

Statement by Denmark
First draft of the Global Compact on Refugees

Agenda item 2:

Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

- Aligning with the EU statement, let me once more thank the UNHCR for at a very good revised draft that covers many of the key areas that need to be addressed with respect to meeting the needs of refugees and supporting the communities, which (so generously) host them. In particular, we welcome that the advantages of shared and inclusive growth for both host communities and refugees are so clearly spelled out.
- While the revised draft is a clear and strong step forward from the zero draft, we nevertheless think that it could be even more ambitious in rolling out the key preconditions that need to be in place for inclusive growth to materialize – as called for by the New York Declaration.
- Firstly, the text could well reflect in even stronger terms the need for host governments to be in the driving seat when planning and implementing more inclusive approaches. It is not for development actors to formulate development policies that take into account the presence of refugees. This is all about ensuring national ownership and involvement in the quest to secure inclusiveness and to avoid parallel systems.
- Secondly, the text could be strengthened by recognizing the preference for refugees to be fully integrated into local and national development planning – thus acknowledging them as both contributors to and beneficiaries of national systems, on par with the local host population.
- Third, the compact needs to clearly recognize that for such inclusive processes and outcomes to materialize, the international community needs to engage in a different way. This is not simply a question of securing increased humanitarian funding and supplementing this with the involvement of development actors. Rather, it is of key importance to ensure full commitments from existing and new donors towards the provision of not only humanitarian funding but also the additional development resources required for a fully inclusive approach to service provision and economic growth. We simply cannot expect host

governments to decrease development investments for its own population for the sake of refugees – and we need to recognize that the costs cannot be covered in a sustained manner through further humanitarian funding. New, innovative approaches are called for – as reflected by the New York Declaration - and in the New Way of Working that is now met by wide support.

- We warmly welcome the strengthened focus on age, gender and diversity and would like to see this streamlined throughout the entire text. We note in this regard that the text should address the particular needs of women, girls AND adolescents who are often disproportionately affected when crisis hit and who face multiple and intersectional risks in humanitarian crisis.
- While we welcome the section on education, we stress the need for quality education, not least for girls.
- We welcome the sections on health and gender but note that a comprehensive gender response includes access to sexual and reproductive health services. Such access is an integral part of an adequate response to SGBV and is fully in line with para 31 of the New York Declaration.
- Similarly, we would recommend a reference to access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in the section on gender.
- With respect to other areas of action, we would recommend further elaborating the text with regard to urban displacement which is emerging as a key challenge, both in protracted displacement situations, and in return situations that are often characterized by secondary internal displacement and rapid urbanization.
- I thank you.