



**European Union**

**Global Compact on Refugees - Second thematic session**

**Fourth panel: How can we address specific needs within large movements?**

**EU Statement**

**Geneva, 17 October 2017**

**– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –**

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*Mr./Ms. Chairperson,*

I share these remarks on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

This fourth panel is dedicated to addressing specific needs within large movements. This is a key issue for the EU and its Member States.

We recommend ensuring mainstreaming of a gender perspective, tackling all forms of discrimination including trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence, meeting all refugees' gender-specific psychosocial, health, and other needs, and recognising the significant contribution and leadership of women in refugee communities and ensuring their full, equal and meaningful participation.

Protecting all children in migration at all stages of migration is also a priority for us. The best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all actions or decisions concerning children. We consider it indispensable to provide tailor-made responses, in full compliance with international human rights and international refugee law, and taking into account in particular the protection of refugee children from all forms of violence.

The EU and its Member States consider that the measures outlined in the section "reception and admission" of the CRRF, should be taken at the onset of a large movement of refugees by receiving countries. Particular emphasis should be put on persons with specific needs.

In this respect, for the measures foreseen by the CRRF to be fully effective, we deem it essential to enhance preparedness and build effective national asylum systems which are particularly important in situation of mixed migration.

We would also recommend to consider the following additional tools to enhance implementation of the measures outlined in the CRRF, :

In para 5a), in addition to gender-based violence, we consider advisable to include also prevention and response to all kinds of violence, exploitation and abuse;

Refugees, including women and children, should participate in identification of needs and decision-making.

Refugee children's welfare and healthcare, education and psycho-social development and care needs are one of the important aspects that need to be reflected in assessing the type and level of support host countries might require. In particular, education is a key area. It is needed in emergency responses to respond to child protection. We should address all barriers of access to quality and equitable education and make sure that it is provided in safe environments.

Early integration and inclusion of children is equally important to support their development and transition into adulthood. This should also include promoting a positive approach to diversity, as well as to combating racism, xenophobia and in particular hate speech. It is a social investment and

essential factor contributing to societal cohesion as well as reducing risk of exposure to radicalisation. We also should enhance efforts to minimise risks of exploitation and child labour.

*Thank you, Mr./Ms Chairperson.*