

Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement 2023 Concept Note

Background and context

In June 2022, Ireland assumed the Chair of the 2023 Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR). The Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth will serve as the State Chair and Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre will serve as the NGO Co-Chair.

In December 2023 at the convening of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), United Nations Member States will be asked to announce pledges and contributions towards meeting the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The Irish Chairs are committed to working closely with UNHCR and the Refugee Advisory Group in continuing the work of previous ATCR Chairs in facilitating an opportunity for key stakeholders including UNHCR, governments, NGOs, refugees and academia to share new ideas and new solutions through the ATCR and the Working Group on Resettlement (WGR), key platforms for information sharing and conversations on operational and policy matters relating to resettlement.

The ATCR in 2023 will be held on June 26 – 28 in Geneva, against a backdrop of unprecedented numbers of people forcibly displaced across the world, with the UNHCR reporting over 100 million displaced in May 2022 for the first time on record. In stark terms, 1 in every 78 people on earth has been forced to flee. The impact of increased refugee flows on neighbouring countries has created significant challenges for finding durable solutions with low-income countries continuing to host a disproportionately large share of the world's displaced population.

At the same time, resettlement programmes continue to recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the number of places being dwarfed by the global need for resettlement.

The Afghan situation and the war in Ukraine has led to planned resettlement processing and arrivals slowing down in many countries, as resources and reception capacity are utilized to respond to these crises. Nonetheless, these situations have prompted enormous support from the public and private sector while raising the profile of refugee issues in many countries. This creates new opportunities to increase support for resettlement and build on community sponsorship and other initiatives to expand and develop national resettlement programmes over the years to come.

Learning in crisis: Building solutions together

Building towards the Global Refugee Forum 2023, ATCR 2023 will bring stakeholders and experts together from across the wider resettlement community to examine and look for solutions on the following challenging questions and themes:

- **How do we build and maintain commitments for equitable resettlement programmes in the face of emerging crises?** We will look at the innovations and solutions that have been found in responding to emergency displacements, and examine how we can meet this challenge by building on these innovations to shape stronger resettlement programmes into the future.
- **In the year of the Global Refugee Forum, how do we grow the number of resettlement places by engaging new resettlement countries and providing solutions for building and maintaining capacity in smaller resettlement programmes?** We will explore the unique challenges faced by emerging and smaller resettlement programmes, sharing successes as well as examining best practices in larger programmes to point to a way forward.
- **How do we continue to build community sponsorship to support and grow resettlement opportunities for refugees and enhance integration outcomes?** Significant work has been carried out to advance community sponsorship in recent years. In advance of the Global Refugee Forum 2023, we will reflect on the challenges and successes of this work.
- **What progress has been made following the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 in finding durable and sustainable solutions for refugees including through complementary pathways programmes?** We will reflect on the *Third Country Solutions for Refugees: Roadmap 2030* and the challenges and successes of complementary pathway programmes as well as examining solutions for building the capacity of refugees who are still in first countries of asylum.
- **Recognising the challenge of expanding resettlement programmes in today's environment, we ask how host countries can build community support for resettlement by changing the narrative and highlighting the positive impact of refugee resettlement?** We will examine approaches to ensure refugees and refugee voices within our communities become integral parts of resettlement programmes continuing to improve decision making, ensuring that all stakeholders understand the positive impact of refugee resettlement in our societies.