ASYLUM CAPACITY SUPPORT GROUP
GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

Supported by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

Responsible Innovation for Refugee Protection: AI and Asylum Procedures
Concept note and agenda

Date: Tuesday 10 November 2026
Time: 3:30 - 5:00 pm CET (with Arabic, English, French and Spanish interpretation)
Format: Virtual

Background and objectives

Persistent and emerging conflicts, rising forced displacement, mixed and onwards movements of refugees and migrants, limited resources and lack of investment in asylum systems are placing pressure on asylum institutions in all regions. By the end of 2025, over 9 million asylum-seekers were awaiting decisions on their claims globally.

In response, States are looking for practical solutions to strengthen the efficiency and integrity of their asylum systems, while ensuring quality, accessibility and fairness. Investing in asylum systems helps reduce long-term costs, ease pressure on institutions and host communities, and contributes to more predictable asylum and migration management. A well-functioning asylum system provides effective access to protection and enables fair and timely decisions on all claims and helps ensure that unfounded claims are decided quickly and that asylum remains focused on those who genuinely deserve protection.

Technology, strong data management and innovation can modernize asylum processing, enabling more responsive, efficient and fair systems. There is growing interest in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support various aspects of asylum administration and processing. Developments in AI over the past years have transformed the ability of digital tools to process language, retrieve and organize information, identify patterns and support workflow management. In light of these developments, States and other stakeholders are considering whether AI can help address legal, operational and institutional pressures, improve efficiency and strengthen service delivery across a range of public administration functions, including asylum procedures. At the same time, the deployment of AI in asylum systems presents important risks and regulatory challenges. These include the potential for bias, weak accountability, inadequate safeguards, and diminished human responsibility. If not carefully managed, such risks may affect procedural fairness, accountability and confidence in asylum decision-making processes and can ultimately have adverse consequences for the asylum applicant. Any use of AI should therefore be guided by identified needs and protection objectives, and a careful assessment of risks, rather than technological capabilities alone.

The Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG), a special initiative of the Global Compact on Refugees, aims to increase the availability and effectiveness of asylum capacity support to States and to match capacity needs with offers of financial, material or technical support. Facilitating exchange of knowledge and expertise among States and other stakeholders, the ACSG is hosting a virtual event to explore how different stakeholders are considering the responsible use of AI in support of their asylum systems. The event will provide a forum to reflect on the potential opportunities, risks, and unresolved policy questions associated with the use of AI in asylum systems and its impact on international protection. Discussion will focus on the responsible development, deployment and implementation of AI, including the costs, safeguards and mitigation and oversight measures required to ensure that any reforms contribute to the fairness, efficiency, adaptability, integrity and accessibility of asylum systems. The event will feature States and other stakeholders' experiences and emerging practices, highlight lessons learned and

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challenges, and identify ways and practical actions to support an effective and responsible implementation of AI as a tool while preserving human judgement and oversight in asylum systems and international protection.

Agenda

The event will be interactive with panelists sharing experiences and insights on developing and implementing AI responsibly in asylum and supporting procedures. There will also be time for comments and feedback. The programme will be structured as follows:

i. Opening
ii. Presentation by Diana Dekkers, Deputy Director, Legal Affairs Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service Netherlands
iii. Presentation by Troy McMillan, Strategic Advisor to the Chief Information Officer Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
iv. Presentation by Tamas Molnar, Project Officer, Justice, Digital and Migration Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
v. Presentation by Professor Daniel Ghezelbash, Director, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW Sydney, Australia
vi. Q&A and discussion

Outcome

UNHCR will produce a summary document which draws from key perspectives, recommendations and lessons learned showcased during the event, ahead of the 2027 Global Refugee Forum. The document will be circulated to participants and made available on the ACSG portal.

Asylum Capacity Support Group Secretariat, November 2026