

“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Thematic discussion two:

Panel 4: Measures to be taken at the onset of a large movement of refugees

17 October 2017

Rooms XVII and XXIV, Palais des Nations

**Oral Statement, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
(OHCHR)**

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) would like to highlight the importance of the international human rights framework as a directly applicable, existing legal framework that States should utilise in responding to the situation of people on the move in large movements, in order to reinforce and strengthen refugee protection.

We also briefly draw attention to three contributions which relate to reception and admission, and on which we will expand in our written contribution.

- First, we offer OHCHR’s Recommended Principles and Guidelines on human rights at international borders which we issued in 2015. These Principles and Guidelines are intended to inform the work of States, international agencies and other stakeholders with an interest in human rights-based border governance, and we hope that they will be specifically incorporated into the CRRF and the development of a programme of action.
- Second, as part of OHCHR’s engagement with the Global Compacts, we have committed to support a human rights analysis of the legal and policy issues that cut across the two Global Compacts, highlighting the crucial – and mutually reinforcing – need both for fair and effective asylum procedures as well as human rights-based and responsive migration governance measures.

- Finally, we are particularly concerned about the protection gaps that are faced by people on the move who will not be able to benefit from the protection of the refugee regime but are nonetheless in need of the distinct but parallel protection of their human rights. As co-Chair of the Global Migration Group Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality, OHCHR is leading an effort of the UN System to develop a set of Principles and Guidelines on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. This exercise is based on the recognition that the twin foundational elements of the human rights framework are the need to promote human dignity and to alleviate situations of vulnerability to human rights abuses.

Thank you.