

Statement by the Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea highly appreciates your active role and leadership in bringing together all stakeholders to more effectively address the highest levels of displacement on record and supports all your endeavors towards the Global Compact on Refugees. We would like to share its several thoughts on what the new global compact should seek and be founded upon.

The Global Compact should first and foremost ensure comprehensive and sustainable responses to large movements of refugees. These responses have to be people-centered, humane, dignified and gender-responsive, and be in accordance with existing legal frameworks to strengthen the protection of refugees, including the principle of non-refoulement.

The Global Compact on Refugees should also embrace the linkage between humanitarian and development efforts, and provide more timely and predictable support in a manner that advances development and builds resilience in host communities. Moreover, the Compact should support the inclusion of refugees in receiving States' development planning and their national systems and services such as those for health and education.

Resettlement programs not only provide durable solutions to refugee crisis, but also can serve another function, in showcasing to the international community solidarity and commitment of sharing responsibility in addressing the refugee crisis. Given its nature, the Republic of Korea sees that social and cultural contexts are important factors to be considered and thus be reflected in the Compact with regard to the establishment and implementation of each state's stable and sustainable resettlement programs.

The Republic of Korea also recognizes the need for different countries to develop complementary pathways to broaden opportunities for refugees and enhance knowledge and technology transfer between host and origin countries. Therefore, if UNHCR compiles best practices of various countries, it will help raise awareness, facilitating development of durable solutions to refugee crisis.

Finally, the Republic of Korea appreciates the progress made so far in the application of the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF), in particular in strengthening the inclusion of refugees and building their resilience and self-reliance. Good practices, as well as challenges and gaps, identified in the application of the framework should be taken into account in developing the program of action. The whole-of-society approach of the CRRF is significant in this regard, to promote social integration of refugees and secure more effective implementation of the CRRF.

In order to support the application of the CRRF on the ground, the Republic of Korea is providing multi-year funding to CRRF pilots in Uganda and Tanzania. It is also funding other programs of host countries, UNHCR, and non-governmental organizations aimed at supporting education, health and livelihood of both refugees and host communities in Turkey, Jordan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, etc. Moreover, the Korean government, in close partnership with UNHCR, is promoting durable solutions in Afghanistan and Colombia by supporting the projects for the sustainable return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced people in these countries on multi-year basis.

The Global Compact on Refugees marks the watershed in our efforts to address extensive refugee crisis. The Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to supporting your continued efforts towards the Compact and will actively participate in a series of upcoming formal consultations and other relevant discussions at global and regional levels. /End/