

**NGO Intervention on follow-up arrangements**

**Agenda item 3**

Distinguished delegates,

This intervention has been drafted following wide consultations with NGOs.

We appreciate UNHCR's invitation to Member States to make concrete pledges and provide updates on follow-up. Pledges and actions, however, should not hinge on the goodwill of stakeholders and must respond to specific, measurable and time-bound targets.

This links to the monitoring and evaluation framework that UNHCR proposed to develop in order to track the GCR progress and outcomes. Aligning indicators with the SDGs, as the Programme of Action suggests, is welcomed and can ensure refugees' welfare remains a priority in the 2030 agenda.

Yet more details are needed on when and how the monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed. Outlining an M&E framework that identifies a set of collective goals, targets, indicators and benchmarks should be an urgent priority. A clear timeline for developing the framework must therefore be proposed, ideally looking at December 2018 at the latest.

NGOs must be consulted in the development of the framework, which should actually be a living document, allowing to account for evolving circumstances and ongoing contributions from refugees. Subsequent formal consultations, for example, could start by including a dedicated session. NGOs, refugees and stateless persons are eager to contribute throughout the process.

We also acknowledge UNHCR's proposal to hold, in 2021, a ministerial-level meeting as a first opportunity to assess the GCR application. This gives the Compact a three-year, concrete timeline. But without concrete commitments, we worry that this would further shift the goal post. We therefore recommend that the Programme of Action includes provisions for a bi-annual independent implementation review, in addition to the High Commissioner's annual report. We also suggest that a thorough stocktaking of responsibility sharing should coincide with the SDG reviews in 2025 and 2030.

A clear monitoring and evaluation framework also strengthens accountability. So far, the zero draft provides little on this fundamental dimension.

Accountability for the GCR will need to be set at different levels. Globally, it should be defined in terms of sustainable, predictable and equitable responsibility sharing. This, for example, could take the form of equitability indices measuring stakeholders' contributions to a fair share. Other examples may include a 'State of Protection Report', which the Global Platform could be mandated to produce, in addition to following up on contributions.

Operationally, accountability will have to be set in relation to the CRRF application. Most importantly, accountability will have to be defined towards refugees themselves. Including them in policy and practice as well as equipping them with tools to hold decision makers and service providers to account will contribute to combatting potential abuses, exploitation and corruption.

In addition, it is essential for the Programme of Action to identify and address issues of complementarity between the GCR and the Migration Compact. Refugees, stateless persons and migrants face many similar challenges, and we strongly feel that the current approach compartmentalises the two Compacts, preventing important intersections from being identified and effectively addressed. Now that the two zero drafts are available, NGOs, refugees and migrants are eager to provide inputs on how to maximize constructive coherence. We hope that Member States and UN Agencies will also engage in this necessary discussion.

To this end, we recommend that a mechanism be established – even if informal – to enable structured and periodic sharing of information and ideas, before and after the Compacts' adoption, looking for complementarities during development and implementation.

Finally, we must constantly remind ourselves that we are here because people's lives are at stake. There is real urgency to act, and we must – together – resolve to take concrete steps to ensure people fleeing persecution, conflicts, and violence find safe and secure space.

On this note, we thank you for the opportunity to offer comments. NGOs look forward to subsequent consultations and we will continue to collaborate with UNHCR, Member States, and other stakeholders to ensure that we all deliver on the commitments of the New York Declaration and expectations of refugees and host communities. Ensuring the adoption of a meaningful Refugee Compact and improved, predictable, sustainable and equitable responsibility sharing is in everyone's interest.

A detailed version of this intervention is available online. We also encourage you to consult the many NGO comments on the zero-draft.

Thank you.