

GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES THIRD FORMAL CONSULTATION MEETING

STATEMENT BY TURKEY 10-11 April, 2018

Agenda item 1: Reception and admission (Part III.B.1)

- First of all, we would like to express our appreciation that section B has been carefully rephrased in a way that defines better those areas in need of support with clearer definitions and titles.
- Management of large numbers of arrivals is indeed a challenging task that requires quick thinking, clear decisions and intervention plans.
- As a country facing with mixed and large movements, we value timely and adequate precautions in order to manage and cope with huge flows.
- Preparedness, contingency planning and early warning are key elements in comprehensive and inclusive response to refugee situations. Based also on our own experiences, these key elements help better predict and respond more effectively to refugee crises.
- However, the support of States and relevant stakeholders should not be limited to resources and expertise. A real “pool” of resources could be made available to States faced with large-scale influxes.
- Under paragraph 45, the importance of early exchange of information in order to better identify foreign terrorist fighters and separate them from other foreigners at border crossing points or shortly after arrivals should also be emphasized.
- Under “immediate reception arrangements”, we welcome the reference made to women and unaccompanied children. It would be essential to give special attention to persons with disabilities that should be incorporated in the text.
- On the other hand, as the areas in the section of reception and admission fall mainly under national policies based on sovereignty rights of a country, we must not forget that such support to host countries should be mobilized upon the consent and request of them and in recognition of not only their legitimate security concerns but also their sovereignty rights.
- Therefore, we hope to see clear references in this regard in the text.

- Under safety and security sub-title: We should consider to include “the application of security check and health screening before starting the registration”.
- Under “registration and documentation”, the establishment of protocols for the sharing of personal and biometric data should be in line with national data protection legislations as well as international principles in this field. Necessary amendments should be made in order to make emphasis to personal data arrangements.
- Identifying international protection needs is paramount in order to determine services and rights to be granted. To this end, we welcome the proposal on setting up the asylum capacity support group. However, we need more clarification in the text on the specific tasks of the group.
- Lastly, under the sub-title “Identifying international protection needs”, we agree with the role foreseen for UNHCR such as providing advice for international protection needs. However, it is also crucial that utmost sensitivity and vigilance should be shown against terrorists or criminal networks to prevent misuse of the international protection system, bearing in mind the exception clauses of the 1951 Convention.
- In this regard, some additions should be made in the relevant part of the draft.
- Thank you.