

Global Compact on Refugees
Complete statements of Sweden to the Second and Third Thematic Sessions:
“Measures to be taken at the onset of a large movement of refugees” and “Meeting
needs and supporting communities”
(Geneva, 17-18 October 2017)

17 October, Panel One: How can we ensure better preparedness for and rapid response to large movements of refugees?

Mr/Ms Co-chair,

- First of all, let me thank the UNHCR for arranging these thematic consultations, for producing the background material for the consultations and for the hard work you are doing in relation to the CRRF. We wholeheartedly support UNHCR’s coordinating role through the CRRF and GCR process and in coordination in refugee responses in general.
- At the onset of a large movement of refugees, and in protracted situations, there must be measures in place that can be taken by hosting communities, but also other states and the international community. Neither host countries, nor one single humanitarian organisation, can perform all the roles or complete all the tasks in a refugee crisis.
- Our own experience of development cooperation and humanitarian responses show that resources to enhance coordination are usually a good investment. Flexible and predictable funding plays an important role in this regard.
- SE welcomes further discussion on establishing a **Global Response Group** hosted by UNHCR, while noting that its composition, tasks and relevant mechanisms defining activation are matters that requires careful consideration and discussion. The added value of such a group must be explained as well as its linkages to already existing structures such as the IASC.
- In this context, we would like to know more about the potential Response Group and how it could, for example, ensure that experiences from local actors and communities are communicated and used to better identify the needs and challenges on the ground. It is indispensable that we take into account the contributions and situations of displaced women and girls, increase the opportunities for refugees to make their voice heard and support local actors in refugee responses to find long-term sustainable solutions.

- Furthermore, development cooperation has an important role to play in addressing the root causes of crises and ability for communities to develop resilience. Longer-term solutions require multi-sector approaches, interventions at different levels and long term planning. It is therefore essential that the Response Group includes relevant development actors.
- The Global Response Group could also be linked to other proposals for the Programme of Action, such as the Asylum Capacity Support Group, and responsible for coordinating their activation as well as the activation of other measures.
- Mr Chair,
- SE welcomes the proposal to convene **solidarity conferences** at the onset of a crisis but would like to stress that while conferences can play an important role in mobilizing and coordinating support to crises, they should not necessarily be considered a mandatory part of the response to a sudden large movement of refugees.
- Let us also not forget the already existing mechanisms that enable time-critical and need-based assistance, such as the CERF and Country Based Pooled Funds (where available).
- Thank you!

17 October. Panel Three: How can we support receiving States to identify persons in need of international protection?

Mr/Ms Co-chair,

- We recognise the importance of swiftly registering asylum seekers in order to gather information about, an influx at an early stage. This is critical to identify protection needs and vulnerabilities among the displaced, as well as security risks.
- Refugee Status Determination is resource-intensive and could, depending on the context in the host country, be limited to those cases where there is a possible risk of refoulement *or* an identified need for resettlement.
- The ongoing revision of the EU asylum acquis is an important step to harmonise procedures and criteria for international protection in the EU. Sweden supports

initiatives at the global as well as the regional EU-level level which could strengthen the capacity of asylum systems and harmonise status determination processing.

- Sweden believes that an **asylum capacity support group**, as such suggested in the concept note, could enable the swift deployment and/or sharing of case management tools to large refugee situations and thereby harmonise status determination across regions. Sweden could contribute with experience in areas of quality, efficiency and consistency in the asylum process. We have positive experiences from early identification of case profiles, use of checklists and templates for analysis. These are all measures to ensure, for example, that analyses of protection needs are gender- and child sensitive.
- Sweden also has a good record of transparent cooperation with civil society in the field of asylum, with positive results for legitimacy of the system.
- With regard to strengthening asylum systems outside of Sweden, there is long term experience from twinning projects and other asylum support arrangements. We are currently involved in a number of projects seeking to strengthen the asylum processing capacity and quality, mainly in Europe, in EU candidate countries, the Balkans and the South Caucasus. Several projects are led by the UNHCR, such as the Asylum Systems Quality Initiative Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, which provides for active support in the consolidation of the asylum processes in the six Eastern partnership countries. Our participation takes the form of expert contributions.
- In addition to project activities, Sweden contributes through shorter missions within the Global approach to Migration Mobility processes (GAMM). Within these and other initiatives we have sent experts to the thematic meetings within the Rabat and Khartoum processes on the theme of international protection.
- In 2017 Sweden has provided operational support to EASO in Greece and Italy in the area of information and registration. The Swedish Migration Agency also provides support through our capacity experts by training and coaching in the field of asylum processing within EASO's external dimension trainings.
- Sweden, through the Migration Agency, is currently looking into ways to recycle lessons learnt and good practices from previous, ongoing or terminated initiatives and projects into future initiatives.

- In short, we look forward to further consultations on the asylum capacity support group and the possibility to contribute with our expertise in those discussions.

Thank you!

17 October. Panel Four: How can we address specific needs within large movements?

Mr/Ms Co-chair,

- During the first thematic discussion the importance of adapting responses to *specific contexts* and the need to invest in data and analysis to ensure well-informed responses was underlined. This is particularly true for capturing and responding to specific needs within large movements of refugees.
- It is equally important to, based on gender and age disaggregated data, properly assess and respond to the *different needs and vulnerabilities* of women, men, boys and girls, in refugee situations.
- Girls and boys, irrespective of migratory status, are entitled to the best achievable health and right to healthcare and rehabilitation, they should also be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence. To achieve this, children should be provided the opportunity to be heard and to participate themselves in efforts to identify needs and capabilities. Support should be provided to local and community based protection initiatives.
- Furthermore, sexual and gender based violence continues to be widespread and is a major protection challenge that needs to be addressed.
- Sweden has specifically supported UNHCR's work to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and we would like encourage UNHCR to promote IASC guidelines on SGBV in the CRRF context.
- The suggested actions in the concept paper to address specific needs for a comprehensive refugee response are all important. To mention one of the actions; Sweden has – since a few years - a well-established referral mechanism which has proven very important in our national efforts to support victims of human trafficking. The referral mechanism supports professionals tasked with identifying persons who have been subjected to human trafficking. It also clearly indicates what responsibilities governmental authorities have in terms of support of and

protection for victims of human trafficking and how case workers and others shall act in human trafficking cases.

- We also have a support system for victims of human trafficking which is managed by civil society organizations. This has proven very important as a complement to what authorities are doing, especially in cases where victims may be unwilling to turn to official authorities.
- Finally, we must strongly emphasize that being a woman does not equal being vulnerable. It is of utmost importance that refugee women's empowerment is promoted. Applying a gender perspective in each refugee situation can help us construct responses that enhance female involvement and self-reliance.
- Thank you!

18 October. Panel One: How can we mobilize resources for humanitarian and development assistance to host states?

Mr/Ms Co-chair,

- We see a number of challenges to respond to the refugee challenge, related to lack of funding and international solidarity. But we also continue seeing good examples of generosity towards refugees, as well as solidarity and responsibility sharing and financial commitments to refugee protection and solutions.
- Today, and throughout this process, we have a unique opportunity to change how things are done.
- Let me make three points that we deem to be of particular importance to be able to respond to the humanitarian and development challenges in protracted refugee situations.
- Firstly, closer cooperation between development and humanitarian actors must be ensured. This includes not only the UN bodies, such as UNHCR, IOM, the World Bank and UNDP, but also local level development actors and national partners. The Programme of Action can, for example, include a model for common analysis, planning and long-term goals.
- SE welcomes that the World Bank is increasing its engagement in refugee situations. The UN and the Bank are central actors in strengthening the

humanitarian and development nexus, as are donors, host countries and local actors. The WB cooperation with UNHCR is a good example on how actors can complement each other. The interplay between humanitarian actors and development actors should be guided by means of a clear division of work and mandates and with respect for the humanitarian principles.

- Division of labour is crucial. The large development actors must be fully on board and committed to working in large scale refugee situations, already at the onset. An integrated model for the reception of refugees must include sector specific competences, including in areas such as urban planning, rural development, vocational training etc. This requires clear division of responsibilities of each participating and contributing actor.
- We strongly support UNHCR's coordinating role, but it is impossible for one actor to respond to all needs. We therefore call for increased ownership and engagement in the CRRF-process by development actors with dual mandates, such as the UNDP, Unicef and FAO. If we are serious about the humanitarian development nexus they need to be involved in discussions about implementation.
- We would also like to stress the need for both humanitarian and development actors to adjust their way of working to be able to deliver tangible results for the affected population within a short-medium-long term continuum which is required in refugee responses. Even if a refugee crisis is protracted a situational changes requires fast and flexible implementation of the response.
- Secondly, we would like to talk about money. The gap between available humanitarian funding and actual needs is not closing. Apart from the crises that have been at the centre of attention for years, we are currently witnessing very disturbing developments in Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- More un-earmarked core support is needed for a rapid, flexible and efficient humanitarian response. In protracted crises, multi-year funding that is predictable and flexible allows for earlier response to new demands and cost-effective strengthening of local capacities.
- But humanitarian financing alone is not enough. We need to mobilize development financing to refugee contexts and we have to broaden the donor base by including and engaging new and non-traditional donors. Sweden is willing to do its share.
- Thirdly, it is time to push for innovations.

- One example of a new financing mechanism for humanitarian development is the Swedish funded guarantee mechanism, which is currently being piloted in Jordan and Uganda. Its aim is to create incentives for banks to offer refugees micro credits loans in protracted refugee situations and to increase banks' risk appetite to, in the long term, include refugees and local communities as part of their regular clients.
- There is also potential to increase partnerships with the private sector in refugee situations. We need to find ways to proactively promote private sector partnerships with both development and humanitarian responses to, for example, increase refugee self-reliance.
- A first step could be to initiate dialogues in existing regional or global fora or create a new platform for private sector engagement in refugee contexts, which also can address aspects of accountability.
- Finally, it is important to mobilize additional resources but also to make sure available resources reach those most in need, to ensure that we “**leave no one behind**”. We must make sure that refugees are included in analysis and that those most in need are served first, including host community needs, and that actors with right competency respond to these needs.
- Thank you!

18 October. Panel Two: How can we support the inclusion of refugees in national systems and services?

Mr/Ms Co-chair,

- We would like to take this opportunity to focus on education, one of the most pressing issues as we see it. In this regard, we would like to express our strong support for UNHCR's objective to make education an integral part of refugee response and call upon states to ensure that refugee children are included in national education systems.
- In the New York-declaration, states confirmed their determination to provide quality primary and secondary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children. We all declared our determination to do so within a few months

of the initial displacement and to support host countries in this regard.

- We owe all refugee- and displaced children our best efforts to fulfil our pledges.
- The commitment in para 81 of the New York-declaration must be operationalised and we strongly agree with UNHCR's proposed objective to ensure that refugee children are enrolled in school **within three months** of displacement.
- Including refugees in national education systems, is preferable to setting up parallel structures. Investments in refugee education can then be channelled into national systems, for quality education, and provide benefits to both host and refugee children.
- But, and this is important, the primary objective is to ensure that all children, refugee and national, receive quality education, be it through inclusion in national or mixed curricula.
- Private sector investment, new technologies and new partnerships are tools that could improve access and increase quality for all children, both refugees and nationals. When engaging the private sector, careful consideration needs to be made to ensure the protection imperative in all initiatives targeting refugees.
- To sum up, we need to see greater international support for education in refugee contexts. This requires multi-year funding that is predictable, flexible, and allows for earlier response to new demands for education.
- Thank you!

18 October. Panel Three: How can we enhance economic inclusion and promote livelihood opportunities for refugees in a way that benefits host countries and communities?

Mr/Ms Co-chair,

- Through the NY declaration, we all committed to expanding opportunities for refugees to access, as appropriate, education, livelihood opportunities and labor markets. Sweden believes that these aspects are crucial in enhancing refugees self-reliance, which can bring benefits to host communities as well as to refugees and their families.

- Self-reliance can be fostered in many different ways. But for it to be sustainable, we need to rely on **sector expertise in planning and implementation**. We must find ways to attract development actors and private enterprise to refugee contexts benefiting from their sector-specific know-how. Dialogue with these actors must be initiated at an early stage of a refugee crisis, and should also include discussions of the centrality of protection and accountability.
- Another vital measure is **policy adjustment**, allowing refugees to access labour markets and livelihood opportunities, through full or partial economic participation. **Refugee self-reliance is a political issue** and the dialogue on self-reliance and durable solutions must therefore also take place on a political level. National and local policymakers should be involved in the planning of responses, and host countries must receive sufficient support to be able to include refugees in their own national development agendas, as appropriate.
- An important tool in this regard is the ILO “Guiding principles on the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market”. **It includes a wide range of measures that could be included in the Programme of Action**. The provision of **decent work** opportunities for all, including nationals, refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, is vital.
- Host societies need to be included to ensure that opportunities for self-reliance are also **accessible to the host population**.
- In other words, the establishment of work opportunities must benefit not only refugees, but host communities and populations too. It is crucial that we create win-win situations.
- Thank you!