UNHCR First thematic consultation on the Global Compact on Refugees, 10 July 2017

Ambassador Carsten Staur, PR of DENMARK

Check against delivery

- Having listened carefully to the debate today, my takeaway is that we have four critical issues at hand:
 - 1) The political will of host countries to open their national systems, provide access to education and health, access to labour markets, to refugees, fully acknowledging that CRRF is not a design manual, but a political framework, AND the development of the capacity of governments and national systems to implement such policy change. That is where we realize that refugee situations are both humanitarian and development challenges, where BOTH systems must be activated.
 - 2) The increase in funding to support host countries in these endeavours. Hosting refugees is a global public good, and in line with the principles of equitable burden and responsibility sharing, the international community must take responsibility for providing the funds to cover this. It is not about more humanitarian assistance, as much as it is about development assistance, where the new emphasis of the World Bank is important, AND where bilateral donors must also weigh in heavily. The present political climate should be conducive to achieve this.
 - 3) As the High Commissioner has stated return of refugees to their countries, in safety and dignity, remains the preferred durable solution. Local integration and resettlement play a role, of course, but return will inevitably be the most important solution. BUT it does not happen by itself. It presupposes a significant increase in the engagement of all of us in the political processes that may lead to politically sustainable solutions. Without that, we don not reduce the number of protracted crises.
 - 4) CRRF and the Global Compact is NWOW in practice. It redefines UNHCR's role, with less emphasis on care and maintenance and the establishment of

parallel systems -and more of a facilitator, an initiator, a convener of others to get them to step up their engagement, WITHOUT in any way reducing the scope of the protection mandate of the organization. UNHCR is a big machinery and it is important that the organization as a whole fully internalizes the new approach and its future impact on the workings of the organization.