provide durable solutions.

We recognise the growing pressures on the international protection system.



Addressing these challenges requires strong cooperation between countries of origin, transit, asylum and resettlement, and ensuring access to protection for those who need it.

Australia is committed to timely, lawful and fair assessment of protection claims on their individual merits, while ensuring our protection visa system serves its intended purpose.

Maintaining effective and credible asylum arrangements is important to sustaining confidence in the international protection system.

Resettlement alone cannot meet the scale of global displacement.

Consistent with the Global Compact on Refugees and Australia's 2023 Global Refugee Forum pledges, Australia is developing complementary pathways through refugee labour mobility, community sponsorship and education pathways.

Australia remains committed to the protection and hope enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention.