

“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Formal Consultation 2, Geneva

20-21 March 2018

Country Statement

Republic of Korea

Thank you Mr. Chair,

1. General Comment

The Republic of Korea commends UNHCR and all relevant stakeholders for all their dedicated work in preparing Draft 1 of the Global Compact on Refugees. We recognize that the new draft is more developed, in terms of enriched preambular contents, streamlined priority areas and concrete and strengthened actionable commitments.

Above all, the Korean government acknowledges that the new draft includes the fundamental principles of the Global Compact on Refugees. It proclaims that the compact is anchored in the cardinal principle of non-refoulement as well as international human rights instruments, which we find deserve high regards. The text also strengthens gender perspectives, ensuring special consideration for women and girls, particularly the survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. We also welcome that the draft further engages private sector to uphold the multi-stakeholder approach and expand the basis of resource mobilization. Focus on promoting resilience of refugees and host communities is another point to be noted.

2. Mechanisms for burden - and responsibility - sharing

Regarding the mechanisms for burden - and responsibility - sharing, the Republic of Korea acknowledges that Draft 1 more elaborates the role of each key mechanism, namely global refugee summits, Global Support Platform and other national and regional settings. It also properly establishes the relationship between these mechanisms, providing a clearer picture on how the global compact on refugees works.

However, we believe that it is important to prevent duplication between these new mechanisms and existing bodies and arrangements. In addition, we see that the difference between global refugee summits and Global Support Platform is not clear when all relevant stakeholders are engaged in both of the mechanisms.

3. Follow-up arrangements

In regards to the follow-up arrangements, the Republic of Korea asks UNHCR to provide more information on the key indicators it will develop to monitor the implementation of the compact. In particular, we need more information on what specific criteria the indicators are measured upon and how qualitative factors such as social and cultural contexts are considered in deriving them. We are of the view that the success of the global compact hinges on appropriate indicators and thus it is crucial to design proper indicators based on consultations and consensus of all relevant stakeholders.

The Korean government also believes that the global compact on refugees and the global compact for migration should be more closely linked in their implementation phases. UNHCR and relevant stakeholders should come up with ways to prevent duplication and enhance synergy in efforts to implement the two global compacts. It is all the more crucial as the follow-up conferences of the two compacts will be taking place in the same year in 2030.

Closing our remarks, the Republic of Korea reaffirms our constant commitment to draw on a better Global Compact on Refugees, and assures UNHCR of our continued support for all its endeavours toward this historic cooperative framework.

I thank you. /END/