

GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023

Mega Pledge on Economic  
Inclusion and Social Protection



# Law and Policy

Technical co-convenor:  
International Labour Organization

# OBJECTIVES OF THE LAW AND POLICY PILLAR

Pledges, from state and non state actors, **build enabling environments** for economic inclusion through **adopting and/or strengthening laws & policies** and/or **withdrawing reservations/declarations** to the 1951 Refugee Convention and/or the 1954 Statelessness Convention.

Among others, these may pertain to:

- Right to work
- Access to documentation and legal status
- Rights at work, including freedom of association and collective bargaining
- Access to financial services and to business
- Inclusive national social protection systems
- Access to justice and legal services
- Access to education and training
- Equality and non-discrimination
- Access to productive land and property
- Freedom of movement



development services

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# RATIONALE

**Restrictive environments** are pushing refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless persons into informal, low-skilled, insecure employment exacerbating social tension, decent work deficits, abuse and exploitation (incl. SGBV, child labour, forced labour), and poverty.

**Favourable environments** enable refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and members of host communities, to become potential workers, entrepreneurs and employers whose rights are protected in the labour market and are covered by social protection schemes that make them more self-reliant resilient to future shocks.

# GOAL

- Over the next four years, at least **15 States** - with the support of relevant stakeholders- adopt and/or strengthen laws or policies supporting economic inclusion and social protection.



# EXAMPLE 1 – INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

PLEDGE: Adopt/amend law and implementing decree/regulation to build inclusive national social protection schemes benefitting host communities and refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

## ***Some benefits of inclusive national social protection:***

- Builds resilience and protection from future shocks
- Provides sustainable and cost-effective solutions to move out of humanitarian assistance, particularly in protracted situations
- Increases the number of social security contributions (better risk-pooling)
- Reduces social tensions between host communities and refugees (no parallel systems)



## EXAMPLE 2 – FINANCIAL INCLUSION

PLEDGE: Adopt/amend regulatory policies allowing refugees, other forcibly displaced persons and stateless persons to access and use financial services.

### ***Some benefits of financial inclusion:***

- Promotes resilience and self-reliance as they can build up savings
- Capacitates them to rebuild livelihoods, especially with access to credit and insurance
- Empowers them to build assets and make productive investments in both origin and host countries
- Increases their economic participation enabled by the facilitated day-to-day financial transactions,



## ROLE OF THE ILO AS TECHNICAL CO-CONVENER

*How we can help strengthen pledges?*

- Providing feedback in line with ILO's mandate to **social justice and decent work** – protecting the rights and interests of all workers, including those employed in countries other than their own – and following **international labour standards**.
- Promoting **social dialogue** through the ILO's tripartite structure that brings together governments, employers' and workers' organizations.
- Tapping into **lessons learned** from our various work on forced displacement and mixed migration contexts, notably in Türkiye, in the 8 countries of the PROSPECTS partnership, and in the Latin America and Caribbean region.
- Making sure that the **principle of non-discrimination and equality of opportunity and treatment** applies.



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