

Statement by Denmark
Second draft of the Global Compact on Refugees
Agenda item 4
The particular needs of women and girls
Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

- Aligning with the statement on behalf of the EU and its member states, let me once more thank the UNHCR for an improved focus on age, gender and diversity responsiveness in the revised draft. This is a step in the right direction, but we must be more ambitious if we are to adequately address the particular needs of women and girls, including adolescent girls.
- Women and girls are disproportionately affected in forced displacement situations. This includes a heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence as well as harmful practices and coping strategies such as child marriage and missing out on education leading to socio-economic exclusion and marginalization.
- The heightened risks of women and girls are amplified by the lack of adequate sexual and reproductive health services. Hence, this shortcoming is a leading cause of death, disease and disability among displaced women and girls. In fact, family planning services can avert up to 32 % of maternal deaths and almost 10 % of childhood deaths in emergencies. Without ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, we will simply not be responding to critical needs of women and girls. The global response to the most urgent needs of women and girls must be comprehensive and proportionate.
- We would therefore recommend that the text recognize the need to ensure access of women and girls to all relevant sexual and reproductive health and rights including but not limited to comprehensive post-rape care and emergency services, family planning, antenatal and safe delivery care, post-natal care, services to prevent sexually transmitted infections, and services facilitating early diagnosis and treatment of reproductive health illnesses, and mental health needs in the sections on health and gender and where otherwise relevant]. We note in this regard that access to these health services is recognized in the New York Declaration.

- We welcome the efforts in the revised draft to mainstream responsiveness to gender-based violence, and would like to see this further strengthened, including in the section regarding children. This should include a reference to the particular protection needs of children, including as regards SGBV, exploitation and other harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- We also note that girls are 2,5 times more likely than boys to be out of school in countries affected by conflict. Therefore, it would be pertinent to include references to gender responsive educational facilities in the section on education. This includes adequate sanitation facilities as well as adapted approaches to ensure access to education for married children and adolescent mothers.
- On education in general we recommend that para 73 also make reference to supporting the development and implementation of national education sector plans which include refugees.
- As a donor we are committed to providing predictable, long-term, multi-year funding to support hosting countries to deliver safe, quality learning opportunities to refugees and host communities.
- I thank you.