



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Second Round of Formal Consultations

on the Draft One of the Global Compact on Refugees

Geneva, 20-21 March 2018

STATEMENT OF LEBANON

Read by H.E.M. Salim BADDOURA

Thank you Mr. Chairman, my delegation is pleased to see you chairing our meeting.

At the outset, Lebanon aligns itself with the statement made by Egypt, on behalf of the Arab group.

We are grateful to the UNHCR for all the efforts put so far, in the elaboration of the Global Compact on Refugees, and we welcome the new version of the draft text that rightfully took on board many of the concerns expressed by major Host Countries, during the first round of formal consultations.

Since it is the first time we are taking the floor, we would like to make as well a few comments on item 1:

- Generally speaking, the overall structure of the new GCR draft has improved substantially. The new introduction is more consistent and rightfully links the GCR to major legal instruments that are relevant to international cooperation, refugees' assistance, human rights and humanitarian principles and instruments.
- We acknowledge that the new versions of paragraphs 2 and 3 give more strength and sense of direction to the GCR by emphasizing the "unduly heavy burdens placed on certain countries" and by clearly stating the necessity to translate the international cooperation principle and burden and responsibility sharing into concrete and practical actions.

- We welcome the inclusion of a broader section on the GCR main goals in the new version of paragraph 5 which clearly mentions the need for an “improved system of burden and responsibility sharing.” The paragraph rightfully underpins that the relevance and the success of the GCR are premised on its capacity to act as an enabler to this aforementioned system.
- Moreover, we do think that paragraph 6 goes in the right direction since it strongly states that the tackling of refugees’ issues is a common effort in which all members of the international community should engage “more robustly and predictably”, through a more “equitable” distribution of contributions. But needless to say, that political will is paramount in this regard.
- Hence the language of the draft could gain more strength if it mentions that huge refugee crisis are a common concern for human kind. It is a mention we find in other international instruments dealing with daunting challenges that beset the international community. General Political will could be more easily triggered, when the danger is deemed universal.
- We feel as well obliged to caution against a certain propensity of the draft text, to bring in big concepts, without properly contextualizing them. Like root causes, development, conflict prevention, gender equality, etc. Of course we have nothing against these concepts in themselves. But we should keep our efforts focused and avoid the risk of straying in all directions, and losing sight of the forest for the trees. In our understanding, the main purpose of the GCR is to ease the burden on the refugees and the host communities, while in parallel paving the ground for the durable solutions that should constitute our main medium and long term concern.
- If misconstrued, these concepts could be misused in order to favor integration, or to add new burden on the hosting States. Furthermore, it is our understanding that principles and measures envisaged in the GCR should, at no point, thwart the emergence of durable solutions.
- On item 2 about burden and responsibility sharing, we would like to commend the UNHCR for providing us with the new version of Part III.A as one of the main innovations of this new draft, by adding new elements in order to reach a more robust and articulate mechanism for burden and responsibility sharing.
- We see a good progress in some of the ideas proposed by the new GCR draft, such as the UNHCR hosting regularly ministerial-level refugees’

meetings, or the boarder details about the organization of work in the Global Support Platform.

- As a basis for a burden and responsibility sharing mechanisms, we also think that the notion of “mapping” of the cost of impact of hosting refugees in paragraphs 15 and 42 is also a good addition to the GCR new draft, and should be further explored.
- The mechanism of the burden and responsibility sharing takes into account the national and the regional level, and rests on several tiers or layers that should interact smoothly, mainly the Summits, the global support platform, and the solidarity conferences. Seen on paper, the mechanism looks promising. But we should be aware that by multiplying the layers, and by making them dependent on each other, we face the risk that the failure on one level ends up hindering the whole mechanism. Furthermore, we should try to make sure that some of these obstacles that have so far, stood in the way of robust solutions to current crisis, will not come back to hamper the smooth functioning of the new envisaged mechanism

Thank you