

Terms of Reference

Advisory Committee for the Global Alliance to End Statelessness

Background

The Global Alliance to End Statelessness is a multi-stakeholder platform consisting of Member States, regional intergovernmental organizations, civil society and stateless-led organizations, UN Agencies and other international organizations, committed to accelerating solutions that bring an end to statelessness.

The mission of the Global Alliance is to convene key stakeholders, including stateless-led and regional organizations, civil society, academia, and Member States, to facilitate collaborative action to end statelessness and protect the rights of stateless persons. It also aims to capacitate its members by providing a platform for learning, exchange, and collaboration, and to catalyze and accelerate change by identifying and responding to gaps in laws, policies, and practice, building the political commitment needed to eradicate statelessness, and upholding the rights of stateless people.

The Global Alliance has set objectives to galvanize the required political will and accelerate the implementation of existing and new pledges by States, thereby reducing and preventing statelessness worldwide. It aims to strengthen regional collaboration and promoting interconnection between regions, including through engaging and capacitating regional networks at both intergovernmental and civil society levels to support region-specific solutions. It seeks to encourage shared ownership of the issue of statelessness as a global imperative among relevant UN Agencies and other international organizations, elevate statelessness as a critical issue on global human rights, humanitarian, and development agendas, encourage deeper financial investment in collaborative efforts to address statelessness, strengthen engagement with stateless-led organizations as agents of change, and promote awareness and understanding of statelessness among a wider range of stakeholders.

The core values of the Global Alliance include a rights-based approach, with international human rights and the right to a nationality underpinning its work. It is inclusive, welcoming all relevant stakeholders that share its vision and mission, and is committed to non-discrimination and equality in all its endeavors. The Alliance is collaborative, working across stakeholder groups, and solutions-focused, promoting practical approaches for sustainable solutions and securing nationality for stateless people and defending their rights.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), through the Statelessness Section of the Division of International Protection, leads the Secretariat of the Global Alliance, with a Senior Statelessness Officer having a coordination role. The Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day support and managing of the Alliance's work, member-outreach, processing of

membership applications, onboarding of new members, implementation of the communications and external engagement strategy, and member engagement, including through managing the Global Alliance website. A key function includes convening and serving as the Secretariat for the Advisory Committee.

1. Advisory Committee Membership and Structure

- 1.1. The Advisory Committee of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness (henceforth “the Advisory Committee”) will be composed of up to 15 members representing States and organizations that are members of the Global Alliance, with due reflection of regional and gender balance as well as diversity among different stakeholders.
- 1.2. The Advisory Committee will have the following composition:
 - Three (3) stateless-led organizations;
 - Three (3) States;
 - Three (3) civil society groups and/or academia;
 - Three (3) UN agencies and/or entities (including UNHCR); and
 - Three (3) regional intergovernmental and/or international organizations.
- 1.3. Each State or organization to be represented on the Advisory Committee at the senior technical level, and each entity is required to appoint a member and alternate member.
- 1.4. The Advisory Committee will elect two co-chairs for a term of one year, representing different stakeholders, with one of the slots reserved for States.

2. Role and Responsibilities:

- 2.1. The Advisory Committee is tasked with providing overall strategic guidance and advice on the Global Alliance's strategy, priorities, workplan, workstreams, and other initiatives, to ensure alignment with the Alliance's vision and mission statement. Furthermore, the members of the Advisory Committee will take a proactive role in supporting and contributing to the attainment of the Global Alliance's objectives, mission and overall vision, including but not limited to supporting advocacy and external engagement, member outreach and awareness-raising, information-sharing and input to strategic documents and initiatives.
- 2.2. The outgoing Advisory Committee will review applications for membership to the new Advisory Committee. Members of the outgoing committee will evaluate these applications to determine the suitability of candidates based on their ability to contribute strategically to the Alliance's objectives and make recommendations to

the Secretariat regarding which candidates are most aligned with the needs and aspirations of the Alliance.

- 2.3. The Advisory Committees will employ open deliberations and use a consensus-based decision-making modality to integrate diverse perspectives from various stakeholders and ensure inclusiveness and transparency. Where consensus cannot be reached, the Advisory Committee may arrive at a decision through a voting process requiring a simple majority.

3. Selection Process

- 3.1. The Secretariat will issue an open call to all Global Alliance members, by inter alia posting it on the Global Alliance website, at least two months before the positions are to be filled, specifying a deadline by which applications must be received.
- 3.2. Members wishing to apply for an Advisory Committee seat are required to complete an application form setting out their motivation and fulfillment of the membership criteria listed under p.4.
- 3.3. The Secretariat may proactively solicit applications and co-opt Advisory Committee members outside the terms set out in 3.1 if considered necessary to achieve the diversity of profiles, skillsets, and stakeholders.
- 3.4. Applications for the Advisory Committee shall be reviewed by the Secretariat, who shall undertake a due diligence check before submitting to the Advisory Committee for their consideration and recommendations.
- 3.5. Final decisions on Advisory Committee membership will be taken and communicated by the Secretariat (UNHCR), with due consideration of broader representation and strategic needs and best interests of the Global Alliance and its objectives, regional, gender, age, stakeholder type considerations, amongst other diversity factors. Demonstrated commitment by the State or organization and active work on addressing statelessness will be key considerations as well.
- 3.6. The members of the first Advisory Committee will be selected by the Secretariat (UNHCR) taking into consideration the above strategic and diversity factors, demonstrated commitment and active work on addressing statelessness.
- 3.7. When an Advisory Committee position becomes vacant, the Secretariat will post a call for expression of interest on the Global Alliance website at least 6 weeks before the positions are to be filled. If considered necessary to achieve the diversity of profiles, skillsets, and stakeholder, the Secretariat may proactively solicit applications and co-opt Advisory Committee members.

4. Selection Criteria

All applicants for the Advisory Committee membership must demonstrate:

- Relevant experience and expertise on statelessness;
- Commitment to the values and objectives of the Global Alliance;
- Commitment and capacity to dedicate the time necessary to perform the role;
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to work collegially as part of a Committee-type structure;

In addition, applicants must fulfill the following criteria specific to their stakeholder group.

States:

- Must be a member of the UN;
- Must be a member of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness;
- Priority will be afforded to states who are existing members of the Solution Seeker Programme, and at least one seat on the Advisory Committee will be reserved for a Solution Seeker State;
- Striving for geographical diversity, to the extent possible the State should ideally be from a different global region than the other States on the Advisory Committee.

Stateless-led organizations:

- Must be a member of the Global Alliance;
- The organization or community group must be led by a person or persons who are stateless or have lived experience of statelessness. The person representing the organization or group on the Advisory Committee must be stateless or formerly stateless. In this context, statelessness refers both to formal recognition of statelessness by a State or factual statelessness based on a UNHCR or partner analysis of relevant nationality laws and the individual's situation;
- The organization must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interests and concerns of diverse stateless populations; and
- Striving for geographical diversity, to the extent possible the stateless-led organization must be from a different region than the other two on the Advisory Committee.

Civil Society Organizations and Academia:

- Must be a member of the Global Alliance;
- Must work actively on statelessness issues at the national, regional, and/or international levels; and
- Striving for geographical diversity, the Civil Society Organization/academia should ideally be from a different region than the other Civil Society Organizations on the Advisory Committee.

UN Agencies:

- Must be a member of the Global Alliance;
- Must work actively on statelessness issues or demonstrate interest in and commitment to resolving statelessness;
- Must be represented at the Headquarters level;
- UNHCR will be a standing member of the Advisory Committee for the entire existence of the Global Alliance, in addition to its Secretariat role.

Regional intergovernmental and international organizations:

- Must be a member of the Global Alliance;
- Must work actively on statelessness issues or demonstrate an interest in and commitment to resolving statelessness; and
- Striving for geographical diversity, the regional organization should ideally be from a different global region than the other intergovernmental organization(s) on the Advisory Committee.

5. Term of the Advisory Committee and Key Considerations

- 5.1. Apart from UNHCR, which will remain on the Advisory Committee for the duration of the existence of the Global Alliance, the regular term of appointment to the Advisory Committee will be three years.
- 5.2. At least three months before the expiration of the term of the sitting Advisory Committee, the Secretariat will issue a call for membership in the next Advisory Committee.
- 5.3. In the event of a member's termination or resigning from the Advisory Committee, a new member, ideally from the same stakeholder group, may be appointed if the remaining term of the resigning Advisory Committee member is no less than 6 months. The newly appointed Advisory Committee member will then serve the

remainder of the resigning Advisory Committee member's term. At the completion of their term, the newly appointed Advisory Committee member may apply for a consecutive full term on the Advisory Committee.

- 5.4. To ensure the continuity and smooth operation of the Advisory Committee, members of the outgoing Advisory Committee will have the right to apply for a new term, with the overall aim to have at least a 50% rotation.
- 5.5. Membership in the Advisory Committee is limited to two consecutive terms.
- 5.6. Stateless-led organizations on the Advisory Committee will be compensated for their time and contributions in accordance with UNHCR policy and practice.

6. Meetings

- 6.1. The Advisory Committee will meet three-four times per year, as a general practice online, however, hybrid or in-person meetings are also possible in connection with major convenings or other opportunities. Additional out-of-session meetings may be convened, if necessary, by the Secretariat, the co-chairs or the Advisory Committee members in consultation with the Secretariat. However, these out-of-session meetings should not occur more frequently than monthly. Meeting dates will be consulted on, set, and communicated at least one month in advance.
- 6.2. The co-chairs will, together with the Secretariat develop the agenda for the Advisory Committee meeting(s), with input from and in consultation with the other members of the Advisory Committee. The Secretariat will disseminate the agenda to the members at least one week before the meeting. While every endeavor is to be made to schedule meetings so that all Advisory Committee members can attend, meetings will proceed as long as a majority of Advisory Committee members are available and present.
- 6.3. The Secretariat will record and disseminate meeting minutes following each Advisory Committee meeting.
- 6.4. Advisory Committee members living with disabilities may have a support person attend meetings with them (to assist with physical needs or to advise members with intellectual disability). These support persons will not directly contribute to Advisory Committee discussions in their capacity.
- 6.5. If an Advisory Committee member is exceptionally not available to attend an Advisory Committee meeting or part of it, the alternate Advisory Committee member from the same entity should step-in.
- 6.6. Where an Advisory Committee member and his/her alternate are unable to attend a meeting, that member must notify the Advisory Committee co-chairs and the Secretariat. The Advisory Committee Membership may be revoked if a

member/his or her alternate, do not attend three consecutive Advisory Committee meetings without compelling reasons.

7. Standard of Conduct

Advisory Committee members are expected to observe the highest standards of ethical conduct, including honesty, courtesy, fairness, and avoidance of conflict of interest, as outlined in [UNHCR's Code of Conduct](#) Policy.

8. Confidentiality

- 8.1. Unless indicated otherwise, all Advisory Committee papers, documents, deliberations, and minutes are confidential (e.g. not to be shared publicly).
- 8.2. Breach of these confidentiality requirements may result in the termination of a member's tenure.

9. Resignation

- 9.1. Advisory Committee members may resign from the Advisory Committee at any time provided they notify the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat in writing, stating their intention to resign at least 2 months prior to the date of resignation.
- 9.2. Where an Advisory Committee member, and/or the alternate, is reassigned or resigns from his or her position, the State or organization in question must notify the Secretariat and make a recommendation for a replacement within 2 weeks, to be confirmed by the Secretariat as a new Advisory Committee member/alternate member.

10. Termination

- 10.1. Advisory Committee member tenure may be subject to termination for breaches of the UNHCR Code of Conduct, non-adherence to the confidentiality principle, or for failing to attend three consecutive Advisory Committee meetings without a compelling reason.
- 10.2. Upon identifying a potential cause for termination, the Secretariat will notify the member in question and provide an opportunity to respond in writing within 14 days of receiving the notification.
- 10.3. After reviewing the member's response, if any, the Secretariat will inform the rest of Advisory Committee members and seek their advice. With due consideration of this advice and the member's response, the Secretariat will decide on the termination of the membership. If the decision is to terminate, the Secretariat will send an official termination notification to the member, effective on the date of receipt.