

# Global Compact on Refugees – Second Formal Consultations

20 – 21 March, Geneva

## Agenda 1: Background, goals of the global compact on refugees, and prevention and addressing root causes (Part I)

Volker Turk: [Opening remarks](#)

### Uganda (On behalf of the Africa Group)

- The first draft has benefitted from the comments in relation to language, structure and format.
- Africa Group supports the inclusion of the principle of non-*refoulement* (although note the absence of a clear mechanism to implement/observe non-*refoulement*); the need to address root causes of refugees; protection and human rights of refugees.
- Paragraph 5 should refer directly to the four pillars listed in para 18 of NYD Annex I: ease pressures on the host countries involved, to enhance refugee self-reliance, to expand access to third-country solutions and to support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.
- These are the goals we would like to achieve and these should be underlined.
- Importance to take into account of national capacities and respecting national policies.
- It is the expectation of the Africa Group that obstacles to Voluntary Repatriation and reintegration will be addressed in line with the ongoing UN reforms led by the SG.
- We recognize that language on respect of human rights of refugees is important, keeping in mind that refugee situations are temporary.
- We take note of the phrase “mutually reinforcing” (para. 6) and request clarification on the meaning of this terminology.

### Brazil (On behalf of GRULAC)

- In February 2018, there were regional discussions on refugees as part of the Brazil Plan of Action, where participants discussed durable solutions, protection of stateless people. Such exercise resulted in the compilation of good practices and is captured in the outcome document: 100 points of Brasilia. We refer to them as pertinent in the ongoing consultations.
- We welcome the references to existing national and regional refugee instruments, including Cartagena declaration.
- The progress towards active responsibility sharing relies on our commitment to uphold refugee law and non-*refoulement*. We reiterate our region’s commitment to ease pressure on host countries, expand self-reliance and support countries of origin to ensure returns in safety and dignity.

### Egypt (On behalf of the Arab Group)

- Countries in the region are overwhelmed and facing increased burden in terms of health, education and labour markets. A number of countries and organizations have contributed to efforts, yet these efforts are falling short, and increasing pressure on the economies of local countries.
- The Global Compact is a proper framework to develop a reliable mechanism for responsibility sharing.
- Goals in para 5 should be amended to be aligned with para 18 of NYD Annex I.

## European Union

- Global Compact is an opportunity to modernize refugee response going beyond human rights approach, and much stronger involvement of development actors.
- Unique opportunity to strengthen international cooperation in the area of asylum and involving those not traditionally engaged, not signatories of the 1951 Convention or not ExCom members.
- Appreciate that UNHCR has incorporated many comments made in February and the disappearance of optional language such as 'interested states'.
- Welcome confirmation that responsibility sharing is best achieved through a wide range of commitments, not just financial or in-kind.
- Welcome references to data protection and monitoring.
- Draft 1 provides for a very good and solid basis for further discussions.
- On Agenda item 1 – Agree that environmental degradation and natural disasters are major causes for displacements but would avoid the term “refugee movements” ensure no confusion on root causes of refugee movements.
- Welcome equitable and predictable responsibility sharing through concrete measures. Countries not traditionally contributing need to step up. At the same time, we welcome the voluntariness as a key component.
- Reference to ending encampment should be reinserted.
- Welcome widening support base.
- GCR fits with UN reform, and appreciate addressing root causes, and supporting countries of origin should also be encouraged. We encourage reference to UNHCR’s role in UN coordination for refugees.
- Positive reinforcement of references to existing international refugee law and basic protection standards for refugees, including *non-refoulement*. Should also include call for universal ratification of the 1951 Convention as traditionally done (e.g. Omnibus resolution). Also call for reference to humanitarian principles and explicit reference to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- GCR implementation should be a paradigm shift.
- Welcome focus on root causes linked to Agenda 2030 and consideration of states legitimate security preoccupations.

## Ethiopia

- First draft reflects balanced view and the aspirational character of the document.
- Right to asylum is customary law. Document needs further refinement to make commitments concrete.
- Environmental factors are considered as drivers, but needs to go beyond and underline cross-border movements as a result of climate change.
- Most refugees are hosted in low-middle countries, their efforts need to be recognized.
- Pleased to see mention of human rights, but would like to see stronger references.
- Principle of *non-refoulement* should be reinforced with a mechanism.
- Four objectives of the CRRF (para. 18) need to be included in the document.

## Denmark

- The draft maintains a balanced approach, reflects that UNHCR has been listening to States.
- Revised draft goes further on how states can commit to equitable and predictable responsibility sharing and recognizes it includes all States as well as IFIs.

- Pleased with reference to existing refugee instruments, *non-refoulement* – humanitarian principles and centrality of protection could be emphasized more. Also good that this is done in a way that maintains the legally non-binding nature of the text (not setting new standards).
- Gender, age and diversity and disability could be streamlined throughout the text.
- Appreciate Para 5 – solutions and socio-economic inclusion and focus on women and girls.
- Appreciate para. 7 reference to predictable humanitarian and development response in line with 2030 Agenda/leave no one behind.
- Good references to nationally led, inclusive approaches with development support, including additional, flexible and multiannual funding
- Good references to preventing and addressing root causes.
- References to UN reforms and Grand Bargain are positive, but would like to see reference to New Way of Working. CRRF is New Way of Working for refugees. This also needs to embrace humanitarian and development nexus. Application must be privileged in specific countries as well as in appropriate timeline, maintain high-level of ambition.
- Description of role and responsibilities could still be strengthened particular with regards to involvement of development actors and others as well as stronger accountability and involvement of refugees and civil society, including in follow up.

### **India**

- Recognize the changes; Compact establishes responsibility sharing among states in the spirit of international cooperation and is legally non-binding.
- Welcome that Compact will be operationalized by voluntary contribution, according to each country's capacities, and that the Compact is humanitarian and non-political.
- This requires complementarity and welcome that Grand Bargain commitment relating to funding local responders have been incorporated.
- Compact will be operationalized by states, not just according to resources and expertise, but in a manner consistent with their obligations, priorities, laws and security.
- Dealing with refugees is not just the responsibility of host states but also of countries of origin.
- Compact must recognize that those not party to the Refugee Convention have showed a generous approach, and that their obligations differ from those party to the Convention.
- Text changes in track mode would help to understand evolution of the drafts.
- Aspect of prevention and durable solutions, root causes have been reflected but could be clearer in terms of actionable commitment for donors and countries of origin.
- Most refugees hosted by developing countries and important to consider host states' security and development concerns. Some of them are not party to convention and yet face protracted situations. The Compact litmus test will be to provide a clear mechanism to genuinely share the burden.
- We renew the commitment of India, which hosts large numbers of refugees.

### **Germany**

- Appreciate the much more concrete language, and draft highlights the political commitment required.
- Welcome clear reference to the non-legally binding nature of the Compact and its voluntary nature.
- Good explicit reference to international refugee law, but would like to see this accompanied by call to accede to Convention.
- Would also like to see explicit mention CRC, CEDAW, persons with disability and law against transnational organized crime.

- As regards to the goals, enhanced socioeconomic conditions should be measured in relation to 2030 Agenda and like to see reference to children.
- Humanitarian assistance must be provided to address needs in accordance with humanitarian principles.
- GCR and GCM are two distinct processes but it is important to ensure coherence and consistence in light of mixed movements challenges and see reference in the introduction too.

## **USA**

- Clear that UNHCR has heard comments shared at the first formal consultations. In short, more work to be done but we are progressing.
- Appreciate references to normative frameworks including refugee, human rights and humanitarian law, while acknowledging regional instruments.
- Appreciate the voluntary and non-binding nature of the draft.
- Need to expand responsibility sharing beyond traditional states with the aim of broadening the support by including countries of origin, development actors, private sector and states.
- Prevention crucial to address root causes of refugee flight and this must be linked to UN reforms.

## **Turkey**

- Introduction encompasses a wide range of refugee issues. Root causes are also depicted comprehensively, including with clear references to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, environmental degradation and natural disasters.
- Believe it is important to stick to NYD language and include terrorism as causes of refugee flight.
- Reference to refugee Convention/Protocol is key as this is the framework to protect refugees.
- Goals: agree with what is in the draft although should stress that the most important objective is about easing pressure on host country. This should be explicitly said in the section on goals, with reference to broadening the base of support.
- For host countries like us, resolving large movements is important so happy to see addressing root causes.
- Humanitarian nature should be the driving force and complementarity with development should be strengthened in the text.
- Add reference to WHS in respect to humanitarian-development nexus, useful also to the refer to New Way of Working as a strong paradigm shift.

## **Netherlands**

- Believe text reflects many views. In general, it is an improvement and the text is stronger and contains less conditional language.
- The objective is not to find agreement only for interested states; each state must assess what they can do.
- Appreciate notion of broadening the support base and expanding opportunities for states to contribute beyond humanitarian support.
- Host states making commitment on policy measures which can be supplemented by donor contributions.
- Voluntary and dedicated contribution also appreciated.
- In the introduction, asked for references to existing framework and root causes; these can be different and can become a basis for discussions. We have already agreed CRRF and main task now is to agree on operational framework that makes tangible change.

## **Ecuador**

- Strengthened articulation of existing refugee instruments are positive. This language should be maintained and even strengthened in the later draft.
- As a host country, we are pleased to see the draft looks at prevention that force people to leave, and believe this could include prevention of SGBV and gender aspect to be addressed across the continuum.
- Refugees also contribute to reducing pressure.
- Humanitarian support should be aligned with development actors in host states.
- Express our concern for lack of clear efforts to harmonize the two compacts. Looking for bridges will be helpful.

## **Montenegro**

- Welcome the strengthening of the introductory part and legal framework. Legally non-binding nature of the document is clearly stated, which is positive.
- Welcome inclusion of human rights violations as a possible cause of displacement.
- Appreciate links with 2030 Agenda.
- Political will is an important element for prevention, and must be in line with UN reforms.
- Need improved language for vulnerable groups apart from women and girls, for example need to focus on children and older people too.

## **Spain**

- With regards to mobilizing political will, we would like to see concrete measures spelled out.
- Text is more coherent with the new introduction, however would like to see NYD mentioned.
- Humanitarian principles should be included.
- 2030 agenda important to mention and thankful to see stronger references to it. Specific needs of vulnerable groups should be taken into account.
- Recognizing importance of comprehensive responses underway in Central America is central.
- New Way of Working must be stressed, as should the role of the private sector and civil society.

## **Indonesia**

- Appreciate that responsibility sharing mechanisms have been elaborated. First draft provides a solid basis to continue discussion.
- In the introduction, appreciate that the first draft lays a comprehensive ground for the text.
- Important not to apply one size fits all, because states do not have the same starting point and the same degree of resources.
- Needs should take into account transit countries. Need to highlight the role of international organizations, like UNHCR, in meeting the needs of refugees in transit countries.
- With specific reference to goals, in paragraph 5, propose to add “international organizations that provide resources to host and transit countries”.
- Need to take into account specificity of circumstances in capacity and resources, and highlight laws and regulations.
- Need to apply a balanced approach in meeting needs and durable solutions. Need to elaborate on durable solutions, and normalization in countries of origin to enable dignified returns.

## **Mexico**

- Draft 1 takes into account various comments made and these are reflected in a balanced fashion. Current version reflects improvement.

- Agree that it is vital that the compact builds on IRL, and welcome references to the Convention and the underlying principle of *non-refoulement*.
- We believe development perspective and how it dovetails with SDGs will help guiding action in short- and long-term.
- Need to reflect better mixed flows in the GCR, and as such need to have a proper human rights basis for this.
- Agree that GCR needs to be based on shared responsibility sharing and increased international cooperation and addressing root causes. GCR should be applicable to all persons when it comes to large movements and must encompass humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts.
- Should not ignore natural disasters and climate change causes, and these needs to be reflected in relation to reducing the effects of climate change.

### **Australia**

- Welcome the call to countries to do more in terms of responsibility sharing. GCR requires global action.
- Welcome new paragraphs, especially those that draw attention to root causes and preventing displacement. Would welcome calls for state responsibility and accountability to prevent displacement.
- Welcome stronger language on vulnerability, but need to recognize intersecting vulnerabilities, more explicit references in the text to disabilities would be welcome. (Currently 13 million people in the world are living with disability). Disability inclusion should be included as crosscutting. The word “diversity” can be ambiguous.
- Disaggregation of data by disability, age and gender must refer to the Washington Group set of questions.
- Strengthened language on GCR: need to ensure this language is flexible so that the non-binding nature is maintained.

### **Botswana**

- Keen to see protection and dignity based on the principles of international solidarity and humanity.
- Appreciate broad responsibility sharing mechanisms which encompass national, regional and global elements.
- Welcome provision of capacity building at national level at the request of host government.
- Welcome Global Support Platform to be activated in alliance with the High Commissioner for Refugees. But would like to see more details about the structure of the Platform, the role of smaller and middle-income host states in the Platform and its membership.
- Subscribe to the view on national arrangements.
- Prevention and root causes are important dimensions of international cooperation.
- On responsibility sharing mechanisms, welcome outlining data and evidence on population and socio-economic conditions.
- Compact should also recognize states that host high refugee numbers in proportion to their population.

### **Norway**

- First draft is an improvement on the zero draft.
- Looking for a text that is practicable, and implementable; not to repeat the NYD, and we do not see a need for a longer introduction.

- Agree to widen the support base. Agree to establish framework for responsibility sharing among all UN Member States, while acknowledging that contributions may vary.
- Need to ensure complementarity between humanitarian and development actors, while respecting humanitarian principles.

### **Honduras**

- Note the inclusion of many causes of refugee movements and better criteria to define responses.
- Focus on the particular needs of those at greater risk, especially women and girls, is important for their capacity to integrate.
- Need support for countries of origin to achieve durable solutions.

### **Belgium**

- Appreciate the emphasis on the centrality of protection, IHL and non-*refoulement*, data protection as well as clear language on responsibility sharing including the necessity to expand resettlement of refugees.
- Welcome that GCR will be operationalized by voluntary contributions according to respective resources.
- Welcome the strengthening of the text on root causes and references to the Grand Bargain and the private sector.
- The text should be coherent with the NYD and needs to mention the complementarity with GCM.
- Need to mention the humanitarian principles.
- Non-political and humanitarian references should be removed as integration of humanitarian and development actors are also a crucial objective of the compact.

### **Japan**

- Pleased to see the revised introductory part.
- Goals and measures for sharing responsibility are well articulated.
- Para 3: compact seeks burden and responsibility sharing among a wide range of stakeholders, crucial that engagement is included in this part.
- Para on prevention and root causes are welcome. We also welcome complementarity between humanitarian, development and peace.
- Agree that the text refers to the link with SDG and ongoing discussion of UN reform.
- Compact ought to draw robust engagement while keeping its non-legally binding nature.

### **Republic of Korea**

- Recognize the progress made in the consultation and the text is now rich in preambular commitment, especially with the reference to non-*refoulement*, human rights instruments, gender/SGBV perspectives.
- Also welcome further engagement of private sector in the multi-stakeholder approach and expand resource mobilization.
- Responsibility sharing mechanism is better elaborated, including clarifications on the role of each key mechanism.
- However, important to prevent duplication between these new mechanisms and existing bodies and arrangements. Moreover, the distinction between global refugee summits and the Global Support Platform is not clear.

## **South Africa**

- Note with appreciation improvements in the text. Inclusion of the international refugee law as well as regional instruments are positive.
- Note with concern that para 18 of Annex I/NYD are misplaced in para 5. Success will hinge on how much progress is made in the four pillars of CRRF para 18 and this should be frontloaded.
- Introduction should be strengthened as refugee situation is context-specific and must take into account national priorities and respect national sovereignty.
- GCR must be operationalized through voluntary contributions and such contribution should also take into account state national priorities and development plans.
- Combatting discrimination and xenophobia has been omitted. The text could benefit from references to the Durban declaration and we request that this be reflected in the new draft.

## **Bolivia**

- Supports the fact that GCR rests on humanitarian solidarity as well as references to SDG.
- Believe that these principles need to be expressed more intensely and solidarity must be expressed in relation to refugees, not states.
- We refer to “World without Walls”, held in Bolivia, where we committed to work towards a new world order based on complementarity and solidarity.
- Refugees are not a burden, so we need to see a real approach to international solidarity.
- While state responsibility should be shared we should work towards consolidating universal citizenship and this should be reflected in the text.
- Removing xenophobia and racial discrimination should be included in the GCR and this must be based on a human rights approach so that states remain committed to fighting xenophobia and racial discrimination.
- Focus on building true peace and overcoming structural barriers to peace, for example, access to equitable opportunities.

## **Switzerland**

- Welcome the new text, especially mentions of the legal framework and human rights instruments.
- Pleased to see text now focuses assistance and protection of refugees including strengthened language that targets all states.
- Multi-stakeholder approach is a reality and we commend it and it is a responsibility of all states and other stakeholders mentioned in para 3. Like to see specific mention of local societies of red cross and red crescent movement as they are vital responders.
- We support goals of the GCR. Para 6 requires further nuance: GCR will not be legally binding, but the voluntary nature should not contribute to weakening the refugee regime.
- Need to ensure that legal status and nationality should not affect asylum.
- Global approach on prevention and respect for human rights and IHL is welcome. But also need to mention instruments such as Sendai framework and the platform for displacement linked to disasters.
- Need to ensure that certain groups are not excluded and that there are no different definitions for specific categories of people.

## **Iran**

- Recognize some improvements. But certain areas need to be strengthened substantially.
- Introduction: do not need to reopen issues that have already been agreed on. And refrain to expand the definition of refugees.

- GCR emanates from humanity and international solidarity. Cannot agree more, and believe that success will depend on capacity to make fair responsibility sharing a reality on the ground rather than a language element.
- GCR is grounded on international refugee law and non-*refoulement*. But do not know how to interpret efforts by some states to keep refugees close to their countries or origin. There is a degree of hypocrisy in the attitudes of those states. Obstructing refugees' cross-border movements is unacceptable, but these same states advise others to stick to norms.
- If wealthy states plan to keep their doors closed, then this is not fair to ask others to keep borders open. We need to remove this dichotomy between states.

### **Holy See**

- It is vital that GCR delineates UNHCR from local groups so the protection mandate is better achieved.
- GCR will benefit from supporting stories of hope. Pleased that it acknowledges those countries who have kept their countries' borders open and they should receive broad support.
- Vital to tackle root causes and durable solutions through diplomacy. Human person is capable of forgiveness, this is essential during and after a crisis.

### **United Kingdom**

- Welcome the document, there is a clear and credible language change.
- Widen support base is welcome, but delivering will be key.
- Participation must underpin draft; engagement and accountability to refugees is key; include marginalized groups especially people living with disability; reflect on a section on partnership including with other UN agencies, IFIs, civil society and private sector.
- The global refugee summit could be a good proposal to gather political support at regular intervals. Such summits could be convened by the UN Secretary General to have high-level buy in. Current formulation on Global Support Platform is ambitious and will need clarity. It may be trying to do too much at the moment.
- Para 5 outlines good goals but we need more on how these will be measured and on the process. Developing indicators by 2019 is not ambitious.
- Appreciate strengthened language on women and girls and vulnerabilities but would want to see specific references to disability similarly to Australia.

### **Italy**

- Refugee situations are international crises and therefore should not be dealt with only by most affected countries. Responsibility sharing is core of Italy's foreign policy and we welcome strengthened language on this.
- Investing in protection, capacity building, reception and admission capacity, income generation and protecting human rights of those on the move, while valuing the positive impact of refugees, and appreciate that these are well developed in the draft as far as socio-economic conditions are concerned and we believe refugees should be integrated in society by developing strategy and building skills essential in the labour market.
- Appreciate a clear reference to multi-stakeholder approach especially the inclusion of local authorities.
- Also reference non-legally binding is complemented by mutually reinforcing nature of the contributions.
- Appreciate strong references to the international refugee law although surprised by the reference to natural disasters. Would also encourage references to 'do no harm' and conflict sensitivity.

- GCR and GCM must be complementary, and this could be done by creating common platforms to maximize resources and developing clear schemes to manage mixed movements; address common issues and gaps. We should build a coherence scheme.
- Fundamental to address current protection gaps in a comprehensive way.

### **Hungary**

- The first draft provides a solid legal basis and we appreciate this.
- At the same time, there is no need to create new legal norms so welcome the non-legally binding nature of the GCR and the voluntary nature of operationalization.
- Support that in the new draft these contributions will be determined by each state according to their resources.
- Also, welcome consideration of states security concerns.
- Pleased to see the importance of prevention and also addressing and tackling root causes, and will welcome the responsibility of countries of origin in this regard.

### **Estonia**

- Appreciate the first draft. Language is more concrete.
- Welcome protection, and various burden and responsibility sharing mechanisms as well as emphasis on political and root causes.
- Welcome the strengthening of the responsibility sharing framework, but rights of the child could be considered.
- Comprehensive and cooperative responses are welcome, and we also welcome the non-legally binding nature of the compact.
- References to SDGs is welcome to ensure strengthened humanitarian responses. Humanitarian principles should be emphasized.
- Welcome paragraph on root causes and clear references to UN reforms, but language on promotion of human rights could be further adjusted.
- GCR and GCM should complement each other and would like to see references to this.

### **Pakistan**

- Note with appreciation that some of our concerns have been addressed. But the draft could be further improved.
- Note the legally non-binding nature of the compact and the focus on solutions in countries of origin.
- Burden and responsibility sharing mechanisms started to take shape and present some potential. Acknowledge the attempt to broaden the support base.
- Still need more and clearer concrete commitments to share responsibility, otherwise calls will appear to shift burden on host states.
- Appreciate efforts to reach out to non-traditional contributors such as regional IFIs.
- Specific language concerns: in para 1, we note that the definition of refugee is broadened: In particular, language on natural disasters will need to be reconsidered.
- In para 1, there is a specific mention about developing and middle-income countries. This reference should stress their specific development challenges instead of a lack of resources.
- Would like to see clear mention of humanitarian principles.
- International cooperation is critical and the GCR is a necessary tool to harness the resources required to collectively address refugee challenges. Pleased to note the humanitarian and voluntary nature of the compact.

- Need to better understand the causes why people flee. Assisting countries of origin to receive refugees is best strategy to pursue.
- Genuine security needs of states also need to be considered, with regard to those seeking safety and the compact must continue to be guided by humanitarian values.

#### **Canada**

- The first draft represents a clear improvement, and includes norms that underpin refugee protection.
- Age, gender and diversity perspectives could be strengthened.
- Aligns better with NYD, and must result in concrete and practical action to ensure predictable and equitable responsibility sharing.
- GCR must mobilize political will and this should be reflected in the introduction and recommend call to states to get involved.
- Note that the draft sets out tasks to be undertaken by UNHCR; important that these new tasks do not detract it from the agencies priorities, effectiveness and core protection mandate; and we would encourage that the ExCom discusses further the human resources impact of the GCR.
- Steps must be undertaken for other UN agencies to get involved and this should be reflected in the GCR.

#### **New Zealand**

- The introduction now provides the context for our collective effort, by emphasizing non-*refoulement*, human rights law and IHL.
- Welcome in para 2 that international cooperation must be translated into concrete action and support the overall direction to engage a wider range of states.
- At the same time, we note that the draft provides sufficient flexibility on how states can contribute.
- Recognize burden on host states and all states will have to review their approach to hosting countries.
- We welcome the proposed goals, especially strengthened national protection systems and enhanced socioeconomic conditions measured against SDG is welcome and we support this last point to be further elaborated.

#### **France**

- Welcome UNHCR's efforts. Appreciate references to existing legal frameworks as well as relevant human rights and IHL.
- Welcome elaboration of the compact goals and more information on implementation modality so that international cooperation responses provide more predictability.
- Agree with UNHCR analysis that protection efforts should be accompanied with actions to address root causes and appreciate strengthening of the language regarding this.
- Need stepped up cooperation between humanitarian development and peace. Coherence with UN reform agenda must be closely looked into. This necessitate reinforced cooperation between sectors.
- Noting mention of natural disaster and environmental degradation, we want to remind that it is essential to avoid any confusion on the qualification of refugee status. The 1951 Convention do not refer to environmental aspects. Those aspects are covered by other UN processes. All work should comply the Convention and UNCHR's mandate.

### **Russian Federation**

- This draft is less balanced than the zero draft. Para. 5 presents strange formulations and not clear whether this is based on para 18 of the NYD Annex I.
- Need more clarity para 6 – What is the meaning of “voluntary but mutually reinforcing”?
- Humanitarian principles should be the base of any humanitarian action, including through the GCR.
- The preferred sustainable solution is voluntary return and reintegration of refugees: all other solutions should be considered a secondary resort, and this should be reinforced in the introductory part.

### **Poland**

- Changes are a good reflection of the text. Regarding the goals, welcome the reference to current legal framework. Still would welcome reference to humanitarian principles.
- Para 6 welcomed, especially the non-legally binding nature of the GCR and would encourage the whole text to reflect this.
- Crucial that providing tools to mobilize resources take into account disparities, limitations and constraints among donors.
- Focus on root causes is positive and comprehensive effort required from the international community and efforts must aim at reducing refugee and illegal migrants numbers.
- This should be complemented with tailored development cooperation, conflict management and strong governance and in this regard welcome references to Agenda 2030.

### **Venezuela**

- Welcome the first draft and attempts to broaden the support base.
- Note that support is not based on financial issues alone. The compact should also look at resettlement.
- On goals, recall that the effort must be to relieve pressure on host countries.
- In para 18, we are concerned that it tends to strengthen national systems in those countries that are taking refugees and not particular emphasis on voluntary returns.
- Needs to highlight the temporary fashion of displacement and emphasize the need for clear political will that guarantees sustainable reintegration in countries of origin.
- Drafting of para 6 is confusing: would like to know what is voluntary and mutually reinforcing contribution.
- Financial contribution should not be conditional and there should be stimulation for contributions.
- GCR should be humanitarian and not political and emphasize that the refugee flows reflect a failure on the part of some countries to not abide by UN charter.

### **Latvia**

- Welcome the text which carries strong legal references.
- Appreciate the voluntary nature of the compact and that each state is free to determine their contribution according to their expertise/resources.
- Agree humanitarian effort must be accompanied by the need to address root causes, and we welcome this.

### **Brazil**

- Glad that calls to strengthen legal frameworks are addressed and to see reference to non-*refoulement*.

- Refugee protection has been strengthened and appreciate that it reflects linkages with human rights and other instruments.
- In para 5, we would appreciate more clarity on the format of distribution of contribution among states.
- Appreciate the call to map cost of hosting refugees contained in para 15 and 42. Impact goes beyond cost, and contribution should be determined according to the context and capacity of each states. We would appreciate to know if the mapping of costs will be taken into account in the distribution of contributions among states.
- We need to be accurate on concepts: On climate change and natural disasters, we recall that existing refugee law does not encompass these drivers, even if they may affect humanitarian action. We ask UNHCR to identify specific related protection dimensions.

### **Algeria**

- Convinced drafting needs to be guided by the principles anchored in existing legally binding instruments, both international and regional.
- Para 1 – go back to the same definition as we have in the Refugee Convention / Protocol
- Para 4 – legal instrument need to remain contractual
- Para 5 – reiterate the position of Africa Group and Arab Group (goals must reflect para 18 objectives of CRRF)
- Para 6 – More clarification on what is meant by voluntary and mutually reinforcing commitments and would like to know the implication of such words. Goal is to relieve pressure on host country. This should not add existing burden on them. Must take into account different national capacities, priorities and in this regard, we refer to para 21 of the NYD. This para should highlight that the GCR promotes cooperation.
- Para 7 – establishment of national arrangements is the prerogative of the state, and scope of the GCR is different from those of SDG (which means the second bullet point in para 7 should be deleted).

### **Belarus**

- Welcome the introduction of para 1, which sets a proper context for following sections.
- Para 6 – appreciate it is voluntary, but would require clarity on “voluntary but mutually reinforcing”. We emphasize prerogative of states to determine their refugee policy. This is missing in para 6.
- Welcome the effort to put refugee instruments at the center as well as the separate chapter on prevention and root causes.

### **Philippines**

- Welcome the improvements made.
- Welcome the rationale in the background. Pleased to see clear goals.
- Welcome that GCR is not legally binding; takes into account that states contribute according to their capacities.
- Welcome reference to address root cause.

### **Sweden**

- Clear improvement on zero draft: Incorporates many comments made in the previous consultations.
- Language has been strengthened, and use of ‘interested states’ has been deleted and this is an important step towards an ambitious burden and responsibility sharing.

- Appreciate clarity on who is doing what. Appreciate that global refugee summits welcome a wide range of contributions.
- GCR, while non-binding, must include dedicated commitments. We need to spell out the principles for our contributions.
- Would like to see references to NYD in the introduction.
- Recognize distinct objectives of the GCR and GCM, but their complementary nature needs to be acknowledged, for example, in the areas of search and rescue, response to vulnerability, referral and status determination.

### **Egypt**

- Notice improvements in the revised document on structure and new elements.
- Note the inclusion of the principle of non-*refoulement* and addressing root causes, although this last point lies outside the mandate of the GCR and must be linked to UN reforms.
- Para 5 – Need to reflect the para 18 objectives of the CRRF envisaged in NYD.
- Responsibility sharing mechanisms should not create more responsibility for host states. The document remains prescriptive for host states when it should be prescriptive for donors.
- Clear mechanisms for predictable, multi-year, un-earmarked financing are needed.
- Welcome the inclusion of mapping the cost of hosting refugees.
- Para 39-49: appreciate that it includes support for improving national systems and capacity, e.g. on data.
- Host countries should be assisted according to their circumstances without adding further burden for collection and dissemination of data.
- Welcome the development of indicators; targets and timeframes should be included.

### **Macedonia**

- Our assessment of the first draft is positive. Many efforts have been made.
- Introduction is more developed. Welcome mobilizing stronger development and humanitarian responses and planning for durable solutions from the outset.
- Voluntary contributions are welcome but support should be timely and predictable.
- Regarding burden and responsibility sharing, see improvements in support for host countries, which needs to be timely, concrete. GCR should define concrete modalities for burden sharing, concrete commitments for hosts, ensure comprehensive follow up.
- Welcome emphasis on stronger mobilization of humanitarian and development responses and addressing root causes. Welcome also para 6 on planning from onset voluntary contributions according to resources available.
- Global refugee summit is welcome, we commend the high-level approach to mobilize technical and financial resources.
- Global Support Platform is positive as a structure to translate commitments into action, and we also welcome additional tools to measure the impact of hosting refugee burden. Efforts of host countries has not been sufficiently acknowledged in the past.
- Particularly welcome support to manage arrivals and reception needs. Support also required for transit countries too. Support is needed particularly for identification of needs, security screening and addressing immediate needs.

### **Costa Rica**

- First draft reflects a more complete document to strengthen refugee protection regime and is based on existing standards and inclusion of refugee law. Pleased to see references to protection instruments (especially the Cartagena Declaration) and key pillars of HR law.

- Need to emphasize the importance of looking for comprehensive responsibility sharing to make it more predictable.
- The commitment to leaving no one behind should be in the introduction and the commitment to SDGs should also remain a principle of the GCR.
- Pleased to see inclusion of root causes as an opportunity to prevent displacement.
- Call your attention to the issue of displacement due to natural disasters and invite to look at the Sendai framework as well as mixed flows of refugees and migrants as distinction between them is not always clear.

### **Colombia**

- Discussion should be based on NYD in order to avoid conceptual elements that go beyond high-level agreement in New York. We should be cautious not to bring into the GCR discussion elements that were not in the NYD.
- Our aim is to find consensus to operationalize the compact, respecting the UNHCR mandate and remaining within the parameters of the 1951 Convention.
- It would be problematic to include responsibilities that go beyond solutions for refugees.
- Additional help from the development sector cannot be subject to specific conditions. Language on the nexus should be carefully worded.

### **World Bank**

- Encouraged by progress: the first draft is stronger and comprehensive and contains core elements that will reshape our response. Thank UNHCR for continued leadership.
- Encouraged by the inclusion of specific collective outcomes in para 5. Fully support the level of ambition they represent. Fully support the targets and level of support they point to as well as the enhanced responsibility sharing mechanism.
- We remain available to work on refining indicators so that we can monitor and measure progress over time.
- Welcome the emphasis on predictable humanitarian and development strategies linked to national approaches. Keep in mind the importance of leaving no one behind.
- Committed to engaging with refugee hosting countries.
- Welcome strengthened protection and need to tackle root causes and committed to scale up engagement in fragile countries to address drivers of conflicts and support returns.
- Support the idea of measuring impact on host countries and stand ready to play our part in this perspective as well.

### **UNICEF**

- Those consultations directly relate to 20 million children. Conflict and violence disproportionately affect children. So we urge to take all measures to protect children.
- Other reasons leading to displacement of children include child recruitment into armed forces, domestic abuse, forced child labour, child marriage, and lack of access to healthcare. We hope that the GCR will not only reflect this but will mobilize efforts and facilitate access to health education and social safety nets and overall strengthen child protection systems.
- It is important to collect age disaggregated data is vital, but this data should be kept confidential and only used for protection purposes. Recently, UNICEF, UNHCR and other have launched a call to action on the link between better data and protecting children on the move.
- Children and youth are critical stakeholders, they should not only be consulted but included in design and implementation of policies.

## **ILO**

- Welcome references to the principle of non-*refoulement* and other legal frameworks.
- Welcome para 5: measuring progress for socio-economic inclusion, particularly of women and girls, and importance of achieving durable solutions.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet of para 7: ILO will continue to enhance efforts to support access of refugee to decent work opportunities in line with experience and SDGs (especially SDG 8).
- Welcome focus on prevention and root causes, and note employment generation and decent work is fundamental and reinforces humanitarian and development nexus.
- Supporting peacebuilding has always been a core mandate of ILO. ILO has recently developed Recommendation #205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience, which stresses the importance of partnerships in this dimension.
- Convinced of the relevance of intergraded strategies to address root causes, which should integrate these pillars: support the development of job market, sustainable enterprises and skill development, social protection and supporting and creation of decent jobs. This should apply to refugees and when appropriate, to returnees and support an enabling environment for enterprises.
- ILO deeply convinced of the value of promoting social dialogue and tripartite dialogue to address root causes.

## **OHCHR**

- OHCHR pleased to hear such unanimous calls for the integration of human rights framework as a basis for the GCR. We have consistently stated that the GCR is an important opportunity to advance human rights for refugees, who are first and foremost human rights holders
- Need to recognize states as duty bearers and welcome the human rights instruments.
- Glad to see that success will hinge on safeguards for the rights of refugees and that GCR must be in line with broader UN mandate.
- We need to work on further integrating norms and instruments in all parts of the GCR, for example with regard to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, disabilities rights, etc. We need to build upon the broader legal framework looking at cultural rights, protections owed to women, survivors of torture and trauma, etc. Those are applicable to refugees and complement refugee law.
- Also call upon ensure robust complementarity between GCR and GCM.
- Need complementary to ensure protection to those who fall outside the refugee definition and those affected by climate change and natural disasters or food insecurity.

## **WHO**

- Welcomes this draft. Value goals, especially point 1 and 2, which will address burden sharing and enhance national protection systems.
- Commitment to SDG will need to be strengthened, especially on 'leave no one behind'.
- We also need to further enhance predictability in refugee response.
- Addressing root causes should be linked with UN reform.
- Recommend health is included in section 7 on resilience, alongside education and livelihood. Robust reference to access to health needed.
- Would like to see more on health intervention and coordination on this within the UN system.

## **GAVI Alliance**

- Welcomes the first draft. Stronger focus on prevention and stronger articulation between peace development agenda.

- Welcome the inclusion of education and civil registries to meet the needs of refugees and host communities.
- It must address the biggest risk to refugees: they must have access to low-cost impactful health interventions such as vaccines, as it will reduce outbreak of diseases.
- Early years of children are threatened, and in situations of vulnerability this is further heightened.
- Suggest stronger articulation of access to health services for refugees and host communities and recognition of health as a key investment in human capital.
- Para 7 include mention of health as a key investment in human capital; para 40 include disease surveillance; para 64 include access to essential health service packages.

## FAO

- Welcome the draft. More specifically, welcome the inclusion of food security, recognition that state actors must facilitate access to food, specific attention to nutrition is important to tackle food insecurity.
- Durable food solutions will reduce the need for direct food assistance.

**Joint NGO statement on Agenda item 1 can be found [here](#)**

## Volker Turk – Closing remarks

- We heard the need to maintain a high level of ambition and we are heartened by that.
- We heard interesting language such as from Iran, which talked about a whole-of-globe approach. We also heard the need to further strengthen paragraphs that relate to protection. Centrality of protection must guide the Compact.
- We also agree that the contributions of those states not party to the Refugee Convention must be acknowledged. We will continue to listen to those countries and also to be duty bound to hope for further accessions.
- Considerations of age, gender and diversity inclusion are present in the text but we heard that more is needed, so will insert clear mention in the introduction including children and disabilities along with Accountability to Affected Populations.
- We heard an emerging voice calling for strengthened references to humanitarian principles as well as to be more explicit on the New Way of Working and partnership approaches.
- We heard calls to mention para 18 (CRRF, NYD) so that it is reflected in the GCR (para 5).
- We will clearly recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all. States do not have the same starting point and need contextualized approaches.
- When it comes to addressing root cause and prevention, need to link to wider UN reform process.
- Environmental degradation and climate change: What is in the next is by no means a furthering of the refugee definition. The text only identifies it as a reality, one of the multiplying factors that contribute to conflict and are behind the root causes of displacement. We will make this more explicit in the next draft.
- The Refugee Convention and definition have to be seen in relation to International Law. Para 4 on the regime starts with a reference to *non-refoulement*, goes into regional instruments, etc., recognizing that over the years the discussion on who is in need of international protection has evolved with some regions adopting specific initiatives to cover some gaps (e.g. AU Convention, EU Common Asylum System, subsidiary forms of protection, Cartagena and 100 good practices of Brasilia). We have a number of good practices and legal standards that

attempted to fill gaps for those in need of international protection and the refugee concept is coherent in this relation.

- Complementarity between the two compacts: it is clear that elements of the two compacts directly speak to some issues like mixed flows, reception conditions and determination of specific needs or international protection needs. Some progress to ensure complementarity needs to be done in this regard. Part B of Draft 1 will be most concerned with those aspects.
- We hope that in both compact processes, the discussions are informed by the current state of international law and we have published a note in this regard.
- We heard requests for clarification on Para 6, voluntary and mutually reinforcing goals: Need to balance voluntariness with a commitment to pledges. In February we were asked to square circles on how to balance the nature of voluntariness, non-binding approach with a sense of commitment to make responsibility sharing work. One formula that reflect this is para 6. We will have to see what the needs are (identified in part B). We will then need to see how actions can be supported and reinforced through responsibility sharing mechanisms. How to make sure to respond concretely and operationally to situations by ensuring there is dedication to contributing and making it a whole-of-globe affair and that there is reliable support depending on capacities available. This is one of the formula to ensure that host countries can rely on the international community.