

First Formal Consultations – Towards a Global Compact on Refugees

13 – 14 February 2018

Agenda 3 – follow up arrangements (14.02.2018)

Opening remarks – UNHCR

- Did not have thematic informal discussions on this. As a result, this part was drafted without consulting and we need guidance from you to develop this section.
- We could develop this in relation to a country or regional situations.
- We are building CRRF approaches and it is important to capture those through regular reporting and assessments.
- The ministerial meeting at the 70-year anniversary of the Convention would be an opportune moment to take stock of where we are and encourage all Member States to make concrete pledges towards the GCR.
- We also put out the idea of a digital platform to capture best practices from the CRRF and other situations.

European Union

- Support the overall approach. It should be non-legally binding and lead to improved responsibility and burden sharing. We look forward to hearing from UNHCR about outcomes and indicators to measure.
- Follow-up should be part of state reporting on Agenda 2030, disaggregated by migratory status, and promote inclusion of refugees in reporting to the SDGs.

Germany

- Monitoring and Evaluation will be crucial, and we look forward to receiving proposed indicators.
- Like to see protection, diversity and inclusion dimension. Follow up should not be a UNHCR process but a collective process.
- Should not add further reporting burden on states, link to ongoing reporting processes and also link to others such World Humanitarian Summit follow up.
- Include refugees in SDG reporting.
- Systematically applying better coordinated response with political and development from the outset of large refugee situations.
- Systematically apply the CRRF approach. Tailored to refugee situations, the global platform could play a major role and look forward to discussing this. We will embark on a transparent process with interested States.

USA

- Global leader on humanitarian support particularly providing billions to Central America. Our efforts also aim for refugees to seek asylum in first country of refuge. This is consistent with US national security strategy.
- We need to develop strong indicators to monitor and evaluate progress and outcome of the digital platform.
- Detailed practical application must also be evaluated, CRRF implementation and provide timely advice to States implementing.
- Evidence and evaluation are critical and welcome more details on how UNHCR will monitor progress.
- We support UNHCR proposal to hold a meeting in 2021 as the first opportunity for comprehensive update.
- We suggest UNHCR to provide update to its regular government meeting.

South Africa

- On key indicators, we should reformulate the language as it is attempting to add an additional layer to already SDG reporting. Any indicators must be developed with Member States.
- Digital platform: not all countries have access to digital technology. How will UNHCR work with developing countries so that we are able to participate actively in the GCR?

Netherlands

- If the future compact is to be meaningful, it needs a robust monitoring mechanism and indicators that can be evaluated.
- Such a mechanism can be qualitative and be light, noting create new heavy structures.
- Need concrete pledges to support the application of the Global Compact.
- A new style of solidarity conference towards one or whole refugee situations. This should be open to all the international community and we will be ready to pledge.
- Need to strengthen protection, self-reliance including education and employment for refugees.
- Link GCR with reporting obligations under the 2030 Agenda.

Syria

- We support host countries and their demands. We reiterate our position that the PoA creates additional conditions on countries of origin. This will lead to prolonging the situation of refugees. All additional conditions should be deleted.
- Mandate of UNHCR is limited to refugees and addressing of IDP situations should be done only based on states' approval.

UK

- It is critically important follow up on adopted text.
- Pledging conferences are welcome. But need more details on these plans and how to secure collective support and expand international solidarity.
- Also need clarity on timelines.
- Digital platform could be living resource, but we need much more detail on who will develop this and how it adds value.
- On the Global Platform and Solidarity Conferences, we will need to see a transparent process. We hope UNHCR will be able to set out details.
- Actual implementation will be the true test, we would want to see how this works and indicate how this will complement humanitarian and development systems.

Australia

- There is value in establishing a digital platform and hold periodical meetings to monitor progress.
- This must be done in consultations with States. Target and indicators should reflect a range of actions beyond hosting, funding and resettlement.
- National sovereignty must remain a priority consideration.
- Need clarity on who will be responsible for managing indicators, we welcome that UNHCR can play some role, but also welcome the role of other UN agencies such as IOM.
- Follow up needs to draw on existing reporting requirements and some form of independent analysis.
- Language in the compact should remain non-binding.
- Follow-up must rely on learning and evaluation.

Mexico

- The PoA lacks elements which reflect complementarity with GCM, especially relevant for mixed flows and human assistance.
- For robust implementation and follow-up mechanism, we need a detailed road map to design and consider the viability to provide reports.
- Need to know in-depth modalities and this should not represent additional burden.
- SDG indicators must be used to avoid duplication of reports although some additional reports could be developed.

Norway

- We support concrete pledges.
- Annual report to the GA update on the PoA should be considered. Support indicators by UNHCR and States to monitor and evaluate progress.

- Member States could engage in formal discussions between the sessions to make efficient use of this time.

Switzerland

- Essential to have a follow-up mechanism, which is up to our arrangement and will allow to better share responsibility.

Bangladesh

- Voluntary repatriation is the most important durable solution, so we do not like to see refugees unable to return.
- Take note of UNHCR facilitation for host communities and refugees, however this facilitation must be done in cognizance of national circumstances of host country.
- Part on local solutions need to be redrafted.
- Granting of status to stateless people by origin states must be mentioned. Statelessness is a major impediment for solutions. Strong political will by the government of the country of origin is needed and must be clearly mentioned.
- As all our members are not party to the Refugee Convention, language should be redrafted to encourage all states to participate.

Turkey

- Success will depend on effective implementation, and necessary follow-up arrangement.
- Reporting could be included in the High Commissioner's the annual report to keep the agenda high.
- We support a ministerial or higher-level meeting convened by UNHCR.

India

- A genuine follow-up and review process is central to ensuring we turn collective commitments into actions.
- Could refer to NYD paras 88-89, which considers 2 review and follow-up mechanisms and considers the need to support host countries and communities.
- Suggest that the follow-up process should be linked to the 4 CRRF objectives (para 18 of Annex 1 and para 1 of PoA): follow-up on support to ease burden of host countries; on expansion of third country solutions and pathways; on donors' commitments to share burden, linked to Grand Bargain and WHS; on addressing root causes and supporting countries of origin to allow returns in safety and dignity.
- Aim should be to share good practices, identify challenges of implementation, based on voluntary inputs from states, along the SDGs.
- Member States should be consulted in design of indicators and there should not be new, additional follow-up and review mechanism. Should be based on existing ones.

- Follow-up and review should take into account that some countries are party to the Refugee Convention and some are not.

Thailand

- Reporting system should not create additional burden, it should also be a platform for sharing best practices.
- Regarding indicators, need to include measurement for resettlement by third countries.
- Relevant stakeholders and States must take part in development of indicators.
- It will help us cover the gap between international standards and national laws.

Canada

- Connection to SDGs should be well defined.
- Recognizing the results framework should be part of national and regional process.
- Inclusion of indicators to measure outcome for refugees.
- A range of stakeholders will implement the compact, so the follow-up should be able to declare their respective pledges and support.
- Follow-up should take into consideration other stakeholders and refugees too.

Egypt

- Follow up process could take place with ExCom with clear indicators.
- Ministerial-level meeting could be organized with clear objectives to review the progress of repatriation to countries of origin and resettlement.

NGO Statement: can be accessed here: <https://www.icvanetwork.org/resources/first-formal-consultations-towards-global-compact-refugees-ngo-statements>

UNHCR (Closing remarks)

First set of comments:

- strengthening the exiting text, with regard to preparedness, contingency planning, and have clear guidance to work further on this.
- Addressing specific need on reception, education, civil registration, and other aspects.
- On solutions, people should be able to return with safety and dignity. Broaden the base of resettlement and make it an integral part, and work on other pathways and humanitarian visas and better capture data on other complementary pathways.
- On local solutions, there are contradictory messages, on the one hand we hear caution on integrating this; on the other, we hear this is an important solution. We think it is important to reflect it as a possibility for those who opt for local integration. It is not an obligation. It is one of the tool boxes available to solve refugee issues.

Second set of comments:

- What is the fundamental of responsibility sharing? There is a need to square a circle.
- Too demanding on host countries and not too binding on international commitments. Hear emphasis on voluntariness (voluntary pledges) and concreteness ensuring stronger, adequate formula. Mutually agreed yet voluntary pledges to contribute to action. We will try to find a formula that address all concerns.

Third set of comments:

- About additional paragraphs on social protection, food insecurity and child protection. We will look at these additions, we will also need to ensure these additions can be tackled.