



**ADVANCING**  
Durable Solutions



**PLEDGE GUIDANCE**

**A GRF 2023**

multistakeholder pledge

**Advancing Durable Solutions**

through Secure Housing, Land and  
Property Rights

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# Purpose

**To increase the proportion of forcibly displaced women, children and men with secure access to housing, land and property in support of sustainable return and reintegration, local integration and other local solutions.**

The pledge responds to recommendations 18 through 20 of the 2021 High Level Officials Meeting and Objective 4 of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), to leverage the current momentum around area-based initiatives with strong operative linkages to security of tenure in housing, land, and property in countries of origin and recommendations 9 through 11 of the 2021 High Level Officials Meeting and GCR Objective 1, to '[Ease] pressures on host countries.'

The pledge further seeks to leverage expertise and financial resources, including through new and emerging financial instruments, funding windows and other platforms that promote equitable burden and responsibility sharing, increased development financing, and more flexible, predictable, and multi-year funding for refugee responses.

## Defining Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights

Within the humanitarian response, HLP rights are commonly understood as having a home free from the fear of forced eviction and a place that offers shelter, safety and the ability to secure a livelihood. The concept of HLP includes the full spectrum of rights to housing, land and property held according to statutory or customary law or informally – both public and private. HLP rights are held by owners, tenants, customary land tenure owners and users, and informal settlement occupants.

# Our Pledge



This multistakeholder pledge seeks to consolidate and build upon the many promising practices at the regional, national and local levels that reinforce the right to adequate housing, and secure access to land as cross-cutting imperatives for durable solutions and long-term development outcomes.

**Lack of security of tenure in housing, land and property rights is a root cause of forced displacement**, around which this multistakeholder pledge for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum has been formulated.

By pledging, you could be making commitments in our five Key Areas of Focus as follows:

## **1. Restitution of housing, land, and properties (For State Actors in Countries of Origin)**

You commit to ensuring that displacement affected populations can access HLP restitution mechanisms with special attention given to the rights of female-headed households and in accordance with international laws and best practice. You commit to initiate and undertake activities to facilitate restitution of housing, land and properties of returnee women, children and men with international support as required. This will include shaping policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, and providing material and in-kind support for restitution and/or compensation processes and programming in accordance with international law and best practice.

## **2. Recognized documentation of tenure rights to housing, land, and properties (For State Actors in Refugee Hosting Countries and Countries of Origin)**

You commit to initiating and undertaking activities with international support as required towards the provision and safeguard of recognised documentation of formal, customary and informal HLP rights of refugee and returnee women, children and men as a central facet of housing and land programmes.

**3. Comprehensive strategies for securing rights to housing, land and properties (For State Actors in Refugee Hosting Countries and Countries of Origin)**

You commit to initiate and undertake activities towards the development and implementation of comprehensive adequate housing and land tenure security interventions in support of women, children, men and communities affected by displacement through area-based approaches and with support of national and international humanitarian, development and peace actors as required.

**4. Material support for initiatives promoting secure housing, land, and property rights for forcibly displaced persons (For Donor States, Inter-Governmental Bodies, International Financial Institutions, other development actors – including UN System Partners)**

You commit to support refugee hosting states and countries of origin to address the barriers to secure access to adequate and affordable housing, land and property for forcibly displaced women, children, and men by way resource mobilization via earmarked financial instrument and in-kind support and other forms of material support.

**5. Technical support for initiatives promoting secure housing, land, and property rights for forcibly displaced persons (For UN System Partners, development actors, international non-governmental, civil society and refugee-led organizations)**

You commit to support refugee hosting States and countries of origin in addressing the barriers to the enjoyment of housing, land and property rights for forcibly displaced women, children, and men by way of technical assistance, support in coordination and other forms of in-kind support, including via development cooperation programming.

This coalition also echoes the call for National Statistical Offices to be adequately resourced with methodological guidance, technical assistance, and/or earmarked financing – toward the inclusion of forcibly displaced population types in the monitoring of SDG indicator 1.4.2 (on tenure security) for forcibly displaced men and women. See the [Multistakeholder Pledge on Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Statistical Systems and Surveys](#). 

## Our “Why”

This pledge is about defining a more predictable, equitable and sustainable system of response to the housing, land and property challenges facing refugee and returnee women, men and children, and their host communities. Importantly, this pledge is firmly established in the ideals of good land governance – characterized by accessible, transparent processes that enable forcibly

displaced persons to participate in decision-making on how land is used, managed, and developed, ultimately contributing to the overall recovery from conflict, peacebuilding and bringing displacement to an end.

The right to adequate housing and secure access to land plays a critical role in facilitating access to a range of human rights including the right to food, shelter, water, sanitation, health, work, security, freedom of movement, and a dignified standard of living, just to mention a few, as prescribed under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

HLP rights have been recognised in some of the UN System’s most authoritative guiding documents – including UN Security Council resolutions and UN Principles on Property Restitution (Pinheiro Principles). Securing HLP is key in the design and delivery of solutions for the millions displaced by climate change, disaster and conflict. ECOSOC’s ‘General Comment No. 26 (2022) on land and economic, social and cultural rights’ and UNCCD’s ‘Global Land Outlook (Second Edition) – Land Restoration for Recovery and Resilience’ recognises land as a key factor and operative link between global trends such as climate change, disaster risk, land degradation, desertification, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, and the consequent escalation of tensions over access to and use of land and natural resources and forced displacement.

The impact of climate change alone on access to and use of productive land across many of our operations has been most evident. In coastal zones, sea level rise continues to impact housing and livelihoods, while changing patterns of precipitation and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods are increasingly affecting access to HLP across various geographical and climatic zones.



<sup>1</sup> This is the definition of HLP commonly used by NRC and by the Global HLP AoR. More information can be sourced from the [HLP AoR of the Global Protection Cluster](#), and from NRC 2011, [Housing, Land and Property, Training Manual](#). HLP rights are defined in several international human rights instruments (e.g., International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

<sup>2</sup> [Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons \(the Pinheiro Principles\)](#), UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, June 2005.

<sup>3</sup> [General comment No. 26 \(2022\) on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#). ECOSOC, December 2022.

<sup>4</sup> [Global Land Outlook \(Second Edition\) – Land Restoration for Recovery and Resilience](#). UNCCD. April 2022.

# Pledge-Quality Check

Assess the quality and potential impact of your pledge before submitting.

This simple quality control tool is designed to help pledging entities monitor the overall quality and potential future impact of their pledges against a 7-point criteria. The highest quality pledges fulfil all seven criteria.

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>01</b> Falls within the five (5) Key Areas of Focus	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>02</b> Contributes to the progressive/ incremental achievement of durable solutions and long-term development outcomes.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>03</b> Contributes to poverty reduction, sustainable development and gender equality.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>04</b> Enables individuals and families to live in safety, security, peace and dignity.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>05</b> Reduces the GBV risks for women, girls and boys.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>06</b> Supports national and/or local authorities in protecting and restoring HLP rights as required.

**07**  
Contributes to peace and reconciliation efforts, as well as restoring and strengthening access to justice and the rule of law.

# How to Pledge

Using the **Pledge Submission Form**, you must indicate participation in the “Multistakeholder pledge on Solutions and HLP” where prompted and make your pledge as follows:



## State Actors in Countries of Origin

- **Restitution of housing, land, and properties:** [Name of Country] commits to initiate and undertake [X Activity/Project] and will require [Y international support] toward facilitating **restitution/ reallocation/ compensation** of housing, land and property for returnee women, children and men – including by way of [Z Inputs] (e.g., shaping the requisite policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, provision of material and/or in-kind support) by [indicative deadline for fulfilment of pledge].



## State Actors in Refugee Hosting Countries and Countries of Origin

- **Recognized documentation of tenure rights to housing, land, and properties:** [Name of Country] commits to initiate and undertake [X Activity/Project] and will require [Y international support] toward the provision of recognised documentation of formal, customary and informal HLP rights of refugee and returnee women, children, and men as a central facet to housing and land programmes by [indicative deadline for fulfilment of pledge].
- **Comprehensive strategies for securing rights to housing, land and properties:** [Name of Country] commits to initiate and undertake [X Activity/Project] towards the development and implementation of comprehensive adequate housing and land tenure security interventions in support of women, children, men and communities affected by displacement through area-based approaches and with support of [Y national international humanitarian, development and peace actors] by [indicative deadline for fulfilment of pledge].



## Donor States, Inter-Governmental Bodies, IFIs/MFIs, other Development and Development Cooperation Actors

- **Material support for initiatives securing rights to housing, land, and properties for forcibly displaced persons:** [Name of Pledging Entity] commits to supporting **refugee hosting States and countries of origin** to address the barriers to secure access to adequate and affordable housing, land and property for forcibly displaced women, children and men by [Z Inputs] (e.g., earmarked financial instrument, technical support, in-kind support and other forms of material support) by [indicative deadline for fulfilment of pledge].



## UN System Partners, Development and Development Cooperation Actors, INGOs, CSOs and Refugee-led Organizations

- **Technical support for initiatives securing rights to housing, land, and properties for forcibly displaced persons:** [Name of Pledging Entity] commits to supporting refugee hosting States and countries of origin in addressing the barriers to the enjoyment of housing, land and property rights for forcibly displaced women, children and men by [Z Inputs] (e.g., technical assistance, support in coordination, development cooperation programming, and other forms of in-kind support by [indicative deadline for fulfilment of pledge]).

# Pledging Beyond Scope of the Templates

Planning on submitting a durable solutions or dedicated HLP pledge beyond the scope of the templates provided? If so, here are a few things to consider.

Multistakeholder pledges are generally required to be SMART, supplementary/ additional, quantifiable and measurable, and needs-driven. Should the framing of your pledge fall outside of the templates provided, kindly ensure that your submission indicates your participation in this Durable Solutions/ HLP Multistakeholder Pledge, meets the following criteria:

### SMART

Specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timebound pledges.

### Supplementary/ Additional

Providing new support, allocations of resources, or engagement to enhance burden and responsibility sharing. Current programmes and pledges demonstrating positive impact could be shared as either pledge updates on the pledges and contributions dashboard or as good practices on the GCR digital platform and can be shared during the GRF.

### Quantifiable and Measurable

Providing, where possible, an implementation timeline, costs, beneficiary data, and details of support provided or needed for implementation of the pledge, to facilitate and demonstrate positive impact.

### Needs-Driven

Aligning the pledge with the key recommendations and the GCR principles and objectives and, where possible, matched (financial, material, and technical support for the implementation of policy commitments made by host countries).

# FAQs

## 1. Why is this pledge so important to the durable solutions and development agendas?

The pledge is geared towards creating enabling conditions for families to live in safety, security, peace, and dignity while displaced and to advance solutions. Secure access to HLP rights plays a critical role in facilitating access to a range of human rights, including the right to food, shelter, water, sanitation, health, work, security, and freedom of movement, just to mention a few.

Moreover secure HLP rights prevent further displacement and other human rights violations, promote access to justice, protect women and reduce the incidence of Gender-based Violence (GBV) among displaced persons.

## 2. What does the pledge entail for pledging entities?

Becoming a party to this pledge constitutes a commitment to promote secure housing, land and property rights in refugee hosting countries and countries of origin with a view of advancing solutions. This is key for the incremental achievement of durable solutions and long-term development outcomes, poverty reduction, sustainable development, gender equality, peace and reconciliation, and restoration/ strengthening of the rule of law for refugees, returnees and other forcibly displaced groups.

## 3. How does a Donor State or other Supporting Entity contribute to this pledge?

There are two modalities for supporting hosting countries that are party to this pledge:

- a. Donor countries and other pledging/ supporting entities may provide material support by way of earmarked funding, or a combination of earmarked funding and technical assistance.
- b. Donor countries and other pledging/ supporting entities may provide in-kind support, by way of provision of technical expertise to affected States. This can entail knowledge exchange in technical areas such as land administration functions (documentation of tenure in housing and land, digitization of cadastral records, land information management, development and deployment of land information management systems, land value capture, land use planning, etc.), provision of legal services on HLP, shelter activities that strengthen tenure security, provision of university scholarships or other trainings. In-kind support may also come in the form of advocacy and giving voice to HLP issues faced by affected countries.

## 4. Who can pledge?

The pledge is open to commitments from refugee hosting countries, countries of origin, Donors (both State and non-state actors), Inter-Governmental Bodies, International Financial Institutions, other development actors, UN System Partners, civil society, and refugee-led organizations.

# Our Pledge Development Approach



# Background Notes

Progress has been made towards preventing and resolving forced displacement – from the demonstrated political will and commitment of Member States, inter-governmental platforms, regional frameworks, UN system partners, and multilateral financial institutions in fostering conditions for safe and dignified returns, local integration, and other local solutions, to the broad-based peace building efforts of said actors in addressing the root causes of displacement – complemented by grassroots-level, conflict-sensitive, HDP nexus programming.

We however acknowledge that there is yet much ground to be covered.

To this end, the **2021 High Level Officials Meeting** – mandated by the General Assembly per the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) – called for increased resources and enhanced planning and programme implementation in support of voluntary returns, and improved capacities and cooperation among key actors for addressing the root causes of forced displacement in countries of origin.

Building on the promising practices and opportunities for scaled-up engagement on safe and dignified voluntary returns and addressing the root causes of forced displacement – with an outlook to GRF 2023 – a multi-stakeholder pledge, framed against recommendations 18 through 20 of the 2021 HLOM and contributing to GCR Objective 4, has been formulated to leverage the current momentum around area-based initiatives with strong operative linkages to security of tenure in housing, land and property in countries of origin.

This pledge also brings into sharp focus, recommendations 9 through 11 of the 2021 HLOM – in relation to GCR Objective 1 on '[Easing] pressures on host countries'. Accordingly, this pledge further seeks to leverage new and emerging financial instruments, funding windows and other platforms that promote equitable burden and responsibility sharing, increased development financing, and more flexible, predictable, and multi-year funding for refugee responses.

# Pledge Conveners



**UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency**, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. The agency is furthermore mandated to lead inter-national action to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

Formally known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 in the aftermath of the Second World War to help the millions who had lost their homes. Today UNHCR works in 135 countries – providing life-saving assistance, including shelter, food, water and medical care for people forced to flee conflict and persecution – and defends the right of such peoples to reach safety and in finding a place to call home. UNHCR supports countries in improving and monitoring refugee and asylum laws and policies, ensuring human rights are upheld.

Centrally, UNHCR considers refugees and those forced to flee as partners, putting those most affected at the centre of planning and decision-making.



**The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, and serves as focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the UN System.

UN-Habitat works with partners – including governments, intergovernmental bodies, UN agencies, civil society organizations, foundations, academic institutions and the private sector – to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities, and promotes urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty.

With a global footprint spanning more than 90 countries – promoting transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance and collaborative action – UN-Habitat has adopted a strategic and integrated approach to solving the challenges and opportunities of twenty-first century cities and other human settlements. UN-Habitat's mission embodies the four main roles of the organization, which can be summarized as: think, do, share, and partner.



**The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** is an independent humanitarian organisation helping people forced to flee. With relief efforts dating back to the post World War II era, NRC works to protect displaced people, supporting them in rebuilding their lives.

Specialising in six areas – food security, education, shelter, legal assistance, protection from violence, and water, sanitation and hygiene – NRC works in both new and protracted crises across 40 countries, working with partners across the world through NORCAP – their global provider of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding expertise – which collaborates with local, national and international partners on finding sustainable solutions to meet the needs of people at risk.

NRC is a determined advocate for displaced people, standing with those forced to flee – promoting and defending displaced people's rights and dignity in local communities, with national governments and in the international arena. NRC's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), located in Geneva, Switzerland, is a global leader in monitoring, reporting on and advocating for people displaced within their own country.



Secure housing, land and property (HLP) rights are essential to the attainment of durable solutions and long-term development outcomes - cutting across the humanitarian, development and peace-building agendas.

This multi-stakeholder pledge therefore promotes scaled-up global engagement among humanitarian and development actors in support of forcibly displaced persons, through State-led initiatives programmed with an outlook to inclusion and solutions.

**We hereby welcome your partnership and support in driving this global initiative forward.**

## Contact

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