

Mme Chair,
High Commissioner,
Excellencies,
Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the EU Statement.

We sincerely thank the High Commissioner for his opening remarks.

We commend the continuing hospitality of Syria’s neighboring countries hosting more than 5 million refugees. We thank UNHCR for its relentless effort to provide protection and assistance to refugees in the region. Returns can only happen voluntarily given the immense protection challenges and humanitarian needs inside Syria.

Germany also remains concerned about increasing new displacement in Africa on top of the many protracted refugee situations.

We welcome the great progress CRRF countries have made. Now the political commitment needs to be translated in real change on the ground. We particularly commend Afghanistan’s decision to participate as 15th country in the CRRF roll-out.

Germany too has assumed its share of responsibility: by supporting refugees and host communities worldwide and also by hosting refugees herself.

Germany is currently the sixth largest refugee hosting country in the world, the second largest donor to UNHCR and has increased the number of resettlement places for 2018/2019 to 10,000. And, let me assure you, we will continue to contribute our share.

Madame Chair,

More equitable burden and responsibility sharing is indispensable if we want to provide sustainable solutions, as the High Commissioner said in his

introduction (this morning/yesterday). We all recognized this jointly when we adopted the New York Declaration two years ago.

The successful completion of the GCR consultations is indeed a remarkable achievement and demonstrates our shared conviction that solidarity and cooperation are the only way to sustainably address today's refugee movements. It also highlights the capacity of the multilateral system to tackle highly complex global issues.

It is however the implementation of the GCR that will make a difference in the lives of refugees and those who host them. To this end, we need a strong commitment of all member states towards the Compact ^{by welcoming and} ~~in the UN General~~ ^{encouraging} ~~Assembly~~. The first Global Refugee Forum in a year's time will be the ^{it.} opportunity to underpin this commitment through concrete and substantive pledges.

Madame Chair,

UNHCR will have to adapt to an increasingly challenging environment. New record levels of persons of concern on the one hand, and new organizational requirements that will arise from GCR implementation on the other hand, indeed require an adaptation of UNHCR's capacities . We commend the High Commissioner's determination to advance the necessary reforms. The establishment of the Division of Resilience and Solutions in the beginning of this year was an important step on this path.

Of course it will be important to demonstrate and communicate the achieved progress to the relevant stakeholders.

Madame Chair,

We note with deep concern that the number of attacks against humanitarian personnel has sadly risen again and humanitarian access to those who need our assistance most is often denied.

Therefore, International humanitarian law and protection of humanitarian workers will be among the central concerns for our membership in the Security Council from 2019. Our Foreign Minister has just announced that we will

address this important issue in close cooperation with France - an initiative that will hopefully also benefit UNHCR's work.

Thank you!