

**Government of Canada interventions for second round of the  
Formal Consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees  
Geneva, March 20-21, 2018**

**Agenda item 1: Introduction: background, goals of the global compact on refugees, and prevention and addressing root causes (10:40 – 13:00)**

We wish to thank UNHCR for its leadership, and to thank everyone participating today for their continued and constructive engagement in this process. We believe the first draft of the Global Compact on Refugees represents a clear improvement from the zero draft. We welcome the reaffirmation of the foundational international laws and norms that underpin refugee protection as well as the strengthened considerations with respect to age, gender and diversity. We look forward to discussing how to further strengthen these considerations on age, gender and diversity in the next consultations when they are more the subject of focus.

The First Draft clearly expresses a more concerted engagement of states, which aligns better with the commitments states made in the New York Declaration. This Compact must result in concrete and practical actions to ensure more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing among all states, and among other stakeholders.

The Refugee Compact should help to mobilize the political will needed to enable comprehensive refugee responses. This is now prominently reflected in the introduction. We need to ensure that the Programme of Action also includes the tools and means needed to leverage and increase political engagement among a broader range of states. Canada recommends that the introduction call upon states to act as catalysts in responding to large movements and in unlocking protracted situations, in ways that complement and support the mandate of the High Commissioner.

Finally, we note that the draft Global Compact on Refugees sets out numerous new tasks to be undertaken by UNHCR. We encourage UNHCR to ensure that the tasks outlined for it within the Programme of Action do not detract from the Agency's operational effectiveness and the prioritization of its core protection mandate. We would also recommend that UNHCR present an analysis to its Executive Committee that assesses the budgetary and staffing implications for the Agency in light of these additional tasks. Echoing the colleague from the United Kingdom, we would also recommend that steps be undertaken to enable other UN agencies and other stakeholders to reflect their engagement in comprehensive responses more actively in the Programme of Action.

**Agenda item 2: Programme of Action: Mechanisms for burden and responsibility-sharing (Part III.A) (15:00 – 17:30)**

Canada believes that this part of the Programme of Action is essential to the success of the Refugee Compact, so we welcome UNHCR's efforts undertaken to strengthen it. We must find ways to significantly widen the support base beyond the states and stakeholders that have historically contributed to the protection of refugees. The mechanisms proposed here do have the potential to help achieve this important goal, but more work is still needed to refine them.

We are supportive of the approach in the Global Refugee Summits to mobilize wide-ranging pledges and contributions from a variety of stakeholders, and not just states. Strategic approaches to mobilize the private sector to participate actively in such Summits should be developed. More generally, and similarly to what the colleague from Ethiopia noted, we believe measures to further engage the private sector in comprehensive refugee responses should be strengthened in this overall section by including, for example, the value of developing country-level private sector facilitation platforms.

We also support the proposal that Global Refugee Summits should provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share progress on the implementation of previous pledges. This accountability and transparency in relation to commitments should be built into the Summit's objectives, and as the Norwegian colleague noted, methods to standardize this part of the process will be important.

We welcome the additional details and clarifications on the Global Support Platform, including the recognition that the composition of this Platform will vary and that it could be activated in relation to a new or protracted situation. However, there is a need to reach consensus on the fundamental gap that this mechanism is meant to fill. Canada believes that this Platform should address the lack of sufficient political will and trust among states to galvanize effective comprehensive refugee responses. It is not yet clear how this Platform will mobilize this political will, how it will enable the broader engagement needed, nor what criteria will be used to convene the Platform in response to a particular situation. We therefore welcome Germany's suggestion on the utility of a tabletop exercise on this topic in the coming weeks.

Finally, we are pleased to see that the Programme of Action now includes reference to the request to measure the impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, as contained in last year's UN General Assembly omnibus resolution on UNHCR. However, as others have emphasized, we encourage UNHCR to ensure that the description of this exercise aligns fully with the language of the resolution.

**Agenda item 3: Follow-up arrangements (Part IV) (15:00 – 17:30)**

We welcome the improvements to the section on follow-up arrangements. However, more discussion is needed to ensure that we are crafting goals against which progress can credibly and meaningfully be measured and that the information and data needed to assess progress against the indicators can be collected efficiently. We would therefore encourage UNHCR to begin discussions in the very near future on the question of indicators, in consultation with states and relevant stakeholders. Canada stands ready to support the development of clear indicators which can be reported against.

We would also like to recommend once again that the follow-up arrangements section underline the importance of including results frameworks within national or regional comprehensive refugee response processes. Measuring the outcomes and changes for refugees and host communities will provide information critical to the overall monitoring of the Global Compact's application.

Recognizing that comprehensive refugee responses and the Global Compact itself are multi-stakeholder efforts, we recommend that the proposed Ministerial-level global refugee summits include a particular space in which the views of other stakeholders, including refugees, particularly women and youth, can be heard.

Finally, we recommend that the follow-up arrangements note the importance for the application of the Refugee Compact to be undertaken in ways that are complementary and coordinated with other relevant international processes. In September 2016, we all recognized the importance of coherence, particularly in response to mixed movements, and we must not lose sight of this in the application of this Compact.