

# Global Refugee Forum

July 8, 2020

The first-ever Global Refugee Forum meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland

## Key highlights

- The Forum, **jointly hosted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency,** and the government of Switzerland, aims to debate and discuss the response of the world's countries to the global refugee situation.
- It is guided by the Global Compact on Refugees which emerged from the New York Declaration for Refugees and migrants in 2016(adopted by UN).

## Pledges of the Forum

- **It calls for Global Refugee Forums to be held every four years.** The second Global Refugee Forum is scheduled for late 2023.
- **The substantial commitments they made included school places for refugee children, new government policies, resettlement, clean energy, infrastructure** and better support for host communities and countries.
- The private sector accounted for the widest range of commitments, with strong support for providing job opportunities for refugees, according to UNHCR.
- **Business groups pledged \$250 million, while at least 15,000 jobs** will be made available to refugees as will some 125,000 hours per year of free legal aid.
- Additionally, **several countries-of-origin made commitments relating to the voluntary return and reintegration of refugees** and other displaced communities.
- **Indicators have been established to track progress and assess success,** for example in jobs created, school

places and reduction of poverty levels.

### **Significance of the forum**

This Forum is an opportunity to attest collective commitment to the Global Compact on Refugees and rally behind the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals of leaving no one behind

### **A Brief note on Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

- The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) **was created in 1950, during the aftermath of the Second World War**, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes
- The primary purpose at UNHCR is to safeguard the rights and well-being of people who have been forced to flee.
- In 1954, UNHCR won the **Nobel Peace Prize** for its groundbreaking work in Europe
- It strives to ensure that everyone has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to eventually return home, integrate or resettle.
- During the time of displacement, it provides critical emergency assistance in the form of clean water, sanitation and healthcare, as well as shelter, blankets, household goods and sometimes food.
- It also arranges transport and assistance packages for people who return home, and income-generating projects for those who resettle.