

High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

Towards a global compact on refugees: comprehensive refugee responses
12-13 December 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva

SESSION 6: Strengthening burden- and responsibility-sharing

German Intervention (2 Minutes)

Ladies and gentlemen,

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

Past experience has shown that burden- and responsibility sharing is most effective at **regional level**. However, large refugee movements are a global issue that no region can and should have to cope with alone. Therefore we proposed the establishment of a **“Global Response Group or Platform”** that would practically contribute to a more equitable responsibility sharing. Through a faster and more coordinated response that involves new partnerships the pressure on host countries should be alleviated right from the beginning of a large refugee situation. **Relevant regional bodies** should be identified by the response group and supported at the outset of a large refugee situation to mobilize a concerted regional effort in tackling the situation. We are happy to see that UNHCR has taken up the proposal for a core group of responders.

We are also happy to see that the **private sector** is pointed out in the concept papers as key actor in the whole-of-society response in refugee situations and key contributor to a more equitable responsibility sharing. To coordinate and channel the engagement of the private sector, Chambers of Commerce have an important role to play. Enhanced; enhanced exchange between Chambers of Commerce from different contexts could help them fulfill this role.

We do support UNHCR's idea of promoting a **global network of solidarity of cities, local and regional governments**. We strongly believe that valuable peer to peer learning and support could be further fostered by such a network. Within Germany, platforms that were

established for volunteers, refugees, professionals and other interested persons to exchange experiences and ideas, proved to be highly successful.

Large movements of refugees often stem from acute violent conflicts. Therefore the **prevention** of violent conflict is central to prevention of large refugee movements. This endeavor requires effective early warning mechanisms and the political will to apply meaningful measures.

The only durable solution to conflict is a political solution. This requires the concerted efforts of humanitarian, diplomatic, development and security actors. Germany therefore explicitly welcomes UNHCR's call for humanitarian and human rights actors to work closely with development, peacebuilding and financial institutions to address state fragility, marginalization and other root causes of displacement.

Thank you.