

“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Formal consultation 3

Geneva, 10 - 11 April 2018

Agenda item 3

Intervention by MONTENEGRO

Madame Chair,

Since this is the third time I am taking the floor, I will be very brief and try to point out few observations from the perspective of Montenegro’s experience in dealing with refugee situation for a long period of more than two decades. Here we would like to bear in mind that a significant part of displaced population has decided to stay and be integrated in our society, while the voluntary repatriation continue to be a huge challenge.

When it comes to durable solutions in the host countries, we welcome the efforts to focus and provide support to the local population and local communities in order to facilitate the integration of refugees into a new environment and avoid positive discrimination of refugees vis-à-vis the local population, thereby reducing discrimination, stigmatization and possible resistance of local communities. Unfortunately this is still a challenge for our national authorities.

We strongly believe that more effective mechanisms of cooperation both regionally and globally, in terms of voluntary repatriation, are needed to shorten long and exhaustive procedures both for host countries and for refugees themselves. In order to increase the efficiency of the voluntary repatriation process itself, it is necessary to provide greater support to the countries of origin in order to provide adequate financial, economic and social conditions for persons opting to voluntarily return to the country of origin. And this is not always a case or at least it is not at expected level.

It is also important to define the role of countries of origin, but also of third countries that may be involved in finding appropriate durable solution of refugee status as transit country or country of asylum.

At the end, it is necessary to further clarify the roles of UN organizations, international organizations as well as national civil society organizations that may be involved in voluntary return procedures.

Thank you.