



**European Union**

**Global Compact on Refugees - Second thematic session**

**Third panel: Enhance economic inclusion and promote livelihood opportunities for refugees**

**EU Statement**

**Geneva, 17 October 2017**

**– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –**

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*Mr./Ms. Chairperson,*

The EU and its Member States would like to stress a key finding of the CRRF that investing in building human capital, self-reliance and transferable skills are an essential step towards enabling long-term solutions. Socio-economic integration and inclusion are key to improve refugees' lives. They create conditions for mutual benefits for host communities as well, irrespective of ultimate durable solutions.

In order to enhance implementation of the measures outlined in the CRRF, we would recommend considering the following additional tools and elements.

First, joint situation assessments should include the following key aspects:

- Vulnerabilities, skills and coping capacities of refugees and host communities;
- Impact of the refugee influx on markets for goods, trade, housing, investment, services and jobs - understanding which needs can be satisfied through markets or investments, who will benefit from increased demand and who might be negatively affected;
- Impact on the environment, infrastructure and natural resources;
- Perspectives for solutions.

Then, investments in growth markets and promising value chains, special economic zones and job compacts as well as improving the business environment can help boost the local and national economy.

We recommend facilitating the identification and validation of skills and recognition of qualifications of refugees, job matching and support for self-employment to support their labour market inclusion and ensure that their skills are used to their full potential. Language, vocational and skills training including on financial management, as appropriate are also essential aspects.

We need to pay particular attention both to the specific vulnerabilities and agency of refugees in designing and implementing integration measures and programmes. The most vulnerable persons require social protection assistance to become more self-reliant.

We need to ensure participation of women in the development of local solutions and opportunities.

We also recognise that access to employment and use of agriculture land is important in boosting refugees' self-reliance.

In terms of practical guidance, the EU and its Member States fully support the ILO Guiding principles as well as ILO recommendation 205 and the G20 Ministerial Declaration (Policy Practices for the fair and effective labour market integration of regular migrants and recognised refugees).

We finally recommend that regulatory frameworks provide for work permits, freedom of movement, documentation, business registration and property acquisition, as well as access to credit and deposits/savings.

*Thank you, Mr./Ms Chairperson.*