

“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Formal consultation 3

Geneva, 10 - 11 April 2018

Agenda item 1

Intervention by MONTENEGRO

Madame Chair,

Let me thank Assistant High Commissioner for the presentation of the second part of the first GCR draft focused on areas in need of support.

As we stated before, Montenegro welcomes the improved first draft, and in particular welcomes the strengthening of language on protection and international legal framework throughout this section.

On agenda item 1, I would like to emphasize several observations from our perspective:

- We commend the clarification made in relations to host countries' obligations in the introductory para 43. Nevertheless, and although the future GCR is not legally binding document, in our understanding it is important to underline that this is our joint exercise and its success will depend on commitments of all of us to support and share responsibilities.
- We are pleased to see improved language related to the role of local authorities and their capacity development (para 44). We are satisfied with more concrete language on preparedness and contingency planning. It is important to ensure appropriate model of support for early warning, as well as for immediate reception support (para 45 and 46).
- We strongly support the increased focus on women and children, but would like to see included older people and persons with disabilities as vulnerable groups as well (para 46 and 54)
- Montenegro considers paras 48 and 49 to be of extreme importance. We share your view that security concerns of host States should be fully recognized, but as well that equal emphasize should be placed on protection of those most affected. From our own experience, the issue of registration and documentation is crucial. To enable refugee to safely enter the state, to obtain legal status and to have an equal access to all services accordingly is the primary obligation. Therefore, support to host country at the very early stage and immediately upon arrival is essential. However, we underline the obligations of countries of origin, in particular in later stage of process, and we would like to see that appropriately reflected in the draft.
- Montenegro strongly supports development of alternatives to detention for children, mentioned in para 51. We strongly oppose the child's detention and here we support the strong position of UNICEF that the GCR need to translate into practice our commitment to progressively work towards ending the detention of children for immigration control purposes.
- At the end, Montenegro support establishment of an asylum capacity support group.

Thank you.