

Global compact on refugees: thematic discussions 2 & 3
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Author: Professor Geoff Gilbert, University of Essex
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The Concept Note, like the CRRF itself, could draw more fully on existing UN policies that would facilitate adoption by states and the development of the Programme of Action. In 2004, and reaffirmed by the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly in 2012 (UNGA Res 67/1), the UN affirmed rule of law as a core theme, one that applied to states but also to the UN. Drawing on rule of law and governance (l'Etat de Droit, Rechtsstaatlichkeit), whilst at the same time recognising UNHCR's unique mandate to provide international protection to refugees and its supervisory function found in Article 35 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and also Paragraph 8a of the 1950 Statute, would facilitate in all operations:

- (i) rights for refugees, including health, education and work, but also access to housing, land and property and access to legal services, a fundamental building block for states;*
- (ii) co-operation with states through support, including financial support (see paragraph 8c of the New York Declaration), and capacity building; and*
- (iii) the operationalisation of interoperability with other parts of the UN in the interests of durable and sustainable solutions for refugees - the humanitarian/ development dichotomy is irrelevant in such a framework.*

Rule of law is an access point for working with states, co-operation with other parts of the UN, and a rich rights-based protection framework, which includes the SDGs, for refugees, something, which as part of a UNHCR project in 2014 supported by the government of Denmark, I had the privilege with my fellow researcher, Anna Magdalena Rüsçh, to see being implemented in UNHCR field operations in Niger.