



Global Refugee Forum

High Level Dialogue on Protection Capacity

18 December 2019

9.00-11.00

Room XIX, Palais des Nations

Oral Statement, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) welcomes the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Refugee Forum.

The implementation of the GCR offers an important opportunity to uphold the human rights of refugees who – like all people on the move – are first and foremost rights holders. International human rights law is applicable to refugees just as it is to all human beings, and helps to complement the legal framework of refugee protection.

Today, OHCHR would like to make the following contributions toward the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees as well as to highlight key tools:

- OHCHR has developed a set of *Recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders*, which translate the international human rights framework into practical measures for border governance. These guidelines can assist States to build or strengthen their protection capacity at borders, addressing issues such as rescue and interception; immediate assistance; screening, interviewing and referrals; and avoiding detention.
- OHCHR, in collaboration with UNCHR and other UN partners, has also co-led the

development of a set of *Principles and guidelines on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations*. These guidelines can support the capacity of States to protect those in vulnerable situations, acknowledging that vulnerability does not mean an inherent weakness or deficiency on the part of the person, rather that it is often created by external factors, by means of law, policy and practice.

- OHCHR has supported the drafting of the IASC Guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. These guidelines are based on the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and are the first humanitarian guidance developed with and by persons with disabilities. They can support humanitarian actors to effectively identify and respond to the needs and rights of refugees with disabilities who are most at risk of being left behind.
- OHCHR is also focusing on pathways for admission and stay based on human rights and humanitarian grounds, including in the context of the UN Network on Migration. While these pathways are mainly addressed to those who do not qualify as refugees, they can contribute to better respond to protection gaps that often arise in the context of mixed migration.
- OHCHR will continue to advocate for the full protection of human rights, in particular to ensure that migration and asylum governance do not jeopardize the right to asylum, nor any other human rights of refugees or any other person on the move. OHCHR will also continue to promote attention to these issues in the context of UN human rights bodies and the UPR process.
- Finally, our Office stands ready to fully engage in the implementation of the GCR, including supporting the “Asylum Capacity Support Group”, specifically with regard to people in need of international protection under international human rights law. The

Office stands also ready to support Member States in building the bridge between the implementation of this Compact and the Global Compact for Migration in order to ensure protection-focused responses that address the needs of all people on the move and that effectively guarantee their human rights.

Thank you.