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Parliamentary good practices: Inclusion of refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons

*Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International
Humanitarian Law. Panel debate organized with UNHCR*

Friday, 14 October 2022, 11:30 – 13:00
AD 10, ground floor, KCC

Concept note

Background

At the end of 2021, there were [89.3 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide](#) as a result of persecution, violent conflict, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. This unprecedented number includes 27.1 million refugees around the world, 83% of whom are hosted in low- and middle- income countries facing their own economic and development challenges. In addition, 4.3 million people are known to be stateless.

Past years have witnessed a steady increase in the number of forcibly displaced people – men and women, boys and girls. While the vulnerability of displaced populations is a major concern, efforts to facilitate their inclusion and build their autonomy have proven to be a powerful way to alleviate the impact of these dramatic situations both on those that have left everything behind as well as on communities that host them.

The [Global Compact on Refugees \(GCR\)](#) provides a blueprint for governments and other stakeholders on refugee protection, assistance and solutions, through more predictable and equitable responsibility sharing with all stakeholders, with the aim to progress on inclusion of refugees in national systems of the countries that host them. The GCR also appeals for support for the prevention and resolution of statelessness in line with the [#IBelongCampaign](#) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its transformative promise to [Leave No One Behind](#). The Global Refugee Forum (GRF), held every four years, aims to translate the goals of the GCR into action, through pledges, sharing of good practices, as well as financial and technical contributions.

By enabling inclusion in national systems with the right legislation, policies and practices in place, States ensure a more holistic, effective, and coordinated response that can benefit both host and refugee populations and stateless people. In return, it is expected that host countries receive greater support from development actors to be able to provide inclusive and strengthened national services.

Parliamentary action is key for a solutions-oriented agenda on inclusion. Legal status gives access to basic services, such as documentation and civil registration, employment, education, health care, and social services. Policies that support effective inclusion enable forcibly displaced and stateless people to actively participate in all aspects of life of the host societies which, in turn, reinforces social cohesion.

For example, by enabling their access to birth registration and education, refugee and stateless children can exercise their rights, access services, and achieve their full potential to become active contributors to society. By connecting refugee hosting areas to water and sanitation facilities through infrastructure investments, refugee and host communities alike can benefit from sustainable access to clean water and sanitation, improving overall hygiene and health. By allowing mothers to transmit nationality to their children, legislation can prevent statelessness and ensure respect of the right to a nationality, to freedom of movement, to participate in public and political life, to exercise socio-economic and cultural rights.

This open debate will focus on an exchange of good practices, on innovative and inspiring ways that can be replicated, in whole or in part, in the relevant contexts to ensure inclusion, and to make meaningful connections between parliamentary action and the implementation of the GCR. The debate will bring together members of parliaments from around the world to share their experiences related to legislation, policy and national development plans as they deliver on their GRF pledges.

Key questions:

1. How can we build on countries' experiences to collaboratively improve the inclusion of refugees and stateless persons in national systems?
2. What are the critical gaps and challenges that hinder the inclusion of refugees, internally displaced populations and stateless persons?
3. How have inclusion and enhanced autonomy of displaced populations benefitted host communities? Which innovative initiatives that have been implemented in this area have facilitated such inclusion?
4. What are the specific needs of groups that are vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, inequality, in particular women and girls?

Presentations will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A session on how good practices in refugee management can be expanded to catalyze positive change in national policies, as we look ahead to the 2030 Agenda. Panellists and participants are invited to discuss potential measures to further strengthen the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national systems while boosting national development priorities. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Arabic and Spanish.