



Factsheet

THE GLOBAL COMPACTS ON REFUGEES AND MIGRATION

Last updated: January 2019

Two new, non-binding international agreements set out improvements for enhancing international cooperation and better managing the movement and safety of refugees and migrants. Both were adopted by the UN in December 2018, although their impact will depend on how governments choose to act on their commitments.

What are the Global Compacts?

On 19 September 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), a set of commitments designed to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants. The Declaration reaffirmed the importance of the international protection regime and committed governments to strengthening and enhancing mechanisms to protect people on the move. In it, governments committed to work towards the adoption of two new agreements: a [Global Compact on Refugees](#) and a [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#). While neither Compact is legally binding

[website](#) detail the steps taken in the process. An [initial draft](#) of the Compact was released in January 2018 and the [final draft](#) in July 2018. It was presented to the UN General Assembly in Sep Tm0000 M(ssE)23()-16(2)11(0)Cep Tm0000 M(ssE)23()-16(2)118S p Tms7n0(S)8(e)11(p)-11(Tm0



What is in the Refugee Compact?

The Refugee Compact has four objectives, which are to: (i) ease pressures on host countries; (ii) enhance refugee self-reliance; (iii) expand access to third country solutions; and (iv) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The Compact

abstained from the vote. Australia did, however, vote for the [adoption of the Refugee Compact](#).

See our Policy Briefs on related topics: T Alexander Aleinikoff and Susan Martin, [*Making the Global Compacts Work: What future for refugees and migrants?*](#) (April 2018) and Elizabeth Ferris, [*In Search of Commitments: The 2016 Refugee Summits*](#) (November 2016)