



Note on Governance

MIRPS Support Platform

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) affords for a number of specific “arrangements” to achieve more equitable and predictable burden and responsibility-sharing with host countries and their communities, and to invest in solutions, including through assistance in countries of origin. This includes national arrangements, regional responses, and support platforms. The GCR provides flexibility regarding the organization, structure and function of support platforms, indicating that they should be context specific.

a. **The general objectives of the MIRPS Support Platform, as described in the GCR are defined as follows:**

- Galvanizing political commitment and advocacy for prevention, protection, response, and solutions to forced displacement.
- Mobilizing financial, material, and technical assistance to address the impact and root causes of forced displacement, as well as resettlement and complementary pathways for admission to third countries, in support of the comprehensive plan (GRC para 21), where applicable, drawing on Global Refugee Forum pledges.
- Facilitating coherent humanitarian and development responses, including through the early and sustained engagement of development actors in support of host communities and refugees; and
- Supporting comprehensive policy initiatives to ease pressure on host countries, build resilience and self-reliance, and find solutions. (GCR, para. 23)

Additionally, the MIRPS Support Platform will:

- Support the MIRPS by providing greater visibility to the context of forced displacement within international fora, highlighting national level policy commitments and achievements, and unmet financial and technical support needs, to further greater burden and responsibility sharing.
- Establish dialogue for coordination and the exchange of good practices within the framework of existing regional and multilateral bodies and other fora, including within the Organization of American States (OAS), to complement existing coordination process and related mechanisms in the region; and
- Document lessons learned and good practices to share with other regional Support Platforms.

b. Membership

The MIRPS Support Platform is composed by a group of States or Union of States and other key stakeholders, including development actors who demonstrate sustained engagement and solidarity with the forced displacement situations in Central America and Mexico and, who intend to make concrete commitments to support the efforts of MIRPS States to prevent, protect, respond and seek solutions to the displacement situation in the region.

- Each Member will nominate focal points for the Platform based in their capital, as well as a focal point from their Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva, and to the OAS in Washington.

New members eligibility

Membership is open to other States and/or Union of States, and other key stakeholders on a voluntary basis, who wish to actively engage and contribute in concrete ways to the objectives of the Platform.

- Expressions of interest to join the Platform will be provided to the Chair and Secretariat in writing, indicating ways to actively engage and contribute. The Chair will formally consult Platform members in turn through a silent non-objection procedure for a two (2) weeks period.
- Members can leave the Platform on an open-ended basis, after notification in writing to the Chair and Secretariat.

How the Support Platform members support the MIRPS States and Chair activities (*Below is a non-exhaustive list detailing the type of assistance, cooperation, or support*)

- Provide development assistance, including technical support, in one or more focus areas; protection, health, education, social protection, jobs and livelihoods, based on the commitment within the MIRPS National Action Plans.
- Align pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum with support to the MIRPS National Action Plans.
- Increase the number of resettlement places for nationals in need of protection from Central America and Mexico.
- Establish complementary pathways, such as education grants, labour pathways, and private sponsorship programmes for asylum seekers and refugees from Central America.
- Provide financial support to MIRPS States to cover financial gaps within the MIRPS National Action Plans.
- Provide financial support to UN Agencies and NGOs to support the implementation of specific commitments within the MIRPS National Action Plans.
- Engage additional actors through the Platform to broaden the base of support to the MIRPS.
- Participate as champion platform country at the MIRPS National Coordination Groups.
- Play a leadership role in implementing activities identified throughout the year by the MIRPS Support Platform Chair-in-Office.
- Serve as a MIRPS Ambassador and facilitate engagement with development actors who have activities in MIRPS States.

- Engage private sector actors within their country who can support the objectives of the MIRPS.

c. Observers

States and/or a Union of States or other stakeholders and other key stakeholders, including development actors, who may seek either temporary or permanent observer status in the Support Platform. Observers may attend or request to attend Support Platform meetings and events, they do not hold any decision-making functions within the Platform.

Criteria for status:

- Demonstrate engagement, or an interest in engagement, and solidarity with the forced displacement situations in Central America and Mexico

Potential observers may approach the Support Platform to be considered for status by their own volition or by invitation. Observers who state an interest to become members would then follow the new member procedure as outlined above.

d. The Troika

To ensure an enduring and sustainable governance structure for the Support Platform, a Troika model of leadership will be implemented in July 2022 at the start of a new Chair-in-Office with the aim to facilitate smooth transitions between Chairs and provide stability and programming coherence.

Structure:

There will be a Chair-in-Office, Past Chair and Future Chair, each of whom will be appointed from amongst the States and/or Union of States that comprise the Support Platform membership.

Terms:

The Chair-in-Office will lead and guide the work of the Platform on a yearly basis. Their term runs from July to July of every year. The exact date for the transfer of the role of Chair will be arranged by the Chair-in-Office and Future Chair depending on planned events.

The Past Chair will remain on board for an additional year following their tenure as Chair-in-Office.

The Future Chair will become involved upon confirmation of their appointment by December 31st of the corresponding year. Expressions of interest for Future Chairs will be provided to Chair-in-Office and Platform Secretariat in writing by December 1. The Secretariat will then formally consult all Platform members through a silent two-week non-objection procedure.

The Troika will:

- Assist and advise the Chair-in-Office on the yearly work plan (in consultation with MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency and as endorsed by Members) and on the Chair tenure “theme,” if they choose to designate one.
- Support the Chair-in-Office in ideation and planning of calendar of activities including meetings and events, as needed and appropriate.
- Discuss strategic and political issues related to the Support Platform to ensure its sustainability and effectiveness as a regional response framework.
- Assist the Chair-in-Office to seek political, financial, technical and material/in kind commitments to respond to the needs identified by MIRPS country National Action Plans.

- Promote engagement between the Support Platform members and the MIRPS countries among activities in the yearly work plan, as well as via the organization of a meeting in Geneva during the Chair-in-Office tenure (as feasible).
- Establish a succession of Chairs, including creating a roster of interested states, to support ongoing organizational stability and ensure the MIRPS SP's ongoing effectiveness.

e. Secretariat

- The Platform will be supported by a Secretariat, formed by UNHCR and OAS.
- Will attend Troika meetings and support the Chair-in-Office to identify timing for meetings when all members are available, brings forward agenda items for Troika to discuss that pertain to organizational governance issues.
- Will assist the Troika in the implementation of the Work Plan of the Chair-in-Office, including the preparation of meetings, research, providing relevant documentation and reporting, including regular reporting on the work of the Platform to the UN General Assembly and the Executive Committee of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

f. Meetings

- Meetings will be held virtually and in-person.
- Meetings will be organized quarterly at a minimum, or more frequently as required and will be called by the Chair-in-Office.
- The Agenda of the meeting will be set by the Chair-in-Office consulting the Troika and Secretariat, as appropriate.
- Meetings in person, when required, will be organized by the Chair-in-Office with the support of the Secretariat.
- The Troika will participate in the MIRPS Annual Meeting. Platform members, will also participate as possible.

g. Quorum

- The meeting can proceed when two thirds of the members of the Platform are present.
- Decisions will be taken by consensus on all matters upon proposal of the Troika or by one of the Members of the Platform, with the Chair-in-Office's concurrence.