



**Secure Housing
Land and Property Rights**
From Emergency Response to Durable Solutions

A Global Refugee Forum
HIGH - LEVEL SIDE EVENT



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Event Description

A central arrangement of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), this 2nd edition of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) presents a unique opportunity for States and their national and international partners to take stock of the important human rights dimensions of secure access to housing, land, and property for refugee and returnee men, women and children and their host communities.



15th
DECEMBER
2023

11:00 - 12:45^{CET}

Venue: Palexpo, Salle/ Room P

This event is part of the efforts towards renewed political will, resource mobilization, and additional in-kind support to address tenure-related challenges and enable sustainable pathways to durable solutions and long-term development and peace outcomes.

Drawing on the experiences of key State and non-state actors, this event seeks to reinforce an already compelling case for more predictable, equitable, and sustainable HLP responses to the HLP challenges in the context of new and protracted displacement.

Information Box 1

Event Format: Panel (Davos-style) – Moderated high-level panel discussion (10-minute keynote to open and 10-minute strategic reflections to close)

Geographic Focus: Global/Multi-region

Country Examples: Burundi; Colombia; Honduras; Poland

Objectives



1. To highlight the depth, breadth, drivers, and consequences of insecure tenure on refugee and returnee populations and their host communities;
2. To demonstrate how comprehensive strategies for securing rights in housing, land and property are fostering resilient communities and enhancing capacity for voluntary return and sustainable reintegration, while establishing pathways to local integration; and
3. To inspire renewed political interest (at the national and subnational levels), the earmarking of resources (via various financial instruments and technical assistance programmes), and in-kind support for addressing the tenure-related challenges faced by forcibly displaced populations and their host communities.

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 peacebuilding efforts of said actors in addressing the root causes of displacement – complemented by grassroots-level conflict-sensitive, HDP nexus programming – we acknowledge the progress made towards preventing and resolving forced displacement and the resultant impact on both countries of origin and asylum, mindful that there is yet much ground to be covered.

To this end, the 2021 High Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) – mandated by the General Assembly, as per the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) – called for increased resources and enhanced planning and programme implementation supporting 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.

Prospective pledging entities – including Member States, multi-lateral financial institutions, development cooperation and foreign aid agencies, refugee-led, civil society and humanitarian organizations – with a vested interest in supporting conditions in countries of origin for safe and dignified returns, while promoting local integration and other local solutions are hereby invited to offer consideration towards the following.

Speaking Roles

Moderator, Keynotes, Panelists, Discussants

1. **Moderator:** Mr. Mamadou Dian Balde, Director, UNHCR Regional Bureau for East and Horn, and Great Lakes Region of Africa
2. **Keynote 1:** Mr. Haoliang Xu, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (Secure Housing, Land and Property Rights – From Emergency Response to Durable Solutions) – Address to be framed in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) (+ Pledge Announcement)
3. **Keynote 2:** Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat (Secure Housing, Land and Property Rights – From Emergency Response to Durable Solutions) – Address to be framed in the context of the New Urban Agenda (+ Pledge Announcement)

Panelists:

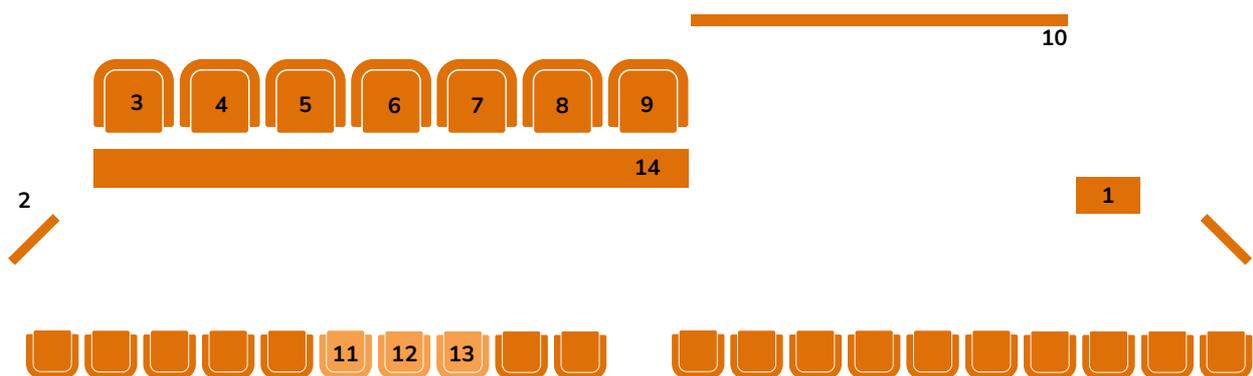
4. **Government of the Republic of Burundi – Hon. Martin Niteretse, Minister of Interior** (Promoting Sustainable Return and Reintegration for Burundian Refugees – The role of secure housing, land and property rights) + Pledge Announcement

5. **INGO Representative: Mr. Chris Lukkien, CEO, ZOA International** (Comprehensive Land Certification for Sustainable Return and Reintegration – Lessons from Burundi)
+ **Pledge Announcement**
6. **UN System Partner – Key Expert: Dr. Joan Kagwanja, Chief, Agriculture and Business Enabling Environment & Coordinator, African Land Policy Centre (ALPC)** (Mainstreaming Forced Displacement in the implementation of the AU’s Agenda on Land)
7. **Government of Honduras – Hon. Mrs. Natalie Roque, Minister of the Secretariat of Human Rights** (Addressing low cadastral coverage, the pervasive lack of title and multiple claims as aggravating factors of forced displacement in Honduras) + **Pledge Announcement**
8. **Nansen Regional Winner – Americas: Ms. Elizabeth Moreno Barco, Human Rights Activist** (Restoring Land Rights for Forcibly Displaced Persons in Colombia - the Case of Conflict and Displacement in the Department of Chocó)
9. **City of Wroclaw, Poland – Mr. Jakub Mazur, Deputy Mayor** (The Merits of Inclusive Policies on Housing, Land and Property – Lessons from the City of Wroclaw’s Response to Forced Displacement) + **Pledge Announcement**
10. **Strategic Reflections: Ms. Marit Glad, Global Programme Director, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** + **Pledge Announcement**

Each keynote address and the strategic reflection have been allocated 7 minutes; the panel discussion, 45 minutes; floor interventions, 20 minutes; and Moderator’s final charge, 5 minutes.

Stage Design

Venue: Palexpo, Salle/ Room P



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|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Podium | 6. Mr. Mamadou Dian Balde | 11. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN-Habitat |
| 2. Event Corporate Banner | 7. Hon. Martin Niteretse, Burundi | 12. Mr. Haoliang Xu, UNDP |
| 3. Mr. Jakub Mazur, City of Wroclaw | 8. Mr. Chris Lukkien, ZOA | 13. Ms. Marit Glad, NRC |
| 4. Hon. Natalie Roque, Honduras | 9. Dr. Joan Kagwanja, UNECA | 14. Head Table |
| 5. Ms. Elizabeth Moreno Barco, Nansen Winner (Americas) | 10. Digital Display (Event Branding) | |

Keynote Speakers Bios



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Executive Director
UN-Habitat

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif is the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) – an office held since 2017, at the level of Under-Secretary-General. Since joining the United Nations, Ms. Sharif has reformed and repositioned UN-Habitat as a thought leader in sustainable urbanization. She is a vocal advocate for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and the nationally determined contributions to the Climate Action Paris Agreement.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat as Executive Director, Ms. Sharif served as Mayor of the City Council of Penang Island, Malaysia and in 2011, became the first woman to be appointed President of the Municipal Council of Seberang Perai, Malaysia.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Haoliang Xu
Associate Administrator
UNDP

Haoliang Xu was appointed UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator by the United Nations Secretary-General in June 2023.

Prior to this, Mr. Xu served in various substantive roles within the United Nations Development Programme – including as Assistant Administrator, Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Deputy Regional Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan, just to mention a few.

Coming to share with us from his wealth of experience and rich perspective on the role of secure housing, land and property rights in advancing durable solutions and long-term development outcomes, kindly join me in welcoming our first Featured Speaker for today, Mr. Haoliang Xu – UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator.

Moderator & Guest of Honour Bios



MODERATOR
Mamadou Dian Balde
Director, Regional Bureau for
East and Horn of Africa and
the Great Lakes, UNHCR

Mamadou Dian Balde assumed his functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Director for the Regional Bureau of the East, Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes in Nairobi, Kenya on 01 July 2023. He has also been the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Sudan Situation since 14 June 2023.

Prior to his current assignment, Mamadou Dian Balde worked as the UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia. He was previously the Deputy Director of UNHCR's Division of Resilience and Solutions (DRS) at UNHCR's HQ in Geneva. In this capacity, he oversaw and supported UNHCR's global programmes on education; livelihoods and economic inclusion; social protection; food security; and durable solutions.

Mamadou Dian Balde has worked with UNHCR for over 24 years, with field postings in Africa (Benin, Chad, Ethiopia, Liberia, and others), and Asia (South Korea), as well as at the organization's headquarters in Switzerland. Mamadou Balde holds a Ph.D. in International Law, from the Université Catholique de Louvain and has researched and taught International Human Rights Law



GUEST OF HONOUR
Elizabeth Moreno Barco
Nansen Regional Award 2023
(Americas) | Human Rights
Activist

Ms. Elizabeth Moreno Barco was the first woman to be elected as the legal representative of ACADESAN, a territorial council that promotes and protects the rights of 72 Afro-Colombian communities living in the San Juan region, and has served two terms of office since 2015. She also serves as the coordinator of the Chocó Solidarity Inter-ethnic Forum (FISCH), which promotes development based on ethnic culture and knowledge, while tackling issues such as forced displacement and confinement. Early this year Elizabeth was Colombia's Advocate of the Year, and won the 2023 Regional Nansen Refugee Award for the Americas.

Traveling to Cuba, she took part in the peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), managing to get five municipalities from the region to be explicitly included in development plans. And in October 2022, she addressed the UN Security Council, giving remote video testimony about the systematic violation of their economic, cultural, social and environmental rights of the communities she represents.

Speakers & Panelists Bios



SPEAKER
Marit Glad
Global Programme Director
Norwegian Refugee Council

Ms. Marit Glad is a Norwegian national with over fifteen (15) years' experience in the humanitarian sector, across programmes, policy and advocacy, from both field and headquarters. For the past years, she has been leading NRC's global programmes. Ensuring continuous programme development and innovation and providing oversight of programme quality and relevance across NRCs 40 country operations. Has a master's degree in international relations from the University of Florence, Italy, and worked in both private sector and academia before joining the aid world.



PANELIST
Hon. Martin Niteretse
Minister of Interior
Burundi

Martin Niteretse was appointed Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Safety in September 2022.

Prior to his current office, Mr. Niteretse had a career in administration. He has previously served as State Inspector and was a member of the Burundi Senate and the Pan-African Parliament.



PANELIST
Jakub Mazur
Deputy Mayor, City of
Wroclaw, Poland

In his role as First Deputy Mayor of Wrocław, **Jakub Mazur** supervises the Department of City Development and Strategy and acts as a representative for international affairs. He is also in charge of urban planning and land use plan management, architecture, construction administration, city aesthetics, monument preservation, economic development, geodesy and land cadastre. He is also the representative of the city and associations in governmental projects.

Jakub Mazur is a graduate of the University of Economics in Wrocław (Department of National Economy), the University of Wrocław (Department of Law and Administration) and holds an Executive MBA from the London Apsley Business School.

Jakub Mazur has 20 years of corporate and business experience, most notably as a business consultant specializing in incorporation, floatation, including formation of start-ups and as a company agent and promoter. He has successfully introduced economic entities to the Stock Exchange, and has expertise in areas including IT, e-commerce, energy, advertisement, marketing, brand strategies and the construction sector.

Speakers & Panelists Bios



PANELIST
Hon. Natalie Roque,
Secretary of State in the Office
of Human Rights, Honduras

Natalie Roque Sandoval is a historian by profession, specializing in memory, citizenship and human rights. She holds Masters degrees in Social Anthropology and Cultural Heritage. In her career, she has managed cultural projects at National University of Honduras and has collaborated with institutions in Nicaragua and Honduras. In the same manner, she serves as a defender of women's rights, with an added emphasis on sexual and reproductive rights, cultural rights and historical memory. Her participation in the context of the Honduran resistance after the 2009 coup has seen her committed to the fight against human rights violations. Currently, she serves as Secretary of State in the Human Rights Offices in the government of President Xiomara Castro.



PANELIST
Dr. Joan Kagwanja
Coordinator, African Land
Policy Centre (ALPC)

Ms. Joan Kagwanja is Chief, Agriculture and Business Enabling Environment Section (ABEES) and Coordinator of the African Land Policy Center (ALPC), UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). She has over 25 years experience in African development, having held positions at the ECA, The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), among others.

As the Chief of ABEES, Ms. Kagwanja has led in the development and implementation of programmes that develop evidence based tools, advocacy and capacity to transform african agriculture and food systems, leverage innovative climate smart solutions and digitalisation approaches, while enhancing the role of women, youth, and smallholders.



PANELIST
Chris Lukkien
Chief Executive Officer
ZOA International

Mr. Chris Th. Lukkien has over 30 years of international experience in the relief and development sector both in Africa and at headquarters level and joined ZOA as CEO in 2017.

With around 1,000 staff members, ZOA is working in relief and recovery projects in crisis areas worldwide that are struck by natural disasters or armed conflicts. With his strategic and logical thinking skills he has been urging for creative solutions to address challenging issues while building consensus.

Besides his position as CEO of ZOA, Mr. Lukkien currently chairs EU-CORD, a pan-European network of over 20 NGOs in the relief and development sector that work together in the area of policy influencing (advocacy) and EU project/programme funding.

Multistakeholder Pledge

Durable Solutions through Secure Housing, Land and Property Rights

This Multistakeholder Pledge effectively promotes durable solutions with a primary emphasis on sustainable return and reintegration, local integration and other local solutions, and thereby contributes to Objectives 1 and 4 of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) – to ease pressures on host countries and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

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, peace-building and bringing displacement to an end – the pledge has been framed squarely against recommendations 18 through 20 and 9 through 11 of the 2021 High Level Officials Meeting on the GCR.

Secure access to adequate housing and 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 – just to mention a few – and is therefore a key factor in addressing the human and societal impact of climate change, land degradation, desertification, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, urbanization, the differentiated experiences of men, women and children in certain parts of the world, and the consequent escalation of tensions over access to and use of land and natural resources and forced displacement.

Pledging Areas of Focus

By committing to this Multistakeholder Pledge, stakeholders agree to support the advancement of durable solutions via any of these five Key Areas of Focus:

- 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.

Organizers and 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 high-level side event therefore marks a key juncture in our joint efforts to promote scaled-up global engagement among humanitarian and development actors in support of refugees, refugee returnees and their host communities, through State-led initiatives programmed with an outlook to inclusion and solutions.

Contact

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