

“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Formal consultation 1

Geneva, 13 -14 February 2018

Agenda item 1

Intervention by MONTENEGRO

Mr. Chairman,

Montenegro welcomes the Zero draft, finds it as a rich document and a very good base for further consultation. We welcome the linkages between the draft document and SDGs, which, in our view, could ensure accountability of all stakeholders for achieved results.

Building on the foundation of the international refugee law system and lessons learned, to strengthen international cooperation and improve the responsibility and burden sharing among states - we very much support this approach presented by the Assistant High Commissioner Turk. The Global Compact on Refugees in its nature needs to improve or, in certain dimension, to create a new approach that will ensure stronger and more predictable response to large scale of movements or crisis.

We believe that challenges and gaps identified during our last year’s discussions cannot be addressed within existing resources. Therefore, we very much appreciate the strong emphasize put on broaden partnerships, in particular inclusion of private actors, public-private partnership, civil society organizations and financial institutions. In this context, Montenegro strongly supports multi-stakeholder approach and inclusion of wide-range of stakeholders.

We also support the strong nexus between humanitarian, development and peace efforts, especially in relation to durable solutions. Here we would underline already included strong focus on addressing root causes. We welcome rightly putting the refugees at the center of the compact.

When it comes more deeply to principal modalities for burden and responsibility sharing, Montenegro supports establishment of national arrangements and global platform. Here we see important role of the UNHCR in helping host countries and communities. But as well, we see state’s responsibility for enhancing its own capacities. In this regard, we must ensure that there are no overlapping or duplication of activities.

Building on our experience from the Balkans, we are very supportive of solidarity conferences concept. Here, in addition, we would like to stress the important role of regional organizations. But, as we had already stated during the Dialogue, the role of regional organizations and their impact should not be overestimated. Solidarity conference, with key participation from the region and together with the donor support, could be an extremely effective response in terms of responsibility and burden sharing. This particularly when we speak on durable solutions. But, in this part we would like to see the role of country of origin as well.

From our perspective, what we find the most challenging are data and evidence. Therefore, we fully support specific actions included in this section.

Thank you.