


CHECKLIST FOR MEANINGFUL, RELEVANT, AND EFFECTIVE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM PLEDGES


Recommendations from InterAction's Refugee Policy Working Group


WHY THIS CHECKLIST?


Past pledging conferences have demonstrated that declarations of non-binding commitments do not necessarily lead to meaningful or transformative change for the people and communities most in need. This checklist is intended to help stakeholders develop pledges for the first **Global Refugee Forum (GRF)** that are meaningful, relevant, and effective. This checklist is recommended as a supplement to the [U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\) Guidance on Pledges and Contributions](#).

CHECKLIST OF KEY CONSIDERATIONS

-  **The pledge is new.** The pledge avoids a 'business as usual,' approach, is not a repackaged existing commitment, nor is it something that would have been done regardless of the GRF. While the pledge could build on existing work and capacity, it should result in additionality.

-  **The pledge contributes toward the four [Global Compact on Refugee \(GCR\) Objectives](#).** While current template requires pledges to adhere to broad thematic areas of focus (e.g. education, jobs and livelihoods, etc.), pledges should also promote coherence with the four GCR Objectives to:
 - ▶ Ease the pressures on host countries;
 - ▶ Enhance refugee self-reliance;
 - ▶ Expand access to third-country solutions;
 - ▶ Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

-  **The pledge-maker is accountable.** The pledge builds in an accountability framework that goes beyond the UNHCR self-reporting requirements. For instance, joint or matching pledges can incorporate a commitment to a peer review to verify that the pledge was achieved.

-  **The pledge is measurable.** The pledge includes a target that is specific, verifiable, and timebound. Whether the pledge is quantitative or qualitative in nature, clear criteria for verifying whether it was achieved should be defined at the outset. A simple monitoring and evaluation plan should be developed, so that progress can be tracked and future conclusions on the commitment's success is objective.



The pledge includes an implementation plan. After clearly defining “what” the pledge is, the pledging entity should develop a plan for “how” it will be delivered, including the organizational changes required. Given that the UNHCR Template for Pledges and Contributions has a 200-word limit, the below considerations could be further explicated in the pledging entity’s internal strategy documents.

- ▶ What actions need to be taken and in what sequence?
- ▶ Who will be accountable for taking them?
- ▶ What partnership and/or “buy-in” do you need? (e.g. programs department, finance department, headquarters, field offices, local partners, refugee, and host communities, etc.)
- ▶ What additional resources are required to support the implementation of the pledge? How will these resources be secured?
- ▶ How can we incorporate the pledge into the overall organizational strategy and frameworks?



The pledge espouses a “whole-of-society” approach. This approach requires engaging stakeholders and partners in operational and policy contexts outside the usual humanitarian arena (e.g. national and local government, private sector, development actors and with refugees and host communities, among others). This also means ensuring that pledges are age, gender and diversity inclusive and that diverse groups of refugee and host community stakeholders are engaged in the pledging entity’s decision-making processes.

OTHER PLEDGING TIPS AND GUIDANCE TO REFERENCE:

- ▶ [Protection of Children](#)
- ▶ [Education](#)
- ▶ [Age, Gender and Disability](#)
- ▶ [Youth](#)
- ▶ [Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#)