

## **Global Compact on Refugees – Fifth Formal Consultations**

**12 – 13 May, Geneva**

### **Agenda item 3: Programme of action: Areas in need of support (Part III.B)**

#### **Brazil on behalf of GRULAC**

- Thank UNHCR for streamlining Part 3 B, areas in need of support. This is now in line with the non-exhaustive format.
- Support paras 50, 65, and 66 (development and humanitarian assistance).
- Para. 65: added language on development action should entail direct benefits to host communities. Note deletion of conditionality and primacy of national leadership that may impair the implementation.
- On health: refer to sexual and reproductive health services in line with NYD commitment.
- Reiterate our support for section on children; add that children at risk are an integral part of the refugee regime; best interest of child should be considered throughout status determination; custodial measures not compatible with best interest of child.
- To expand the base of resettlement countries, three-year strategy should contemplate to revert the decreasing trend by traditional partners, and the same logic should apply to complementary pathways.

#### **Uganda on behalf of Africa Group**

- Efforts to simplify the proposal welcome; appreciate that areas in need of support are not exhaustive and are indicative.
- Welcome reference to youth; the number of refugee children significant and they should receive continued support to develop their full potential.
- As we aim to achieve collective outcomes, all support should be coordinated by national entities at the request of host States in accordance with national priorities; commend UNHCR for reflecting this.
- Para. 57: no more reference to developing programmes for protection of children formerly associated with armed forces. This highly vulnerable group should be provided for in GCR.
- Security and safety, para. 57: include 'in reference to full responsibility of national laws and policies'.
- Para. 58: supporting established procedure for identification of stateless persons is left out; this is important otherwise it will isolate cases of statelessness.
- Compact should only refer to documents that emanate from universal inter-governmental processes; delete footnote 38.
- Appropriate for para. 50 to refer to policies and priorities of concerned host countries.
- Para. 67: regret that in areas in need of support language specifying that this does not intend to create further conditionality is deleted; request that such reference should be clearly mentioned in the programme of action.

#### **European Union**

- Overall pleased with shortened text, clearly non-exhaustive and non-prescriptive.
- Para. 50: pleased to see host country leadership and ownership.
- Section on reception and admission well drafted.

- Para. 53: ask for clarification on reference to ‘forced’ internal displacement and to clarify how standby capacity would work in practice.
- Accept formulation in para. 54 despite less details. Satisfied with alternative to camps.
- Para. 55: wish clarification on the multi-purpose cash assistance.
- Para. 58: facilitating access to basic assistance for those unidentified after registration is required.
- Para. 60: refer to support for host countries that are willing to develop alternatives to detention; insert language on victims of trafficking including reference to UNODC.
- On international protection needs, support language of Asylum Capacity Support Group, an instrument that can be deployed.
- Para. 63: would welcome reference to the Nansen Protection Agenda.
- Para. 64: welcome strong linkages with the 2030 Agenda.
- Good paras on education; on jobs and livelihood, references to private sector have been deleted; inclusion of decent work measures ensures acceptable balance.
- Health section: need to refer to sexual and reproductive health, infant and maternal care, and care for persons with disability.
- On gender: agency of women has been deleted; request this be reinserted. Refer to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and the Beijing Declaration and Outcome Document. Sexual and reproductive health education, including sexuality in health care services is also important.
- Para. 75: support reference to age- and gender-responsive social and health care services; Should be complemented by addressing all forms of violence including SGBV.
- Support section on children and youth. Para. 76: in reference to resettlement, refer to safeguarding mechanisms; good language to engage refugee youth in para. 77.
- On natural resource management: recognise the need to support both urban and rural areas; will include support for urban planning.
- Satisfied with food security section; Para. 81: question reference to cash-based support.
- Welcome civil registry; Para. 83: wish the call to accede to Statelessness Conventions to be formulated strongly.
- Support for voluntary repatriation and participation of refugees has been lost as well as references to private sector. Refer to other mechanisms for development assistance in countries of origin.
- Welcome sustainable and voluntary returns. Language on resettlement satisfactory as long as there are several ways to demonstrate solidarity and flexibility in national resettlement programmes. Reformulate family reunification; should only be mentioned in procedural facilitation.
- Local integration and other local solutions are appropriate and may bring positive results.

## **Canada**

- Welcome streamlining of the text.
- Recognise some good practice for potential support, and expect the digital platform to be developed. Accurately reflects that Part 3 B hinges on progress in responsibility sharing.
- Welcome changes that clarify difference between humanitarian and development cooperation, which is based on the principle of national ownership.

- Welcome call for partnership approach and collective outcomes as a means to mobilise new resources to make progress on humanitarian and development nexus including mobilising private actors.
- Satisfied with AGD considerations, but note continued lack of sexual and reproductive health services; welcome access to age- and gender-responsive services.
- Support para. on children and youth, but could more strongly refer to child's best interest.
- On durable solutions, UNHCR Ten Point Plan of Action on mixed movements that promotes integrated approach is important. Working with all actors, as well as refugees, offers the best chance for success.
- Welcome further refining of resettlement section; the three-year strategy is an important means to demonstrate real responsibility-sharing.
- Appreciate other complementary pathways for admission which is consistent with CRRF.

### **Poland**

- Thank UNHCR for duly taking into account comments in last iteration, and keeping us on the right direction to share the global burden. Acknowledge progress made; see some inadequacies, but still forms a strong basis for a well-balanced compact.
- Happy with overall streamlining of text and shortening where needed, making the text clear and straightforward.
- Underline the principle of national sovereignty in para. 8.
- Welcome natural disasters are not in themselves causes of refugee movements.
- Appreciate responsibility-sharing mechanisms and the voluntary nature of contributions.
- Welcome underlining host country leadership; language on alternative to camps; and taking in to account security considerations in paras 56 and 57.
- Welcome in para. 58, inclusion of biometrics and support addition of text to prevent security risk and misuse.
- On solutions, language is well-balanced; support addressing root causes in the context of durable solutions.

### **Ecuador**

- Support the format of Part B. Agree with para. 50. It should not be exhaustive, and should not pose additional burden; it is meant to lower the pressure on host countries.
- Support para. 56, which balances the humanitarian nature of the compact and responsibility for human rights with national security considerations of States.
- Support addressing specific needs and other mechanisms that will allow for identifying specific needs; this is essential for asylum-seekers especially for vulnerable people including child victims of sexual violence; strengthening of State capacity helps avoid protection gaps, and for this reason important to continue collaborating with co-facilitators of GCM to maintain human rights standards.
- Support paras 90 and 93; need to strengthen and broaden resettlement programmes; call for developing countries to consider State flexibility and increase resettlement quota aligned with the goals of the compact and the principle of international solidarity.
- Resettlement is a long-lasting solution; it will lessen the load on host countries and strengthen refugee protection.

### **Germany**

- Request direct reference to UN Trafficking Conventions in para. 60, including UNODC.

- Welcome reference made in para. 65 to the impact of large refugee situation on host States; need to take into account their development and protection policies.
- Welcome emphasis on refugee and youth participation; youth should not blur the legal definition of children and rights. Application of youth should be reviewed through the text.
- Maternal care as well as sexual and reproductive care needs to be taken into account.
- Para. 84: add social cohesion rather than tolerance; important to reduce inequality to foster social cohesion. Use 'prevent radicalisation' instead of simply combating as this does not respond to all forms of violence.
- Welcome coherent language on resettlement. Para. 92: add 'protection environment to refugee situations'.
- Places should be allocated for emergency situation in para. 92.
- In the next draft clarify that facilitation of family reunification is aimed at enhancing access to effective procedures.
- Need for support to returns along all the route; opening up development programmes for returnees should also be considered in the next draft.

### **Angola**

- ILO recommendation 205 on employment and decent work is a timely and relevant instrument that guides us in managing integration of refugees in countries of asylum.
- Suggest footnote 48 be incorporated in para 70. Subsection 2.2 regarding employment and livelihood, text should read as follows: to foster inclusive economic growth for refugees and host communities in support of host States and subject to relevant national laws and policies, in accordance with ILO recommendation on employment for decent work, and relevant stakeholders will contribute resources to promote economic opportunities, decent work and job creation and entrepreneurship for hosts and refugees including women, older and young persons and person with disabilities.
- With regard to sharing burden, financing efficient resources should not be subject to conditionality at the detriment of States as this will politicise the compact.

### **Argentina**

- On the right to work, important to remove legal barriers and organise awareness- raising campaigns for the private sector to facilitate access to work.
- Right to health important and need to promote health services for refugees and asylum-seekers keeping in mind social and cultural specificities.
- Guarantee rights for accompanied children, including guarantees for effective legal protection for minors in full respect of non-*refoulement* and best interest of the child.
- Argentina is one of a few middle-income countries implementing resettlement. It is essential to broaden ERCM. Countries will need support for transfers and local integration.
- Right to family reunification and family unity is a human right. Important for countries to broaden family reunification criteria.
- On local integration, in para. 97: Access to Argentinian citizenship is a good practice, and we believe could be emulated broadly as it is a long-lasting solution for refugees.

### **Macedonia**

- Acknowledge important progress made.
- Welcome para. 12 referring to mixed movements and operational coordination with IOM.

- Reception and admission should envisage possible support to transit countries, and not just host countries. Macedonia provided safe passage to 1.1 million people in 2015, and our experience shows that transit countries could benefit from contingency planning and a coordinated regional approach, particularly in response to immediate reception arrangements. This is an operational reality; ask UNHCR to reflect the reality of transit countries that may require support from the international community. NYD in para. 7 refers to transit country; in para 12, we have a shared responsibility to address large movements.
- Bearing this mind adapt paras 53, 54, 55 and 58. This could be done by adding 'transit countries' or we can simply refer to 'affected countries'.

## **USA**

- Important that the GCR should improve the humanitarian system through efficient protection systems and increasing durable solutions.
- On the Asylum Capacity Support Group, pleased to see that technical expertise and ability will benefit all. This can serve to expedite asylum processing. The USA hosts one million asylum-seekers including several others in a temporary situation in addition to those who have received permanent asylum. USA has accepted three million refugees since 1975; we welcome sharing this expertise.
- Support investment in national systems through development assistance to ensure refugees and hosts have access to services; national systems and plans should prioritise those that are vulnerable.
- Women and girls can make more contribution to collective security when they are safe.
- Welcome inclusion of youth; reference to cost-effective investments positive.
- Mitigating social inequality and discrimination can result in long lasting gains that benefit hosts, leading to greater tolerance.

## **UK**

- Welcome references to diverse needs and references to people with disability. Welcome para. 51 reference to seek inputs from people with diverse needs and vulnerabilities.
- Reference to multi-purpose cash important as it promotes self-reliance and reduces exposure to shock and stimulates local market.
- Support the Asylum Capacity Support Group; welcome sharing practice between States.
- Support section on children and youth, noting that this section is shortened.
- Promotion of mental and psychosocial health is important.
- Support para. 77 recognising the talent youth bring; important to empower them to do so.
- Support call for resettlement in response to protracted situations. Can support allocating 10% resettlement places for emergencies if these allow for normal timeframes.

## **Republic of Korea**

- In paras 77 and 76, pleased with attention to children and adolescents.
- On resettlement and complementary pathways, would welcome expansion of places for children and youth who are most affected by prolonged refugee situations.
- Working in cooperation with UNICEF could be important to support and empower youth.

## **Denmark**

- Welcome that this section has become shorter and succinct; its success is entirely dependent on responsibility-sharing.

- Support strong references to national ownership; explicitly reflecting the continuum of humanitarian and development within the framework of comprehensive approaches no matter the circumstance is also important; would be helpful if humanitarian and development actors recognise the role of both refugees and host communities in support of durable solutions; this applies to paras 66 and 88.
- Welcome AGD considerations and reference to youth; should include references to the particular needs of children including early and forced marriage including FGM.
- Para. 72: refer to maternal and infant care; Para. 75: include 'sexual and gender-based violence' after all forms of violence.
- If we are to address particular needs of girls and women, we have some way to go; lack reference to sexual and reproductive health, which is essential for refugee population.

### **Kenya**

- Take note of para. 49. Success in Part B hinges on robust and well-functioning responsibility-sharing mechanisms.
- But cannot help misgiving on this issue, as alluded by Pakistan; the commitment of the international community cannot be guaranteed, and will depend on their goodwill and largesse to effectively operationalise the mechanisms and achievement of objectives.
- Para. 53: need to reflect whether political consideration and expediency come in.
- On support provided in the form of standby capacity, seek clarification whether this will be by UNHCR or another entity.
- Para. 58: highlight that contributing resources for national capacity for biometrics should encompass situations where national capacities are overstretched.
- Para. 62: on Asylum Capacity Support Group, despite new information, would like to see its added value.
- On health, add: 'in line with national policies, States and relevant stakeholders will expand and build national systems to facilitate refugee access to health care'.
- In contexts of large movement of refugees, it is not sufficient to enhance but also expand national health systems to cater to the needs. Therefore, ask to reinstate 'expand' in the text; a lot has been lost that could be elaborated under health needs. Not to lose sight of important objective simply for the desire for brevity; some language must be reinstated.
- Para. 77: active participation of refugee children and youth is encouraged; recognise that they are important stakeholders and utilising their skills is of utmost importance.
- On support to countries of origin in para. 87, important to assist countries of origin even outside formal repatriation programmes for sustainable refugee returns to ensure returnees do not become IDPs.
- Encourage to increase the pool of resettlement, especially approaching those that are not participating already. Among three priority situations, one is reserved for protracted situation; would encourage reconsidering the level of ambition for the number of protracted situations so that those who are ahead of the queue do not lose out.

### **Spain**

- Welcome para. 49, and appreciate references to national leadership.
- Para. 51: welcome important reference to age, gender and diversity including disability and youth and the fight against discrimination, violence, abuse and sexual trafficking. In short, this empowers refugees who are most vulnerable.
- On gender, useful to strengthen language on reproductive rights.



- References to statelessness important. We are moving towards ratification of the 1961 Statelessness Convention.
- Welcome support for voluntary returns; development support in paras 88 and 89 should be in line with the 2030 Agenda.
- Complementary pathways should add; they should not be exhaustive, and align with the text goals to find additional support measures.

### **Mexico**

- Firstly, recognise progress in draft. It is not only reduced, but new format allows support to areas according to need; these are optional and not exhaustive.
- On solutions and resettlement, suggest explicit reference to the importance of ensuring that involvement of emerging States strengthens, and does not weaken, overall resettlement places offered as this is the only way forward.
- On mixed movements, hear concern of some delegations including on regional instruments, but recall para. 66 of NYD as well as para. 6, which recognise large migration flows and mixed migration flows comprising migrants.

### **Norway**

- More clarity needed on para 53. – which States and authorities?
- In favour of the Asylum Capacity Support Group, and thank UNHCR for the non-paper about this. This can become a useful channel to strengthen expertise and asylum systems, and note all other areas here is a call for technical contribution and material assistance; assuming these do not fall under all other areas, how should States contribute?
- Para. 75: suggest replacing address ‘barriers to work’ with ‘promote’ or ‘ensure’. At the end of the sentence, refer to ‘all relevant ministries’ instead of government ministries.
- Encourage explicit reference to female health workers.
- Support emphasis on youth; and welcome wording in para. 83 on statelessness.

### **Turkey**

- For countries facing large mixed movements, early warning and contingency plans are key.
- Under safety and security, need to apply timely screening of new arrivals; health can be a security and protection concern, e.g. epidemic or mortal communicable diseases; need to take this into consideration; health screening equally important in parallel to registration.
- For education, need investment including for all cycles of education; happy with new sentence at the end of para. 69.
- Support innovative methods; could also include access to online education opportunities.
- Attach great importance to preferential trade agreement for goods and sectors where refugee skills are useful.
- In Turkey, refugees have free access to health care; only Syrian refugees exceed 300,000; prefer inclusion of the need to build new health facilities.
- Strongly support new paragraph and reference to peaceful co-existence. In protracted situations, refugees and hosts will require dialogue and suggest the paragraph to be renamed as ‘social cohesion and peaceful co-existence’.
- Under resettlement, UN Vulnerability Criteria is not mentioned; attach great importance to this especially the non-discriminatory approach.
- Satisfied with added language under voluntary repatriation.

- Para. 98: add 'in need to ensure local integration' and support should be better described by adding 'financial and technical'.
- Welcome new section on local solution; tailored measure based on national reality could make significant changes in the lives of displaced people and support the rationale.

### **New Zealand**

- Appreciate UNHCR's remark that the GCR is not aimed at setting standard, but will represent the latest global document on refugees; therefore, it is important we get it right.
- Experience from MDGs highlighted key lesson on women and girls. Strong support both in the NYD and SDGs for goals that address gender and sexual and reproductive health.
- The ambivalent wording on health and gender call into question commitment in realising the rights of girls. In both the Cairo International Conference and the Beijing Outcome document, there is a clear reference to improving access to sexual and reproductive health. These will ensure GCR lives up to its goals to ensure no one is left behind and reiterate the call to include sexual and reproductive health care in the GCR.
- Support proposals to broaden resettlement; this will ensure durable solutions are on the horizon and host States burden will be alleviated. However, we question bracketed text in para. 92.

### **Netherlands**

- Take good note of UNHCR's remark on the need to collectively raise our ambition. Also agree that perfect should not be the enemy of the good.
- Comments are not meant to make things difficult, but to further improve. Hope UNHCR can accommodate some of these.
- Areas in Need section was shortened so important to clarify this is non-exhaustive. Text stipulates success of measures depends on robust responsibility-sharing mechanisms.
- Value strong national ownership and leadership. In line with general comments to GCR objectives, there is scope to increase protection; access to asylum important to improve quality of refugee protection, and would strengthen admission and reception.
- Under meeting needs, important to work for a common focus on addressing marginalisation; regret positive text in paras 70 and 71 in relation to the private sector have been deleted, which could be instrumental in mobilising additional resources.
- On health, request to consider referring to sexual and reproductive health, which can be lifesaving; important to refer to all forms of violence, but more concretely, refer to gender-based violence including child, early and forced marriage, which would make this document more solid.
- Para. 77: appreciate addition on youth and focus on talent rather than needs and vulnerabilities.
- Paras 78 and 79: could have stronger references to refugees in urban setting.
- Language on resettlement is now acceptable.

### **Botswana**

- Request placing high value to safeguard the forcibly displaced especially those most vulnerable, e.g. women, children and adults; strongly support reference to meeting needs.
- On health, appreciate that HIV has been highlighted. This is important to ensure access to treatment for those living with the virus.



- Commend addition of youth – they are part of adolescence that fall out yet faces peculiar challenges like forced conscription.
- On gender, ultimate necessity is for sustainable emancipation of women; welcome streamlining of bullets, but like to reiterate the need to preserve some lost language on safety and security.
- Reiterate the importance of referring to developing programmes for the protection and assistance of children formerly associated with armed groups.
- Use of the word 'may' in relation to support may lead to a lack of commitment and would like explanation why this is included.
- On registration and documentation, in para. 58, important to add women regardless of marital status, and this should not be in brackets.
- Why was establishment of procedures for stateless persons left out?
- To conclude, reiterate our appreciation and support, although non-binding but will go a long way in addressing the needs of women and girls.

### Algeria

- Given the current state of play and short time frame, difficult to say in affirmative that areas in Part 3 B are based on the CRRF application. The results of this are yet to be appraised.
- Current content would have been realistic should there be a fair and equal distribution of refugees; this is not the case and refugees are hosted in a limited number of States based on proximity to countries producing refugees; forced displacement not dealt as bad luck; this also applies to States.
- Against this backdrop, implementation of GCR should ensure there is no extra burden as there is no clear indication if the principle of non-*refoulement* will be respected and until responsibility-sharing is enhanced, the concerns of host States are likely to remain.
- Lack of concrete commitment to address root causes; the most appropriate durable solution is voluntary repatriation, and as long as this is out of reach, dependency will shift from humanitarian services to services provided by hosts. This section is a roadmap for local integration, and to keep refugees where they are; while humanitarian assistance is repeated 24 times, development is repeated 68 times. Continued shrinking space is a reality and there is no indication this will change in the near future.
- Host countries will have two different choices: to continue to respond to refugees or face criticism for the lack of services for refugees by actors who play an active role in the GCR.
- Para. 50: appreciate references to policies and priorities of concerned host countries.
- Part 3 B should not impose additional burden; Draft 3 makes judgement that it does not impose additional burden, this undermines sharing burden.
- Para. 54: suggest deleting last sentence as it may undermine national ownership.
- Para. 57: in addition to recognition of safety and security, replace current language by relevant provisions of the 1951 Convention, which has agreed language.
- Para. 65: new addition. This is value judgement and ask for its deletion.
- Para. 67: despite request current draft is a step back in areas in needs; deletion of 'they are not intended to create further conditionality' what is the message to retain from that. Our preference is to have that clearly mentioned.
- We asked for including footnote 58 in the text; will do justice as appropriate durable solution hinges on policy processes, and also consistent with specificity of each situation. Not understandable; double standard applied in this regard.

## **Finland**

- Overall, appreciate efforts at streamlining to render the text operational in various respects; reads clearly and fluently and important that compact will stand the test of time.
- And it is a new way forward. Introduction now contains balanced description and collective outcomes and useful examples of objectives.
- In the programme of action, clear mechanisms at different level that are to facilitate the international community as a whole to respond to refugee situations.
- Welcome para. 26.
- Key tools for humanitarian funding will remain needs-based and delivered in accordance to humanitarian principles. Wish to underline the importance of addressing the needs of those most vulnerable.
- As half of the refugees are children and more and more are disabled, this may pose challenges in accessing service; responding to this will require mainstreaming.
- Welcome inclusion of private sector, which could also be reinforced in multi-stakeholder and partnership approach (part 3.2); suggest acknowledging diaspora role.
- In meeting needs, include best interest of child as the primary consideration. Lack of consideration on sexual and reproductive health, which in our view continues to be an important missing element in this regard.

## **Italy**

- In the jobs and livelihoods section, encourage reference to providing refugees access to the labour market, which is important to strengthen their resilience. In the same section, welcome reference to the need to attract private investment; local entrepreneurs and refugees can contribute to local communities.
- Cultural activities could also be included in other sections.
- On section on specific needs, refer to the need for tailored services aimed at minors and persons living with disability.
- Concerning minors, principle of best interest of the child is crucial.
- As far as resettlement is concerned, welcome alignment to existing resettlement schemes and praise the call to broaden the resettlement countries. Multi-annual pledges should be coordinated with existing multilateral and regional resettlement arrangements.

## **Venezuela**

- Para. 57: believe in addition to request from concerned States, need to refer to national laws and policies. Safeguard on national security must be mentioned in the GCR.
- Safeguard also to avoid imposing conditions; support the position of Algeria.
- On gender, call for deleting footnote 50.
- Para. 87: respect of national laws and UN Charter important for resolving long-standing refugee situations.
- Para. 89: remove reference to forced internal displacement.
- Lastly, on resettlement, national strategies should include efforts to back the trend in light of falling spaces available for resettlement.

## **France**

- Welcome the amendment of the text.
- Welcome reception and admission; in para on safety and security: reintroduce respect for human rights law and not just standards.

- On identifying protection needs: appreciate clear references to international protection; use UNHCR definition of international protection and welcome its re-introduction.
- Welcome Asylum Capacity Support Group.
- In meeting needs and supporting communities, welcome mention of AGD. On age and gender, para. has been simplified. Capacity building of staff dealing with children, and best interest of child need to be ensured.
- Resettlement is an important tool implemented by too few countries.
- Para. 92: prefer a subtle and flexible approach when it comes to programming facility.

## **Ethiopia**

- Many improvement. Appreciate focus on national ownership, national laws and policies.
- On reception arrangements, mention the need for adequate provision of basic humanitarian assistance in transit and reception centres. The need to shorten stay in reception centres should also be added.
- Para. 54: safety and security is the primary responsibility of States while also request deletion of 'other States' in para. 57. Also believe community-centred policing should include the participation of refugees themselves.
- In para on registration and documentation, support should go beyond biometrics and include digitalisation of services and data security.
- Para. 61: clarify non-custodial and community detention for children as this matter is more relevant to the migration compact.
- Para. 62: Asylum Capacity Support Group should be under burden- and responsibility-sharing and support from the group shall be activated upon request of host States. At the same time, need to avoid duplication
- Regarding meeting needs, appreciate that this does not increase burden on host states and emphasise that providing services will not detract from the search for durable solutions. Meeting needs must be matched by strong and concrete commitment and action by the international community.
- On education, cross-refer to complementary pathways to include tertiary education through scholarships.
- On durable solutions, resettlement remains a vital tool and need expansion and specific target for resettlement option; and welcome the development of a three-year strategy. Acknowledge security consideration however believe process should be transparent.
- With regard to complementary pathways, this must be in consultation with host States and conducted in an organised manner. Refugees should be supported until departure: until so far conducted by refugees themselves, but this should be further strengthened.
- Voluntary repatriation should be conducted in safety and needs to be mentioned.

## **Iran**

- Reiterate that this section is imbalanced. Part on burden- and responsibility-sharing is under developed; why are there are so many prescriptions in Part B?
- Para. 49 says this section hinges on responsibility-sharing and commitment of the international community to provide concrete pledges. But we do not see robust mechanisms in this respect and the role of the international community is reduced to providing pledges and contribution. Let's not forget, the most important need is hosting refugees in its entirety and utilising hosting capacity of all members of the international

community should be highlighted in para. 4. Otherwise developing countries have the right to manage refugees by decreasing the quality of protection as it overwhelms their capacity.

- On reception and admission in various countries, it must be articulated in the text that the unutilised capacities of States must be activated.
- Para. 51: in granting *prima facie* protection, possible abuse of international protection should be highlighted. This should be a key concern for UNHCR. If not durable solutions will be unlikely; wish in para. 89 that reference is made to temporary nature of international protection, when reasons for obtaining refugee status have ceased to exist.
- Wish to remind current disparity in refugee protection and durable solutions: specific voluntary repatriation arrangements are among major concerns and require attention.

### **Brazil**

- We commend UNHCR for streamlining Part B; believe new format makes it clearer that the text is not prescriptive neither exhaustive.
- Welcome language in para. 50. Support put in place is in line with country leadership and welcome supporting alternative to camps away from borders.
- On the Asylum Capacity Support Group, reiterate the importance of South-South cooperation and alignment with international protection standards.
- Support comment by Netherlands on access to territory and fair asylum procedures in line with protection standards and in the spirit of responsibility-sharing; to which we have been calling attention.
- On meeting needs, we appreciate references to access to services, livelihoods and health. Emphasise mental health, sexual and reproductive health and stress prevention of disease outbreaks, including through immunisation.
- Welcome section on children and youth, and call attention to ensuring the best interest of the child and promoting alternatives to custodial measures.
- On food security, promotion of social safety nets, school feeding programmes, and purchase from local farmers are all important measures.
- On tolerance, suggest inclusion of initiatives to combat discrimination and xenophobia.
- On solutions, welcome three-year strategy for broadening resettlement countries; reiterate however that such strategy will be meaningful only if it encourages countries to increase their support; emerging partners are certainly not to fill existing gaps.

### **Tuvalu**

- Support the position of Ethiopia regarding humanitarian interventions, especially for addressing needs of vulnerable groups including women and girls and stateless persons.
- Also support para. 63; we see this as balanced language from the humanitarian perspective and in accordance to the spirit of the GCR.
- There is an operational responsibility to identify linkages between needs and support.
- Involving stakeholders will enable transparency and reiterate support for para. 63.

### **Australia**

- Important that disability is not excluded from the humanitarian cycle in para. 51; meaningful engagement with people with diverse needs including persons with disabilities as well as reference to the Washington Group set of questions on disability are welcome.

- Reference to person with disability is not until para. 59; this weakens focus on this population; this will be a key factor in implementation of the compact; suggest reinstating importance of this upfront under compact objectives.
- Disappointed that the draft does not mention sexual and reproductive health services; these are lifesaving and reflect our collective commitment in SDGs and NYD.

### **Sweden**

- Believe we have an acceptable balance. National leadership is underlined in Part B, which aims to ease burden on host States; as part of easing burden, need to provide additional development resources and the text explains this.
- While bilateral assistance will continue to be worked out, cooperation between humanitarian and development actors is crucial if we are to make a difference and there is scope to look at how complementarity can be achieved and how we can work better in line with Grand Bargain commitments.
- Firm need to guarantee the centrality of protection; humanitarian assistance should remain needs-driven and guided by humanitarian principles.
- Need to refer to international human right standards; this is crucial to safeguard refugees against national security imperatives. Text should refer to both norms and standards.
- Welcome reference to women and girls; should include language on access to justice.
- Para. 51: appreciate that all measures in Part B take into account meaningful engagement with all those with vulnerabilities. Need to encourage active participation of women in relevant processes. Appreciate that all actors engaged will take active steps to enable refugee empowerment.
- We favour reference to 'voluntary repatriation' instead of 'returns'.
- Support reference to youth in para. 76.
- Empowerment is not the same as gender equality; along with this reference to the agency of women and girls has been removed, and sexual and reproductive health is part of that.

### **Afghanistan**

- Thank countries hosting Afghan refugees.
- Current draft seems to be comprehensive, relevant and useful for refugee protection.
- Afghanistan is willing to receive refugees back home; support for sustainable reintegration including for creating jobs and livelihoods is needed; therefore, emphasise this in the solutions section.
- To promote inclusive support for host and returnees, States could contribute by helping with labour market analysis, creating employment opportunities, strengthening skills, promoting entrepreneurship, enhancing trade and attracting the private sector to host communities and areas of returns.
- We also wish to add the word 'complex' voluntary repatriation in para. 87.
- Para. 88: like the inclusion of contribution, notably by development actors, along with the international community support.

### **Qatar**

- Welcome facilitating academic and vocational education in para. 69; issue of validation certification of learning is important to displaced children and youth; this is a major gap in education policy and practice and there is little guidance on this. Therefore, we kindly request to have a footnote on what is meant by technical support.

- Qatar Foundation supports education needs; impact of education programme is compromised when students are unable to prove competency certificate; so, children returning home or seeking asylum find they cannot use qualification gained in exile. Important to obtain employment therefore welcome recognition skills.
- Para. 71: important to highlight the recognition of accreditation for solutions for returnees.

### **Nigeria**

- Commend emphasis on quality of health and health promotion activities. But as reflected in other statements, issue of sexual and reproductive health has yet to be addressed; every individual has the right to make a choice including refugees; important to maintain sexual and reproductive health; people need accurate information and refugees need to be informed about protection from sexual infections and recommend GCR to reflect sexual and reproductive health, psychosocial and gender-based violence against women, girls, men and boys in collaboration with UN agencies and in line with SDG 3. Paras 72 and 73 should be amended in this regard.
- Registration and documentation are vital for individual refugee status determination.
- Reflect strengthening work discrimination and xenophobia.
- Wish more details on the asylum capacity support group, and recommend considering a conglomeration of support platforms; composition would be situation specific and would go a long way to avoid duplication for comprehensive refugee responses consisting of experts in various fields.

### **Switzerland**

- Para. 56: wish language to refer to global UN anti-terrorism treaty.
- Para. 100: other local solutions subject to varying interpretation. Possible ambiguities should be clarified.
- Understand the reason for changes in follow-up and review, and support approach although important to have reference points, which is vital for focus on implementation.

### **Costa Rica**

- Implementation of the GCR puts forward commitments to shared responsibility of all Member States in widening best practice, technical and financial contribution.
- Welcome para. 49, although not comfortable with language on 'large scale', which should be understood with reference to the size of a country. For small countries, an influx of 10,000 people can be catastrophic.
- Welcome focus on specific needs and emphasise support for the development of community-based alternatives to detention.
- Para. 63: need to also refer to those who have been displaced because of climate change: mention the Platform for Disaster Displacement.
- Request that countries that have still not acceded to the Statelessness Convention do so.
- Welcome important role of international cooperation in supporting refugees particularly those living in extreme poverty including boys, girls and elderly.

### **Guatemala**

- Support centrality of protection including of boys and girls, and emphasise taking into consideration the best interest of child; support GRULAC statement. Include adolescents throughout the document.



- Note that Spanish text refers to boys, girls and adolescents; English text refers to youth.
- Therefore wish to request to include all those who are confronting vulnerabilities.

### **Holy See**

- In line with objectives, it is important that refugee lives are not put on hold and promote access to opportunities; welcome emphasis on education, health and decent work.
- Need a compact that is non-political, which does not become a hunting ground.
- Footnote 49: outlines intergovernmental agencies, but it leaves out others. Health aspects should be considered in light of broader health policies and therefore important to engage with civil society, private sector and refugees themselves. Would therefore request to delete footnote 49; or rephrase with the following: 'in line with national healthcare laws and support from stakeholders including civil society'.
- Stress the holistic and integrated aspect of the human person; recommend deleting footnote 50.
- Refugees freedom of movement is important, which should not be limited by national border; concerned by changes in 2.10; achieving mere tolerance is not sufficient. Request deletion of tolerance. At the same time, refugees must respect host country laws and regulations, therefore add refugees' duty to respect host country law.
- Support reference to para. 95: access to family reunification and community sponsorship.

### **Lebanon**

- Since the release of draft 0, the whole text has been reformulated towards achieving durable solutions; voluntary repatriation is our common and main target and note the part dedicated to solutions has evolved.
- New draft has gone far in incorporating our concerns; it is going in the right direction. Refugees can voluntarily return outside formal repatriation programmes; to ease burden, the international community must continue supporting host countries during the repatriation phase along with countries of origin.
- How will resettlement bring a surge as a clear sign of burden-sharing? We are not giving resettlement the position it deserves, as a cross-cutting issue.
- Para. 23: add resettlement as one of the tasks. Para. 24: ask for the addition of resettlement in response to large scale refugee movements; solidarity conferences should also think of large scale resettlement opportunities; regional and sub-regional approach should also result in change.
- Fully support follow-up and review of GCR. Trust that GCR will deploy all efforts to ensure mobilisation in the spirit of universal collaboration and sustain momentum and address donor fatigue. Notice complete deletion of indicators; what are the alternatives? What will UNHCR rely on to measure progress on GCR.

### **Syria**

- Para. 74: not clear what is meant by 'standards' in third line; delete it and replace with 'applicable instruments'.
- Footnote 50 need general reference to UN Security Council and GA Resolution.
- Delete footnote 38 as underlined by Uganda.
- Under the title solutions UNHCR efforts to reformulate this has taken into account a lot of our concerns.

- Para. 85: respecting international law and UN Charter are critical factors in solving refugee situations and protracted situations; should be reinserted in the fourth line.
- Para. 87: reference to 'sustainable' return is unwarranted and ask for its deletion. Took note of footnote 57, read the Resolution, reference to sustainable is made in a different context; this is not agreed language and reference to 'sustainable' should be deleted, especially as a qualifier for voluntary repatriation.
- Para. 89: reference to internal displacement is not linked to UNHCR mandate; GCR is only about refugees, so request deleting this in sixth line. Footnote 60 should also be deleted.
- Para. 89: important to add 'as appropriate' in 11th line after authorities. Also, better to use 'upon their request' instead of 'on the request'.
- Under follow-up, noted deletion of indicators; ask for clarification from the Secretariat whether there will be other process and if indicators will be developed internally within UNHCR or by any third party.

### **Jordan**

- Welcome para. 49; suggest replacing 'benefit' with 'must aim to benefit' and add 'ease the burden' after host country in the second line. Add 'financial' after 'contribution'; add 'priority' after 'national' at the end of the para.
- Para. 55: instead of consulting with host States, add 'upon request of States'.
- Para. 56: rephrase 'security is of utmost importance' and language should be consistent with Article 9 of the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- Para. 84: add a sentence after national laws after depending on the availability of durable solutions: in para. 87, suggest adding 'in line with the 1951 Refugee Convention' after free and informed choice. Delete sustainable.
- Para. 99: resettlement strategy is postponed and not addressed in this compact.
- Para. 93: add relevant 'host country'.
- Para. 97, third line: add 'guided by international treaties'.

### **Bangladesh**

- Serious concern that burden- and responsibility-sharing cannot be achieved through pledges: all refugee hosting countries are developing countries and face their own challenges. Need to call on the international community to achieve comprehensive solutions especially in protracted situations by avoiding cherry picking.
- Regarding subsection 2, meeting needs and supporting communities, in general, these must not be used as tools for undue political pressure; for this genuine dialogue is required; need to take into account cultural reality of host countries; development approach needs to be in line with SDG agenda.
- Para. 53: add 'climate change adaption' after the word disaster risk reduction efforts; Para. 63: should include climate change in addition to disaster risk reduction.
- On reception and admission: language should be more specific on international obligation from a humanitarian and human rights perspective and in line with NYD spirit.
- Local integration cannot be considered without the full consensus of the whole country; resettlement is a most important durable solution until voluntary repatriation is possible.

### **UNICEF**

- Appreciate greater consideration of children and welcome that commitment to protecting their rights and meeting their needs are maintained.

- Not easy to reduce; understand that the text is too long. Yet, good to see paras 78 and 79 included in what is now para. 76; Support youth and new separate para. 77, yet want to see it gender-sensitive taking into account specific needs of girls and young women.
- Two points not included here: reinstate the need to develop cross-border cooperation and reference to provide continuum of care; strengthen capacity of professionals and first responders including on how to communicate in a child-friendly manner.
- Important to have further details added on children formerly associated with armed groups.
- Para. 69: additional areas of support should include need for flexible and certified learning programmes for girls, persons with disabilities and those suffering psychological trauma.
- On solution, important to secure the best interest of the child prior to return and the need to broaden family reunification.

### **Global Partnership for Education**

- Welcome Draft 3 and recognise efforts to respond to diverse comments.
- GPE is the largest multilateral platform with more than 68 partner countries working for millions of children.
- Regarding the progress on education, we know that for millions of children without education, the importance of clear and strong language on education cannot be emphasised enough; this gives safety and stability and remains fundamental to ensure sustainable development for them to be able to rebuild their countries.
- Need for strong support for host countries to improve access to education for refugee children. Need clear language to include refugees in national education plans; strategic vision and equitable education for all required in line with SDGs.
- However, clear reference in paras 68 and 69 to a commitment for a coordinated effort and reliable data on refugee education; undertaking joint cost planning for refugee education will also be important for more efficient use of resources.
- Reconfirm strong commitment to extend access to quality education for refugees and host community children.

### **World Bank**

- Strong vision and encouraged by progress towards a midpoint between various positions to support the endeavour to keep substance; this is a tour de force.
- Heard about donors and hosts and civil society, and these are useful distinction we should unite in a determination for collective responsibility towards refugees.
- Sharing of responsibility provides an opportunity to articulate a set of commitments that we are aiming at, and even if they are not legally binding these needs to be shared.
- Look forward to reducing the need while also taking into account specific circumstances.
- Need to ensure coherence between humanitarian and development actors; they can complement each other; debate on nexus will require action and of course action can be implemented and will require financial resources and political will and also require strong sense of collective outcomes, and this is reflected.
- Welcome Global Refugee Forum, not only as a means to pledge but also for measuring progress that is specific enough and helps adjust implementation in real time.
- Stand ready to play our part. GCR represents once in a life time opportunity to ease pressure, enhance refugee self-reliance and pursue solutions in countries of origin. In the end, we need to make the most of it in order to make a real difference in the lives of people.

## **IOM**

- Admission and reception is where we must work together and our work intersects.
- Congratulate UNHCR for Draft 3; and appreciate para. 12 and efforts to clarify how GCR and principled approach framework could be drawn upon in addressing the complex challenge of mixed flows: acknowledge the role of IOM in other portions of the text.
- Grateful to others to express confidence on our work together in operational coordination, and if need to further modify, we will be pleased to do so.

## **GAVI**

- Welcome inclusion of vaccines; inclusion of girls; and inclusion of civil society as the main stakeholder in health.
- Under gender, support age and gender responsive services. However, equal access to vaccine for preventable diseases vital; lack of these are a major contributor for low health outcomes; affordable immunisation contributes to strong response strategies; need to build resilient health systems.
- Under immediate reception arrangements, in para. 54, should also include assessing health needs, immunisation status; requires capacity to provide medicines and vaccines.
- In the health section in para. 72, include the need for vaccine for preventable diseases.
- Para. 73: add immunisation services in disease prevention.
- Para. 76: capacity development of relevant authorities in assessing gender-related barriers relevant.

## **WHO**

- Believe health should be strongly asserted. Deeply concerned by lowering of expectations including language depending on the context, removing of the basic health service package, and not including disaggregated key health indicators.
- This will be a missed opportunity to provide universal access to health care; need to lift it to another level. Under universal health care, important to enable access to the most important services.
- Achieving universal care is one of the SDG goals.

NGO statement on Agenda item 3 is available [here](#).

## **Closing remarks: Volker Turk**

- In all, 51 statements delivered.
- Starting point was one essential reference to the 1951 Refugee Convention. Over the years, this has been operationalised in different situations including through the NYD and the application of the CRRF.
- We have learnt from that and consolidated it in the draft; collective views and debates helped us move the starting point to a more concrete level. Trying to advance as much as possible in drafting exercise, but important not to lose sight of what we have achieved.
- We have moved the starting point to the overall objective of equitable and predictable responsibility-sharing. Clear that in a process involving 193 Member States, we are not going to get each aspect of what we would like to be reflected in the text.
- Another comment was about IDPs; IDPs fall within the responsibility of this organisation; IDP engagement dates back over 42 years, and goes back to 1972 in Sudan. We have had detailed discussions within ExCom and UN GA, and received clear guidelines in 1992

and 1993, which make it clear that UNHCR does have a role to play when it comes to protecting IDPs; but important to bear in mind, we do not have general and exclusive mandate but do have a role to play in line with the GA resolution.

- We heard comment indicating that non-custodial alternatives to detention should not be reflected in the GCR. With due respect, in many situations refugee children end up in detention and there are clear guidelines. This affects both GCR and GCM and would urge to consider this be dealt in line with standards that have been developed.
- Other aspect asked by one delegation was on standby capacity in relation to para. 53: through the pledging process we will seek to achieve standby arrangements. Depending on context, we can rely on them; we have some of those and will seek to broaden them.
- What is in the GCR does not alter or modify UNHCR mandate; what we hope to achieve is to make it more effective when it comes to the Asylum Capacity Support Group so that it can draw broader support from countries. No contradiction with our mandate here.
- In terms of text, a lot of tweaks, but also, as we have discussed in previous consultations, there is this evolution of the iteration and some options require more work.
- Acknowledge the reality of transit countries, in relation to para. 12 and other paras; will include that point and also in terms of what Costa Rica mentioned that it depends on the country itself (size); MIRPS has involved countries in the traditional sense, not considered as facing large influxes. That was one purpose of para. 12.
- Will look at youth so there is no blurring of the lines, but in general strong support. Same on social cohesion.
- Comments on best interest of the child and on health: these points are well taken; will have another look; will find a way to reflect sexual and reproductive rights; UNHCR operations are meeting this need. Checked with health colleagues; this is part of our field response; assure you that, from operational side, sexual and reproductive health will be addressed.
- Coherence of the text covered. Same on Part 3 B: support for voluntary repatriation; same on local integration and local solution; and resettlement. When it comes to the three-year resettlement strategy, the idea is to immediately embark on it to generate the type of support we need, once we are able to propose a GCR. And we have looked into private and community sponsorship also; the forthcoming Standing Committee will also give another opportunity to discuss, but embarking on a complementary pathway strategy will start immediately.