

“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Formal consultation 5

Geneva, 12 - 13 May 2018

Agenda item 1

Intervention by MONTENEGRO

Madame Chair,

Let me thank the Assistant High Commissioner Turk for the presentation of the third draft of the global compact on refugees. We very much appreciate the work of the UNHCR and your personal efforts to bring us closer to the text that will be acceptable for all states.

With regards to the introductory part, let me point out few important elements from our side:

- Although we fully understand the rationale behind, including your efforts to accommodate different positions and perspectives between states or regions, we consider the new draft introductory part to be weaker from the human rights perspective comparing to all previous drafts.
- Namely, we regret the deletion of the sentence on causes of refugee movements in para 1, which we consider as an essential element of the whole part. It does not seem logical to speak about prevention and addressing root causes without mentioning what the main root causes are.
- In addition, we do not support changes made in the paragraph 7 on objectives, in particular the deletion of reference to vulnerable groups. Although we recognize the compromising efforts in this regard made in para 9, we believe that such change does not contribute to further strengthening of the human rights language in the GCR. On the contrary.
- In respect of the aforesaid, we would like these changes to be reconsidered, if possible.
- When it comes to concrete language as it is now in para 9, we would like see “disability”, “age” and “sexual orientation and gender identity” added as additional grounds for discrimination.
- Finally, we welcome that para 6, which speaks on importance of a wider acceptance of international refugee law instruments, has been kept as is; similarly we support the reference on the primary responsibility of countries of origin in addressing root causes in para 8.

I thank you very much.