

Global Compact on Refugees – Third Formal Consultations 10 – 11 April, Geneva

Agenda item 1: Areas in need of support

Brazil (On behalf of GRULAC)

- These discussions are intrinsically linked to the previous one. Part B should be interpreted as non-exhaustive and will require responsibility sharing in order to be implemented.
- In paragraph 43, (Part B), should not impose additional obligations on host states. We call attention to well-functioning reception and registration systems in order to ensure proper identification of protection needs. In this regard, Brazil welcomes Programme of Action processing for unaccompanied and separated children's application in light of best interest of the child.
- Acknowledging 100 Points of Brasilia, as it highlights prompt issuance of documents for asylum seekers.
- We note however that the document should not be a precondition for services and rights.
- Recalling that States committed under New York Declaration to end children detention, we welcome the references to development of alternatives for detention, particularly for children.
- Further clarification on the asylum support group needed, especially on how the proposed group will add value to UNHCR legal advisers and how will UNHCR ensure alignment with existing protection standards.

Uganda (On behalf of the Africa Group)

- Take note of the improved language in the document and commend the Secretariat for providing a good basis for our discussion.
- We note that the document remains prescriptive of what is required for host states and weak on what is required from the international community.
- The GCR should not impose further obligations, and this language should be further strengthened and clearly state this to be the aim of the whole process.
- In addition, funding to host states should be premised on the fulfilment of key conditions, the underlying factors should be addressing humanitarian needs. Language crafting such conditionality should be removed from the text. Ensure these two elements are not creating additional conditions, and paragraph 43 should be amended accordingly. The aim should rather be to ease burden of host states.
- The group welcomes recognition of capacity development of local authorities with regard to putting in place preparedness and contingency planning measures in advance of crisis. However, the group proposes and prefers that support to local authorities should be through national authorities because they play a central role in planning and coordination the refugee response and this should be reflected throughout.
- Further request the deletion of footnote 29, this is a matter left to states to determine according to their national priorities.
- Acknowledge local service delivery, we propose however established measures by host states would be a more comprehensive approach in paragraph 48.
- Regarding safety and security, we would be satisfied with language promoting an integrated approach.

European Union

- We wish to repeat that we are strongly convinced that the Global Compact on Refugees is an opportunity to modernize refugee responses and bring a much more robust involvement of

development actors. This is fully in line with the EU approach to forced displacement and the humanitarian/development nexus.

- The EU and its Member States are also convinced that the Compact can be a unique opportunity to strengthen cooperation internationally in the area of asylum with those states that are not actively engaged in the global refugee response, nor signatories of the Geneva refugee Convention or members of the UNHCR Executive Committee. We welcome the approach of comprehensive, mutual responses combining host country leadership and reliable external support to such leadership, in the spirit of the New York Declaration of 2016.
- In line with the non-binding nature of the Compact, it is clear that no legal obligations can arise from it, neither for host countries, nor for donors, resettlement countries or other actors. The Compact seeks to foster comprehensive responses through a cooperative framework and an improved system of burden-and responsibility-sharing.
- We welcome that UNHCR has incorporated many of the comments made earlier and strengthened the language in many sections of the first draft. We also welcome a number of additions such as: food security, nutrition and statelessness.
- We would encourage referring throughout the text to "refugee flows" instead of "large flows" since the absence of specification could risk generating confusion regarding the scope of the Global Refugee Compact and overlaps with the Global Migration Compact. We recall our previous comments on the importance to avoid potential misunderstandings or creation of new legal categories. We would also recommend throughout the text a more detailed reference to data protection principles, as well as references to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, to LGBTIQ, victims of trafficking as well as to pregnant women and people with disabilities. Finally, the text should consistently use terminology 'promoting and protecting human rights' when it refers to human rights,
- On Agenda item 1: Reception and admission, we would highlight that preparedness, early identification registration and status-determination of persons who have applied for international protection allowing for their rapid referral to asylum procedures, are at the core of our approach.
- We welcome the addition in the GCR of a strong reference to preparedness because it ensures more effective, better accepted and less costly intervention when a crisis arises. Prevention and contingency planning must be led and supported by the relevant states and included in national and regional planning. We recommend drawing on existing systems.
- We support the reference to risk analysis, contingency plans and capacity strengthening. Global and regional awareness-raising should be considered. We recommend further reinforcing the reference to, where possible, national ownership and leadership of host countries, in respect of development effectiveness principles. Reference should also be made to the need to strengthen preparedness, early warning/and early action capacities of other relevant stakeholders, in particular humanitarian organisations. We would also welcome a stronger invitation to host States to facilitate entry for standby and emergency humanitarian deployments.
- We welcome the text proposed for immediate reception arrangements that rightly highlight s the primary responsibility of the receiving State. We consider that UNHCR's support to the local authorities should be delivered with duly informing and in close coordination with the national authorities.
- We would encourage developing approaches geared to avoiding encampment from the outset. A critical role should be played by integrated urban policy, spatial planning and settlement policies. Cash based interventions could be considered from the outset.

- Could UNHCR for its part clarify whether it considers being in position to deliver on these activities within its current budget? Could UNHCR clarify what 'protection risks' are targeted at the immediate reception phase?
- We welcome the reference to legitimate security concerns of host countries and the need to uphold the civilian character of asylum.
- We fully support the recognition of the importance of registration and encourage using robust and effective biometric systems taking into account specific vulnerabilities of refugees. Registration being distinct from status determination, we can also support the reference to statelessness determination where requested by a host country for which the role of UNHCR is to support the establishment and strengthening of procedures.
- Group-based protection (rather than recognition) or other similar options mentioned in the draft in relation to large movements should be an option only as appropriate, when an individual assessment is not possible to addressing international protection needs. We consider as a preferable option the individual assessment that strengthens the credibility of asylum systems.
- The EU stands ready to consider the possible involvement of EASO in the asylum capacity support group. We would also ask for clarification on potential links to the Global Support Platform and existing UNHCR structures, as well as the composition of global pool of experts, their functions and mandate.
- We ask for clarification of the concept of ' broader international protection challenges ' and how it should be included in the GCR that should remain clearly focused.
- Finally, given that the GCM and the GCR are separate but complementary, could UNHCR clarify the scope of the humanitarian assistance that it provides under these different circumstances?

Ethiopia

- Appreciate UNHCR for the efforts made to come up with an all-encompassing area of support to be included in the PoA that would ensure effective response system to cases of large movement of people.
- Welcome the focus given to preparedness, contingency planning and early warning system given that effective response to large movement of people undoubtedly requires building national capacity to carry out sound risk analysis, early warning, monitoring and close coordination with all stakeholders through information exchange and joint planning. This includes situational analysis on movement of people and evolving political and security situation as well as scenario building exercises.
- Situational analysis, early warning and scenario building exercise should be on a regular basis in countries close to ongoing conflicts and instability in a manner that involves all partners and stakeholders. To that end, the Global Compact on Refugees should provide due consideration to strengthening national coordination mechanism both at headquarter and field level, strengthen joint information sharing and needs assessment exercises practices. Also believe that UNHCR needs to strengthen its support to host countries by sharing information regarding movement of people of concern.
- Early warning, scenario analysis and contingency planning need to encourage regional approaches using existing regional early warning programs.
- Stress that support to host countries under paragraph 44 should include developing a stand-by capacity to respond quickly to large-scale arrivals of refugees and migrants with a stand-by service assistance package and necessary technical and human resources committed in advance. This we believe would ensure the immediate deployment of equipment for registration and availing the logistics required.

- Need to prepare contingency planning requirements that take into account environmental impact assessment and mitigation plan, which is prepared to avoid adverse impacts on the environment and ensure peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities.
- With regard to safety and security, the draft document needs to clearly spell out that responsibility for safety and security lies within hosts states. In addition, the document needs to recognize that refugees should be included in community watch systems in order to get information on security alerts.
- With regard to registration and documentation, we welcome the focus on digitalization and national capacity building. The establishment of protocols should include not only sharing data but should be in line with principles of privacy of data.
- Welcome the inclusion of paragraph 55 with regard to UNHCR's support to climate induced cross-border displacement as it helps ensure people across spectrum of causes of forced displacement are supported and are not left out of the ambit of the two Compacts.

Norway

- Welcome section on reception and admission. States are responsible, but sometimes will need support.
- In situations with large influx of refugees, we support the idea of asylum capacity support group, which will draw also resources from all countries. Would like clarification on how this will be activated and if this is to be activated in new and protracted situations?

Djibouti

- Reiterate the humanitarian principles especially the principle of *non-refoulement*.
- In paragraph 43, reference will need to be reiterated in support of measurable actions.
- Welcome the provision contained regarding access to education and empowerment of refugees and favour refugee inclusion. This contributes to sustainable returns and reintegration.
- This should not create extra burdens on host states especially low-income developing countries.
- Recent experience shows that increase in refugees in African countries are not being looked at, and we are seeing reduced levels of financing. This is having a negative impact. Support should be tangible and measurable. Useful for the compact to look carefully at all the stakeholders as far as the refugees are concerned.

Turkey

- Mapping of large numbers arrivals requires quick thinking and as country facing large movement of refugees we value this. Preparedness and contingency planning are key elements, and based on our experience this helps respond more effectively.
- However, support should not be limited to resources.
- Early registration to better identify foreign terrorist fighters and separate after arrival should also be highlighted.
- Mention unaccompanied and separated children, as well as people living with disabilities.
- We must not forget such support must be provided with host state consent but also in light of their sovereign right and hope to see clear references to this.
- Application of security checks and health screening and biometric data should be in line with national data protection standards. Personal data management must be made.
- Identification of international protection needs is paramount and we welcome the asylum support group, but need more clarification about its tasks.

- And agree UNHCR role on providing advice on international protection, however care must be taken to separate fighters, and in line with exclusion clause in the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Denmark

- Welcome emergency preparedness and contingency planning and this is in line with the UN Secretary General's Prevention Agenda. Could stress the need for national ownership in developing capacities and standby measures. These are important to ensure sustained impact.
- Welcome recognition of development actors. Role of civil society, diaspora groups and the need for refugee and youth participation as well as age, gender and diversity could be further highlighted.
- Recommend taking new arrivals away from borders and out of camps in line with UNHCR Policy on Alternative to Camps.
- Note the legitimate security concerns of states and this should be complementary to refugee protection.
- Broader protection challenges could be included and should remain focuses.
- Data protection under registration and documentation important. Need to collect age. Gender and diversity disaggregated data as well as need for refugee youth specific data.
- Call for measures to improve data and need greater harmonisation as an improved basis for targeted support measures and respecting confidentiality. In this regard, important role of UNHCR-WB data centre.

Luxembourg

- Would like to see reference to gender equality, horizontal inclusion of human rights protection of linguistic and religious minorities including LGBTIQ. Would like mainstreaming of child rights in the GCR.
- Want to avoid locking refugees in camps, and want an urban policy.
- Access to education and work are vital including for girls and those with temporary status as well as non-discriminatory access to the national health system.

Mexico

- Mexico welcomes section 3B of draft 1. Special attention from the international community. And therefore, requires further commitment from all players.
- Welcome section on persons with specific needs. We believe programme elements are useful guides, which make it possible to plan and implement responses to large refugee displacement and support communities that receive them.
- Reception and admission: challenges posed by mixed flows mean we need to bolster operational coordination by actors on the ground including by UNHCR and IOM.
- Human rights apply without distinction to refugees and migrants, so need consistence between the two compacts.
- While protection of those affected by natural disasters and climate change is not part of the 1951 Geneva Convention, the compact could provide guidance on how to bolster coordination and cooperation at operational level.
- Believe that asylum capacity support group is positive, but must be further developed along with a term of reference. And believe this mechanism must meet the priorities of those who decide to seek assistance and work in line with existing protection standards.

Germany

- Reconfirm our commitment to the Geneva Convention and the obligations it entails for us. We would like to see age, gender and diversity mainstreamed across the document.

- Welcome the strong emphasis on preparedness. Would like to see reference to the need of strengthening common preparedness needs of other stakeholders especially humanitarian actors.
- UNHCR has an important role. At the same time, we want to underline that it is the responsibility of host states to ensure due reception standards and we want to see alternatives to camps and references to trafficking and protection of women and children including SGBV.
- Standby and emergency deployments need more consideration.
- Security and international protection measure is spelled out and this is welcome. Appreciate the data protection measures; welcome stronger messages on data protection.
- Need language coherence on gender and women as regards to victims of trafficking in order to ensure complementarity and consistency with GCM.
- To maintain the credibility of the asylum system, including those not entitled to international protection, group-based recognition should not replace individual protection assessment, and this cannot form the basis for resettlement.

Slovenia

- Believe that compact brings added value in contributing towards contemporary challenges.
- We need to create sustainable long-term support for refugees. Slovenia considers the development of standards and prevention measures a big step towards better living conditions in host countries.
- Half a million-people entered or transited Slovenia (country of 2 million) along the eastern Mediterranean route.
- Set up reception and registration systems and food registration in a dignified way and paid special attention to the most vulnerable groups. Cooperated with NGOs. We believe constant monitoring of reception standards for refugees is necessary and special attention must be given to vulnerable groups.
- Development and humanitarian action should complement each other and be based on good collaboration with international actors.
- Unaccompanied minors must be provided with full care and attention.

Montenegro

- We welcome strengthening language on protection and
- Recommend clarification on host country obligation in paragraph 43.
- Although not legally binding, important to underline joint exercise and process and success will depend on commitments by all.
- Role of local actors is important and in paragraph 44 satisfied with language on contingency planning and emergency preparedness.
- In paragraph 45 and 46 support focus on women, but like to see inclusion of older people.
- In paragraph 48 security concerns of states should be recognised with equal emphasis on those affected.
- Registration and documentation is crucial to obtain to legal status, and support to host countries needed at the early stage.
- Highlight the responsibility of countries of origin and like to see this reflected.
- Support alternatives to detention and oppose child detention; support UNICEF position to progressively work towards ending child detention.
- Support the asylum capacity support group.

Bangladesh

- In paragraph 48, on safety and security, guidance to local authorities should also include civil service; civil servants at the local level remain closely involved in the reception process.
- Concerns with identification at border or as early as possible should be further elaborated and must be handled by national laws.
- Insertion in paragraph 54 on identifying protection needs: need to provide advice on how to identify international protection needs in situation of mixed flows including large movement of people from countries affected by disasters and climate change.
- Support paragraph 55 and connection of international protection with those displaced by natural disasters.

USA

- GCR should not increase bureaucracies, burdens and processes but should be streamlined to yield better protection.
- The nonbinding nature set out in paragraph 6 is key to our support. Stress to expand burden sharing beyond traditional states by including development actors, the private sector, civil society and refugees themselves.
- Appreciate local service delivery in line with the Grand Bargain commitments. UNHCR, international actors and NGOs should build local capacity.
- Identification, registration and distinguishing refugees from others important to ensure refugee protection remains objective.
- Biometric system and availability of interoperable data important to prevent fraud.
- Support identification of families with special needs as well as referrals.
- Identifying protection needs must be related the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- Group-based recognition is one way but not always the best way and States should have the flexibility to adapt their approaches.
- UNHCR's role in protecting people displaced by natural disasters should be limited. OAU and Cartagena Conventions are relevant for our countries. UNHCR's involvement should remain narrow, that is refugees should remain UNHCR's operational focus.

Uganda

- Propose the deletion of references to establishment of protocols and legal formalities to share data. This matter should be left to the discretion of states.
- When identifying international protection needs, group-based and *prima facie* recognition must be applied where appropriate. Seek clarification on how and when group-based is used.
- Take note of the asylum capacity support group and seek clarity and more information on geographical representation of experts and the ToR and to what extent it will help alleviate burden. This should be included in the compact.
- Request on clarity what the Secretariat means by state-to-state twinning.
- Welcome recognition of the damage to the environment hosting could cause and call to address this, however footnote 45 should be deleted, because not all States are party to the Nansen Initiative.

Dominican Republic

- In paragraph 44 and 45, we suggest taking into account any type of contingency planning *vis-a-vis* large numbers of refugees, and this must have the permission of the host states.
- In paragraph 49, support of government strategy must have agreement of host states. Replace in the sentence, "In order to support host countries" with "when requested by host countries".

- In paragraph 55: National law need to be implemented on how to identify stateless persons. Would avoid confusion on who is a stateless person on territory of a host country. They need to be implemented by both states. This would avoid misunderstanding as to who must determine who is a stateless person.
- Measures proposed in paragraphs 53, 54 and 55 must be activated when requested by host states.

Kenya

- In Part B, Section 1 to 1.5, in reference to contribution for various activities, appreciate how these will be envisaged, would they take the form of flash appeals?
- On the asylum capacity support group, caution against too many bodies that overwhelm UNHCR.
- In paragraph 54, one of the activities notes UNHCR will provide advice, we consider that this may be going beyond UNHCR mandate and must be left to States.

Sweden

- Many improvements in the draft. For example, increased emphasis on responsibility-sharing and age, gender and diversity mainstreaming. Appreciate procedures to identify statelessness.
- In paragraph 49, would welcome further language on supporting national capacities and digital registrations; the importance of proper registration and its connection to rights, needs and assistance cannot be underestimated.
- Human rights dimension could be strengthened, for example, protection of refugees and their human rights.
- Paragraph 44, could draw on existing Sendai framework, for example, and this must be led by national planning.
- Addressing specific needs, reference also needed to other forms of exploitation, and need to refer to illiterate persons need to access information. Since older adults is not a category. a bullet could be added: women, girls, boys and men of all ages and persons with difficulties.
- When assessing international protection needs, adapting processes that take into account all gender and age. Could UNHCR elaborate on broader international protection?
- Can UNHCR expand on why climate change has been left out?

New Zealand

- Range of tools could be developed to assist hosting countries.
- Would be interested to learn what are the new areas of work for UNHCR, which are not currently being undertaken. And welcome text on children, and like Montenegro, believe that detention of children is unacceptable.
- Welcome proposals to deal with mixed migration, and determine those individuals that require international attention.
- The asylum capacity support group must be drawn from global experts and interested to know how this will be initiated; need to ensure cross-regional representation of experts and would like to have a term of reference.

Netherlands

- Need to enhance predictable responsibility sharing. CRRF is at the heart. Important to repeat that through comprehensive refugee responses based on international protection and burden and responsibility sharing, we are better able to assist and protect refugees and support host countries.
- Deliberations last month and those to come must focus on how we can all support host states.

- Pleased to see strengthened text. Need to secure the basic need of refugees and the most vulnerable need specific attention.
- More attention to urban refugees. Too few references in the draft, especially on reception and admission. There is a need to actively reach out to refugees in urban areas.
- Asylum capacity support group is an important proposal.
- In paragraph 46, add list of persons including survivors of sexual and gender based violence, and survivors of trafficking. Interpretation must be age sensitive and gender responsive.
- Paragraph 48 on safety and security must be guided by human rights and protection. Human rights training should be added.

Republic of Korea

- Reception and admission focus on capacity of host countries to ensure effective preparedness and take note that early warning has been made child protection.
- Must take steps to combat sexual and gender based violence.
- Assure our support.

Spain

- Recognise efforts made by UNHCR to include diverse sensitivities.
- Reiterate our vision that the compact should not create new categories and preserve the regime.
- Underscore multi-stakeholder approach, but reiterate the role of the state.
- Should add list of persons with protection risks including sexual and gender based survivors, victims of trafficking and LGBTI community. Interviews should be held in age and gender-appropriate environment. Gender markers could be included to measure progress.
- Should clearly define broad movements and broad protection challenges in paragraph 55.
- Favour individual recognition as the main parameter without generic categories.
- Would like more information on footnote 35, regarding the role of private sector in the registration of refugees.

Ecuador

- Welcome new version, and note that the language is strengthened. Include reference to the centrality of *non-refoulement*.
- Part 1.1 of Part B, cannot ignore IDPs in paragraph 45, so need to add reference in this regard.
- Vision of shared responsibility needs to tackle internal displacement, this will directly tackle the refugee crisis.
- Reservations on section 1.3, on safety and security sub-section, which tends to give priority to security measures of states in detriment to the security of refugees and asylum seekers. Domestic and foreign security is important but should also include preventing misconduct by state authorities. Should underscore the central role of human rights.
- In identifying protection needs, should include mechanism for identification and referral of people in situation of vulnerabilities.
- Consider complementarity of protection. Compact is an opportunity to further protect those part of mixed migration flows including those linked to climate change and disaster.

South Africa

- The PoA is meant to be underpinned by paragraph 18, Annex 1, of the New York Declaration. Expect the structure of the PoA to reflect this.
- The compact should be underpinned by UN charter and like to see this reflected in the chapeau of the PoA.

- Follow-up process of CRRF in specific situations that identify best practices, therefore our understanding is that it will include some element of lessons learnt, particularly since it has been piloted in six African countries.
- Areas in need of support should not impose additional obligations.
- Any response need to be tailored and context specific and take into account national policies and legal framework and should not entail financial obligations on host states.
- In paragraph 44, replace local authorities with relevant authorities.
- In early warning, concerned with footnote 29, which is restrictive. Support only to mechanisms cited here, and call this to amended or deleted.
- Concerned by paragraph 48, which is intrusive on national security, some kind of safeguards must be added.

Sudan

- Certain points need to be improved to eliminate all ambiguities.
- Language in this document is bold and demanding on host countries and enigmatic on what is expected of the international community and donors and what they should be doing to meet their responsibilities.
- We support references to Agenda 2030. This should not distract us. Need to look at political issues for a comprehensive approach; the document supports the human side and seems to ignore the political side.
- Asylum remains an exceptional situation and focus on reasons that led displacement rather than put pressure on host countries to give them rights like citizens. Sudan hosts two million refugees today and is doing its best to provide protection, health and security. However, we need further support to meet material and infrastructure needs and everything that asylum seekers need so we need more international cooperation.

Holy See

- Welcomes reference in the document that managing borders and protecting refugees are not mutually exclusive but should instead be mutually reinforcing.
- Important to adopt non-discriminatory policies with regard refugees and citizens. Exclusive security oriented approach ignores tragedy that forces people to seek security elsewhere. The principle of non-*refoulement* has to be respected in every case.
- In section 1.6 of Part B, in paragraph 54, wish to add, whereby UNHCR could provide guidance for access to justice and guarantee refugees' security to report abuse with security.
- Latest measures dedicate more attention to unaccompanied children. When assisting initial registrations for unaccompanied and separated children, must always follow best interest of the child.

Hungary

- On reception and admission, welcome states' legitimate security concerns. We pay particular attention to border security in addition to protection of refugees.
- Thorough screening is essential for those not needing protection and to identify threatening elements at entry or as early as possible.
- Welcome recognition of the importance of registration and documentation as a key tool for follow-up and also helps combat fraud and corruption. In this regard wish to highlight every person has the right to live in the country of origin, and if this is not possible, help must be provided close to their homes.

- Through the “Hungary Helps” initiative, Hungary is focusing on assistance to troubled countries in their homeland. And wish to emphasise every solution must of voluntary nature and must take into account the capacities of states.
- Goals of resettlement in paragraph 82 is too ambitious and premature, we suggest deletion of the 25 percent target.

Jamaica

- Sustainable capacity-building initiatives in reception and admission are essential for the successful implementation of the GCR.
- Embracing a multi-stakeholder approach, wish to emphasise that host states should lead the exercise in a manner integrated with host states national development policies.
- Coordination among stakeholders must be encouraged. Development must be guided by analysis and not create unnecessarily onerous mechanisms where existing arrangements prove effective.

UK

- Areas in need of support vitally important. Recognise the role of host countries and endorse partnership with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Paragraph setting out various stakeholders at the beginning of Section B could be useful. This paragraph should make explicit the diverse needs based on age gender and diversity and those persecuted based on religious or sexual grounds. This should apply to all three subsections.
- Will highlight three areas: 1) stronger acknowledgement should be made of multipurpose cash transfers aligned with national policies. 2) Digital solutions could assist more. Risks must be addressed, but digital solutions can offer lots of advantages including with cash distributions. Stand ready to share our experience. 3) Provision of mental health and psychosocial support must be explicitly mentioned and must recognise the broader spectrum of stress. Community based healthcare and child support also crucial.

Brazil

- Both parts of the PoA are indivisible and should be read in a holistic manner. This will foster conditions for better refugee protection. Appreciate clarification in paragraph 43.
- Brazil deems the issue of admission a crucial element of equitable and predictable responsibility sharing. States could also contribute by expanding global asylum space.
- In situation of mixed movements, refugees and migrants will require individualised responses. In the context of GCM, differentiation must be done in a way that recognises that human beings are entitled to protection regardless of their migratory status.
- The asylum capacity support group must abide by existing international protection standards, consistent with the spirit of the Refugee Convention.

Canada

- Part 3.B is critical part of the GCR.
- Multi-stakeholder approaches are the way.
- Would like further development of early warning section, which can help serve in long term.
- Increase coordinated support can bring value, which includes development actors and civil society organisations.
- Educational credentials can help to support self-reliance.
- Supportive of the asylum support capacity group. Would be interested to have further clarity on the group and how it builds on existing arrangements.

- Encourage to work on further complementarity with GCM and avoid gaps.
- People have the right to seek asylum, and need to safeguard rights of all people on the move.

Iran

- This section should be reformulated in accordance with the objectives of annex 1 of the New York Declaration.
- There should be zero tolerance policies for states creating impediments for refugees.
- In section B, long list of detailed responsibility for host states, but vague references to the responsibilities of other states. There is an obvious imbalance. Through the so-called mechanisms in Part 3 A, we have a highly unregulated approach with no essential means for a concrete mechanism. Without such a mechanism, fair and equitable responsibility sharing will remain in limbo.
- The failure to operationalize the PoA will make the GCR redundant. The present draft highlights the disparity from the outset and leads to reproduction of injustice.
- Protection is a shared international responsibility and should be discharged by all states, and need to avoid measures that distort impact. We need to ensure open border policies without allowing Member States to circumvent those. Asylum seekers should be free to seek refuge wherever they want.
- Rights of major hosting countries must be safeguarded, and should be allowed to stop receiving people until fair and equitable burden-sharing is in place.

France

- First and foremost, we need emphasis on prevention of crisis to boost response to refugees.
- Set of mechanisms must provide rapid response and would like to ask what the modalities are in this regard.
- Strengthening elements of need of women and minors and supply of water, and the lack of mechanism for resource mechanism.
- Welcome reference to complementarity between the security of states and refugees.
- Registration and documentation in order to identify vulnerable groups are also welcome. Inclusion of children is also positive.
- On identifying international protection needs, encouraging states to exceed legal instruments could also be underscored. The text should make reference to enable UNHCR in partnership with IOM.
- Support the asylum capacity support group.
- Paragraph 55 should be in step with Refugee Convention, making reference to regional instruments without prejudice to the Refugee Convention.

Russia

- Implementation should be conducted in accordance to UN charter, UN resolution 46/182 and the 1951 Convention.
- GCR should not enlarge refugee status.
- Development of indicators should be done through an intergovernmental process.
- Must separate refugee and migrants. “Large movements” should say “of refugees” and delete “mixed movement”.
- Natural disasters and climate change should not be included, and reference to the Nansen Initiative should be deleted.
- Need more information on how the asylum capacity support group will support host states.
- Believe UNHCR should function based on its mandate and there is no need to include other reasons of displacement by climate change or natural disasters.

- Nansen Initiative is not a universal document and reference to it in footnote 45 should be deleted.

Australia

- Welcome the draft.
- Reiterate importance of consistent reference to refugees with disabilities. This needs more references in the text.

Pakistan

- The PoA should remain objective and based on facts.
- There is inherent element of conditionality linking funding to putting these programmes into place. This should be removed.
- Reiterate our call for UN resolution 46/182 on coordination of humanitarian response to be referred to in the GCR. There should be a clear mention that support is provided in consent of the host countries.
- Should not be prescriptive, and should more a tool of good practices.
- Where local authorities are mentioned, such interaction should be consistent with national arrangement.
- Reception remains subordinate to national policies and support must be at the request of host countries.
- We do not agree to include references to documents, the outcome of which were no reached by intergovernmental processes, whether in the body or footnotes.
- Screening of fighter and combatants should be done at the border. Sharing of information with host state and country of origin could be an important aspect.
- In identifying international protection needs, asylum capacity support group is a plausible option. But must be at the request of host countries and need to elaborate ToR.
- On displacement by natural disasters, important to ensure consistency between GCR and GCM, while no appetite to create new categories, and caution against expanding refugee definition.

Argentina

- Not clear how the various actions will be implemented: increasing resettlement countries and risk analysis.
- Universal standards are difficult to implement in regional and national levels.
- Regional approaches strengthened in paragraph 43 and take into account regional realities when it comes to regional reception arrangements. What is referred to, would this mean possible exchange of practices.
- Safety and security should include information exchange when it comes to undocumented refugees and migrants.
- In registration and documentation, decentralising registration could be referred to as well as reference that emphasise that for unaccompanied and separated children detention should be the last resort. New York Declaration said we will work to that end.
- In paragraph 55, suggest subtitle to include regional instruments.
- Definition of refugees does not include people displaced by natural disasters.

Switzerland

- Welcome inclusion of *non-refoulement*, which is of paramount importance and as a non-derogatory law should be repeated in the text.

- In Part 3, 1.6, need to take into account the protection needs of those who are not refugees but cannot return. Humanitarian visas may be granted whose life is threatened in the country they lived or where they have come from.

Poland

- Support reference to legitimate security concerns of states in paragraph 48. The character is civilian and humanitarian. The nature and scale of mixed movement render threat to internal security and the state has the right to protect its borders.
- Need consistency between GCR and GCM, which will also have a positive impact on international protection needs.
- Effective protection protocols also call for secure borders along with combating migrant smuggling.
- Role of biometric system welcome and also risk analysis along with emergency preparedness and early warning.
- Support emphasis on national ownership in the area of preparedness and contingency planning.
- GCR should primarily respond to needs identified by receiving States and must be carried in respect of their sovereignty.
- Identifying international protection needs must be in line with the Refugee Convention. Group-based recognition may be used in some exceptional situations, but individual refugee status determination is the principle of international protection and basis of the system.

Colombia

- Preparation and contingency planning is important, but need more clarity on this. Current models are unresponsive that is why we support the idea that these be strengthened in the governance proposed. Institutional clarification of where these mechanisms add value and look at existing and proposed mechanisms which can be strengthened.
- International protection needs should align with paragraph 65 of the New York Declaration.
- Doubts about the added value of the asylum capacity support group. Why do we need this group if UNHCR has the ability to provide legal advice?

Italy

- Reiterate the importance of responsibility and burden sharing in contributing resources to host countries.
- Support the involvement of all actors including civil society and private actors, and appreciate preparedness and immediate reception arrangements.
- Safety of refugees against crime must be guarded at arrival and during journey. Refugees must also be granted access to justice.
- Children especially unaccompanied need best interest determination procedures.
- On determining international protection needs, group-based assessment must be done on a case-by-case basis.
- On climate change and disasters, GCR should ask states to use their discretion on humanitarian grounds to allow people affected by these phenomena even if they do not qualify. Would welcome language that no new categories and new obligations will be created.

Finland

- Reiterate that the first draft is moving in the right direction, including areas in need of support.
- Welcome strengthened references to preparedness.

- Must appropriately reflect the idea that disaster risk reduction is the primary responsibility of states, but at the same time requires a whole-of-society approach across all stakeholders.
- The PoA must strengthen protection framework with more attention to a range of vulnerabilities of different refugee populations including persons with disabilities.
- Referring to the charter adopted at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, encourage UNHCR to better reflect the language on commitment in the PoA.

Macedonia

- Welcome the suggestion to mobilise predictable humanitarian response.
- Welcome the envisaged managing of arrivals.
- Like Turkey, would like the inclusion of a roadmap and standards of procedures that will guide host and transit countries. This can be helpful to manage first response.
- As to immediate reception arrangements, recognise the valuable support of UNCHR, and stress that support should be provide not just to host but also transit countries including registration and documentation.
- On the part on need for immediate reception arrangements, identification, security screening and providing assistance, spirit of cooperation among affected countries must be reflected. This compact must not fail in the establishment of a tangible burden and responsibility sharing.

Algeria

- Paragraph 18, in Annex I of the New York Declaration should be informed by the practical application of the CRRF, therefore PoA must include lessons learnt from CRRF implementation. This will be in line with the action-oriented nature of the document.
- As well as focus areas, important to see to what extent the international community has supported the voluntary nature of assistance.
- Important PoA refers to UN resolution 46/182, international law and the UN charter and is underpinned by the four pillars of paragraph 18, thus PoA must follow the same structure.
- Wish to see language in paragraph 43 strengthen and made clear that it is not intended to put additional burden on host countries.
- Paragraph 44 should respect national sovereignty in dealing with local authority and must be submitted at the request of the state concerned, and this is also important for paragraph regarding the asylum capacity support group.
- Language in paragraph 45 should be linked to preparedness.

Belgium

- Welcome new version, which includes clarifications. Satisfied with those changes.
- In paragraph 49, the text remains vague on data protection, this is more than just establishing protocols, and details welcome on data protection principles.
- Appreciate diversity in determining international protection needs as well as inclusion of food security and nutrition and statelessness.
- Strengthening the text in paragraph 80 to approach countries not already participating in resettlement process. More information on multiyear schemes and other pathways is a bit minimalistic and could be more detailed.

Belarus

- Welcomes the changes in Part B.
- In paragraph 49, second sentence is important to prevent fraud and corruption. But also, important to mention crime.

- Refugees, especially women and girls are especially vulnerable to trafficking and sexual and gender based violence. Therefore, it is important to ensure early registration which will entitle them to receive assistance and prevent deceived promises. So, add crime including trafficking in persons.

Botswana

- Welcome preparedness measures including standby arrangements.
- Note in paragraph 48, safety and security concerns and appreciate elaboration of measures at entry level to protect national security. Like to see reference to national security. Must also incorporate security concerns among existing refugee communities and allow for policy space for resettlement.
- Asylum capacity support group welcome, but ensure regional representation to better understand the dynamics of the region.
- Meeting needs is critical, and like to know how the international community will support host countries, and welcome focus on unique needs of women and girls.
- Would like to see a clear reference of not leaving behind small and middle-income countries which are transit countries and also host refugees, and in this regard Global Concessional Financing Facility of the World Bank would be helpful.

Bolivia

- Need to underscore need for shared responsibility to support host countries so that they can guarantee rights of refugees. These must be technical and not lend to political manipulation.
- GCR must have specific commitments to root out discrimination and xenophobia.
- In paragraph 48, delete legitimate security concerns as it does not contribute to demystify relation between states and refugees. This should refer to the security of refugees.
- Need to know how the asylum capacity support group will work and the composition with respect to regional diversity.
- UNHCR seeking to play a key role, and would like to know if UNHCR has the means to do these and how does UNHCR intend to fund its engagement in these mechanisms.

Malaysia

- Many positive elements for host countries and refugees. Welcome it is not binding and states should be given the opportunity to contribute according to their capacities.
- Part 3 formulation have been adjusted among others including food security and nutrition and statelessness and these are intended to be inclusive. But these measures should not create new burden for host countries.
- On reception and admission, support immediate reception arrangements, and these must be undertaken in line with national policies, laws and regulations.
- On safety and security, this should complement state and refugees' security, and these measures must be developed to ensure state sovereignty is not jeopardised.
- Support programmes for children in armed groups; children should have protection and support in holistic manner. Support proposals for stronger references to disabled and older people.
- On the asylum capacity support group, would helpful if UNHCR could provide more details.

Syria

- Stress the importance of clear references under subheading of guiding principles that stipulate implementation in conformity with international law and UN charter and relevant UN resolution on emergencies 46/182 and in reference to UNHCR mandate.

- Difference in position between host and developed countries. This is not a negotiated text and imposes more obligations on host countries and countries of origin and goes against the New York Declaration. This will negatively impact the implementation of the GCR.
- Concerns still stand on references to certain meetings be it in the text like the WHS or Grand Bargain. Since they do not represent UN intergovernmental process, these must be deleted.

Guatemala

- We support reference to mixed flows and recognise the importance of identification of particular needs of people including boys, girls and women as well as victims of trafficking.
- Recall the importance of complementarity between the two compacts so as not to leave gaps.
- Support the establishment of concrete measures to alternatives to detention.

China

- Could circulate a tracked version, since we are not starting from scratch. Would be appreciated and six official languages UN could be arranged.
- Main purpose is to facilitate host countries instead of adding obligations. Language in paragraph 54 identified many specific areas, and country-specific measures; important to respect country sovereignty. We would like to have adapted language regarding the role of host countries; this must be with the consent of host countries or requested by host countries.
- Focus should be on preparedness instead of early warning otherwise we will lose focus.
- Asylum capacity support group idea is not clear and we share concerns of some delegations; this needs to be further clarified.

Egypt

- An important area could be suggested: UNHCR could offer technical assistance to States that are willing to identify exact number of refugees on their territories. Not all countries have border reception capacity. There are some countries who don't know how many refugees live in their countries. Would be useful to set up plans in this regard.
- Two comments: 1) On Immediate reception arrangements, in paragraphs 44 and 47, emphasise difference between countries, some countries do not have camps and refugees are directly included in national systems. So, support must be by national systems. 2) On safety and security, in paragraph 48, fighters and combatants is a legal perspective, there are other criminal groups that need to be identified for sharing information between countries.

Venezuela

- GCR must be implemented as a whole. Intimately related with Part A. Introduction principles will coordinate areas in need of support and meeting needs.
- Clear reference needed to international law, UN charter and state sovereignty, UNHCR mandate and UN resolution 46/182. Guiding principles should ensure respect of the definition of refugees in the Convention as well as the regional instruments where applicable.
- Paragraph 44 must take into account legal framework of states.
- Delete paragraph 52 as it extends unduly the UNHCR mandate. Migrants are not part of it.
- Asylum capacity support group: more information needed on how UNHCR will select global experts and ensure regional representation is needed.
- PoA should be discussed in relation to the CRRF.

Lesotho

- Notes that GCR does not impose additional obligations, this language should be further strengthened, and this should be the aim of the document.

- Welcome recognition of the capacity and development of local authorities to put in place contingency planning, but support to local authorities must be provided at the national level. This should be reflected throughout the compact.
- On safety and security of refugees, we would be satisfied with language that includes national integrated approach. Legitimate state security interests must be recognised and respected.
- Asylum capacity support group: we support this, but need more information about geographical representation and ToR. This will alleviate the burden of host countries, and we propose this should also be included in the Compact.
- Welcome mention of damage to environment, and call to address this, but request footnote 45 be deleted as not all are party to the Nansen initiative.

Cuba

- Support health, education and all services for refugees. Also pay attention to national authorities and the role of UN agencies to ensure States can implement this section. Balance between Section A and B, so that there will be burden sharing.
- Implementation of this section should be in line with the UN charter, UN resolution 46/182 as well as the refugee framework.
- GCR should not extend the definition of refugees, although there can be links between the two compacts, and their mandates must be clear and different.
- Should not impose additional obligations on host states.
- Paragraphs 44 and 52 should limit themselves to refugees and not mention mixed movement of persons. Must be done under Refugee Convention.

UNICEF

- Speech by Syria Goodwill Ambassador (**Ms Muzoon Almellehn**): personal testimony about the fundamental importance of education for refugees.

GAVI Alliance

- Welcome the recognition of the importance of preparedness measures, which are essential to global health including surveillance and monitoring. Like to include mention of the importance of sustaining the resilience of national health systems. References to water and sanitation welcome, but would like to add health needs under identification of needs during registration.
- Additional resources for assessing health status.
- In paragraph 49, welcome supporting national capacity and development of biometrics and digital ID disaggregated by age, sex and diversity.

UNFPA

- Welcome strong language on sexual- and gender-based violence, but this could be strengthened as we note the absence of references to sexual and reproductive health.
- Would like to stress that women and girls must be meaningfully empowered. Basic package should include reproductive and sexual health. Family planning is a human right so we suggest comprehensive sexuality education, and the importance of minimum health package in emergency response.
- Also appreciate that references to youth have been further strengthened and this should be included more prominently. Like to highlight a youth position paper we have developed as part of a coalition as a critical opportunity to identify the rights of young people.
- Suggest inclusion of HIV care; all refugee women must also have access to life-saving obstetric care.
- In alignment with mandate, gender and youth must be reflected in the choice of indicators.

OHCHR

- In the New York Declaration, all Member States committed to ensuring people and gender-centered responses, regardless of their asylum status. Recommend that this language is reflected in the Draft 1. And encourage complementarity between the two Compacts.
- On 1.2, highlight the need to identify other protection needs to account for needs of all persons needing protection including gender and disability.
- All persons arriving regardless of their status should have the right to liberty and therefore no recourse to detention. States should take immediate steps to end detention.
- Safety must include human security including respect for the human rights and encourage right to privacy and ensuring the documentation and biometrics and conducted in privacy and in case of children best interest of the child is essential.
- In 1.5 and 1.6, further complementarity needed between GCR and GCM, and reference should be made to the Global Migration Group.

NGOs

NGOs joint statement on Agenda item 1 is available [here](#)

Volker Türk closing remarks

- This is not about additional obligations. This is not a standard-setting exercise but a responsibility-setting exercise. And the type of support that states can ask for to mount tangible responses. Not about additional obligations, but about what exists, which is why this linkage to part A is so important. And also, how the Support Platform links with this part.
- Referring to GRULAC statement, some of these elements are based on pre-existing practices and CRRF practices. Finally, what you see in the text is a reflection gained from CRRF experience but also from others in Syria and Afghanistan. It does encapsulate and institutionalises that experience to deal with refugee matters. There is a repository of good practices, and we will be able to capture this.
- There should be no conditionality. Some of you mentioned it but this is not about conditionality and we will look into the text to ensure there is no element of conditionality in the next draft.
- Support for local authorities must be done in consultation with national authorities, and we will take this into account in the next iteration.
- Other areas where questions were raised are about asylum capacity support group. Take that there is broad support, because it is about identification of international protection needs, and this is where linkages come in with IOM. Important to identify who has specific needs, refer victims of trafficking to appropriate procedures. These are meant to provide this type of triaging.
- More time for informal exchange on the asylum capacity support group. Some States are interested to contribute to this. Will reach out to States who have experience. UNHCR for example has an MoU with Canada and France and ensures that persons are deployed for capacity development. We will present a detailed version and show you how this would work in practice. This is not meant to add burden but to mobilise resources.
- Group-based protection mechanisms will apply where they are appropriate. In the EU group-based mechanism and group-based protection apply. It does not mean you will do away with security measures. Learnt a lot of lessons on how best to ensure security of state is met but also to speed-up decision on international protection needs. Will be reflected in nuanced language.
- Taken note on strengthening data protection and confidentiality. And when it comes to specific needs, take yet another look at strengthening protection for those with specific needs. Second

draft will have stronger language on age, gender, and diversity as well as disability and some minority groups, child protection and gender and special risks for women and girls.

- Focus on the particular experience of transit countries and look into the text if these can be reflected in relation to registration and documentation.
- Need to better capture refugees and statelessness in national census.
- Will include a couple of chapeau paragraph on national ownership.
- For states that are faced with large scale movements, the determination process is fundamentally a question of returnability. At the centre is the Refugee Convention and Protocol. There is guidance in terms of supervisory role, and this leads to the refugee concept, and we have always promoted an inclusive approach that takes into account risks. Regional approaches have developed instruments that take into account these gaps and extend refugee concept in Africa, America and Europe. To capture the concept of returnability or whether someone faces serious risks on return. They are part of international refugee regime. We have seen this in Asia context, through concrete practice in the Bangkok Principles in 2001. We have a body of law and practices that are part of overall response which capture the essential question whether or not someone is at risk upon return.
- When someone faces serious human rights violations, people will be covered through the 1951 definition. When we talk about this, we tend to forget about what we have acquired through decades of practice.
- On paragraph 55, broader protection challenges, this is not about extension of the mandate of UNHCR. Was discussed at the initiative of Norway and Switzerland, how do we deal with people who are internally displaced, and there could be link to climate change, but there are natural hazards that have generated protection needs for particular people.
- When Haiti was hit, you had Haitians who benefited from temporary protection because of the calamity they faced. USA and Canada ensured they were able to be protected from any forced returns, so Haitians could stay on humanitarian grounds. Those are the type of protection gaps we face. This is not a legal standard setting, but this is the reality. We have seen this in the Nansen Initiative, but also other relevant initiatives.
- On statelessness, we do have guidance on determination procedures, we do and we can share them with you, in line with international standards through ExCom and General Assembly.