

High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges:

"Towards a global compact on refugees"

12-13 December 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva

SESSION FOUR: contemporary protection challenges

German Intervention (2 min.)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the statement given by the EU on behalf of its member states.

Acute and protracted displacement situations and accounts of wide spread SGBV all over the world remind us of the importance of protection in humanitarian emergencies. Protection challenges arise for particularly vulnerable groups or refugees with specific needs. When referring to these groups within large movements of refugees, we would like to flag however, that we are speaking about the **majority of persons seeking refuge**.

The New York Declaration therefore puts a particular emphasis on persons with specific needs and the CRRF calls for their identification in the registration process and adequate protection arrangements. A sudden and large influx of refugees however poses major protection challenges. When facing such a scenario the German Government very quickly saw the need for a decisive effort to support the protection of especially women and children refugees. It introduced a range of measures built on one principle: cooperation - especially with the **regional and municipal stakeholders and civil society organizations**.

Through this process we have committed to ensuring all our programming is gender responsive. We are currently also developing a gender-age-disability marker that will guide our humanitarian assistance. It is of paramount importance that women and girls have equal access to leadership and participation as men and boys or persons of other gender in humanitarian action.

Protection needs and vulnerability are very context-specific. While the majority of victims of SGBV are women and girls, the horrifying accounts of sexual violence against Syrian refugee boys and men have shown again that under certain circumstances men or boys are

vulnerable, too. This underlines the need to strengthen and improve needs assessments in order to better identify specific protection needs.

Inclusion and representation of refugees in their own protection and in pursuit of durable solutions is crucial. Germany has made particularly positive experiences with promoting alliances between local administrations, carriers of the youth welfare system, social work specialists and civil society – including young refugees themselves.

While we however very much appreciate an improved data collection, disaggregation and exchange between humanitarian and non-humanitarian actors, we must not ignore protection risks attached to an increase in exchange and mixed methodologies. We want to especially underline the importance to comply with personal data protection standards at all stages (eg. ICRC data protection standards; Sphere standards) - in particular if sensitive protection data is concerned.

Millions of people have and will be displaced by disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. Germany currently chairs the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and is very proud that UNHCR is supporting the work of the PDD as a strong partner. To reduce such displacement risks by effective disaster risk reduction, States should integrate disaster displacement into their national and regional disaster risk reduction strategies. At the same time we need to strengthen international efforts to enhance relevant data and knowledge on why, where, when and how people are displaced and how this relates to situations of armed conflict situations.

Thank you.