

Terms of Reference

Chair and Vice-Chair

Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees

1. Introduction

The Chair of the Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR Support Platform), with support of the Vice-Chair, leads the strategic focus of the Core Group and represents the Core Group as outlined below.

In these functions, they are supported by UNHCR as the Secretariat of the SSAR Support Platform and as a member of the Quadripartite Steering Committee for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).

1.1. The Chair and the Vice Chair

The Chair and Vice-Chair are the public representatives of the Core Group. In this capacity, they are guided by the objectives of the Support Platform -- as indicated in Core Groups Terms of Reference¹ and the Modalities of the Support Platform² – as well as the principles and objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

The Vice-Chair shall generally support the Chair as mutually agreed, including by deputizing for the Chair as needed and contributing to the development of an annual work plan and agendas for meetings of the Global Core Group.

The Chair and Vice-Chair will maintain communication with other Core Group Members, the Secretariat of the SSAR Support Platform, and the Director of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific.

1.2. Duration

Upon mutual agreement between Core Group Members, the Chair and Vice-Chair will serve for a limited time, for a minimum of one year and not expected to exceed two years. It is customary, but not obligatory, that the Vice-Chair would subsequently assume the Chairmanship, supporting continuity in strategic vision and engagement.

1.3. SSAR Support Platform Secretariat

In their responsibilities, the Chair and Vice-Chair are supported by the Secretariat. The Secretariat's primary role is to support and manage the routine affairs of the Platform, including ensuring that meetings of the Core Group are appropriately organized and that the Core Group functions are consistent with an annual work plan and other strategic documents. The Secretariat will prepare and support all meetings of the Core Group, including documentation as required, in consultation with the Chair.

2. Tasks of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair, with the support of the Vice-Chair, oversees and guides the Core Group in pursuit of the four objectives of a Support Platform, as provided in the Global Compact on Refugees³:

¹ [Terms of Reference Core Group of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan refugees \(SSAR\) Support Platform](#), 12 February 2020.

² [Modalities of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees \(SSAR\) to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries](#), 18 February 2022.

³ [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (2018), paragraphs 22-27.

- I. Galvanizing political commitment and advocacy for prevention, protection, response, and solutions.
- II. Mobilizing financial, material, and technical assistance, resettlement opportunities, and complementary pathways for admission to third countries
- III. Facilitating coherent humanitarian and development responses, including through the early and sustained engagement of development actors; and
- IV. Supporting comprehensive policy initiatives to ease pressure on host countries, build resilience and self-reliance, and find solutions.

Toward those objectives, the Chair and Vice-Chair, may undertake the following:

1. Leadership and strategic vision

- In consultation with the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and its Director, and with the support of the SSAR Support Platform Secretariat, develop annual objectives and a work plan for the Core Group of the SSAR and ensure its implementation.
- Convene and chair meetings of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform, including developing the meeting agenda with the Secretariat; ensuring for high-level participation; and enabling informed discussion, decision-making, and follow-up.
- Organize ad-hoc meetings of the Core Group as appropriate, based on regional developments.
- In the work of the Core Group, which functions at the global level, facilitate communication and exchange with local core groups as convened in Kabul, Tehran and Islamabad, to reinforce linkages and common priorities in line with the objectives of the SSAR.

2. Mobilize targeted support

- Advocate for predictable and sustained financial, political, and technical support, emphasizing additional contributions and new initiatives, from Core Group members and other international actors.
- In consultation with UNHCR, support the mobilization of diverse stakeholders, including non-traditional donors, development agencies, bilateral development actors, international financial institutions, civil society, and the private sector, in support of the operational priorities of the SSAR.
- With regard to the Global Refugee Forum, stimulate and facilitate pledges by Core Group Members, including possible coordination in line with the objectives of the SSAR.

3. Representation and advocacy

- Represent the Core Group in international high-level meetings such as the Global Refugee Forum, in particular as these relate to the Global Compact on Refugees and the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, with the support of the Secretariat.
- Seek opportunities to engage with global stakeholders in support of the objectives of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees.
- Promote awareness and continued visibility of the Afghan refugee situation.