

Advancing Asylum Capacity Development through the GCR: Reflecting on Current Challenges and State Responses

Concept Note and Agenda

Date: 10 December 2024

Time: 9:00-10:30 am & 15:30 to 17:00 pm CET (with English, Arabic, French and Spanish interpretation)

Format: Virtual

Background and objective

Against a background of increasing forced displacement resulting in exacerbated pressures on national asylum systems, States have sought to make improvements to enhance the fairness, efficiency, adaptability and integrity of national asylum procedures. Based on an analysis of the challenges, numerous States have conducted reviews and reform of existing processes, structures, functions and capacities to better handle the growing demand. With one year before the High-Level Officials Meeting, and against the backdrop of UNHCR's soon to be released strategy on strengthening national asylum systems, the dialogue platform of the Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG) will hold an event to take stock of challenges, developments and opportunities.

The event will canvass common challenges identified by States in their asylum procedures, related to law and policy frameworks, institutional and procedural aspects, the workforce and the information, support to and engagement of asylum-seekers in the asylum process. It will also reflect on the various approaches to analyzing and implementing improvements to the functioning of asylum systems that States have undertaken in advancing the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees. This event will bring together relevant State actors and other stakeholders to identify key areas and aspects of procedural and technical support that can be further developed by the stakeholders in the ACSG and which should be reflected in UNHCR's upcoming strategy and its implementation.

The event will also provide an opportunity for UNHCR to launch a self-assessment tool that will be available to support States evaluate their asylum systems comprehensively.

Draft agenda

The programme will be structured as follows:

- I. Opening
- II. Introduction to the upcoming UNHCR Strategy on strengthening national asylum systems
- III. Presentations by geographically diverse States and other stakeholders on comprehensive reviews and reform of asylum systems
- IV. Launch of the Asylum Capacity Self-Assessment Tool
- V. Questions and comments
- VI. Closing

ACSG Secretariat, November 2024