

Agenda Item 1: Introduction: background; guiding principles; objectives; and prevention and addressing root causes (Part I)

- We thank the UNHCR team for their efforts in reflecting a variety of views to the new draft.
- Since the adoption of New York Declaration in 2016, this process has started with a strong aspiration on the part of the international community towards strengthened solidarity with refugees and affected host countries.
- In order to seize this window of opportunity, we need to create a robust Compact with concrete actions in order to realize the target of reaching to a more predictable and equitable burden and responsibility sharing system.
- In the “background” section of the “introduction” part of the second draft, the root causes paving the way for refugee movements are depicted.
- Persecution, serious human rights violations and armed conflicts constitute all this solid ground and are globally agreed as root causes.
- However, the term “serious public disorder” referred in paragraph 1 does not possess the same wide consensus and depends on the sole interpretation of the receiving country.
- Hence, this term should be omitted in order also to bring the text much more in line with the language of the 1951 Convention.
- In addition to this, we believe it is important to stick to the existing language of the New York Declaration. In this context, we suggest to include terrorism among the reasons forcing people to seek refuge in other countries.
- We support the inclusion of the guiding principles to the text.
- Indeed, all the instruments listed in paragraph 5 further reinforce the human-centered approach of the Compact.
- Yet, both the wording and the substance of paragraph 6 move this part to another dimension which goes beyond the non-legally binding nature of the Compact.
- Therefore, we propose to delete the paragraph 6 and thus avoid the risk of undermining the previous one which should be the highlight of this section.

- Another dimension of the guiding principles could be the focus on the complementarity with the Global Compact on Migration. In this context, we can incorporate the following sentence from the current draft of the GCM:

“The two Global Compacts, together, present international cooperation frameworks that fulfill their respective mandates as laid out in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.”

- On the other hand, streamlining of the objectives of the GCR by better identifying follow-up areas and the tools to achieve them is appreciated.

- As we have emphasized in the previous round, we still deem necessary to include a reference to the New Way of Working to set forth the complementarity between humanitarian and development assistance. To this end, second bullet in paragraph 8 could be the right place.

- We welcome the emphasis on the complementarity between UN endeavors in the areas of prevention, peace, security, development, migration and peacebuilding as well as the reference to SDGs.

- The complementarity of the GCR to such efforts is key in achieving the ultimate goal of reducing the number of refugees and forced displacement worldwide.

- Thank you.