

Statement by Denmark
First draft of the Global Compact on Refugees

Agenda item 1:

Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

- Aligning with the statement on behalf of the EU and its member states, let me once again thank the UNHCR for a very good revised first draft with many improvements as compared to the zero draft. This also goes for the sections that are the subject of consultations today and tomorrow.
- We warmly welcome the measures outlined in support of preparedness, contingency planning and early warning, these being fully in line with the United Nation's Secretary-General's prevention agenda. However, in this connection, the text could well stress in stronger terms the need for national governments to be in the lead in terms of developing and putting in place the necessary plans, measures and capacities in this crucial area. This is about ensuring the necessary degree of national ownership and capacity to ensure sustained impact and preparedness.
- We would, for the very same reason also call for a much stronger recognition of the need to involve other national actors, including civil society, the private sector, faith groups and diasporas to be involved from the early stages and throughout a crisis. In addition, we stress the need for ensuring meaningful refugee participation, including youth participation, which could be further elaborated in the text in order to ensure that gender-, age-, and diversity-related barriers to participation are addressed, particularly those facing refugee girls and young women.
- The text outlines a comprehensive range of arrangements for immediate reception in case of large refugee influxes. We would recommend to add the need for an efficient mechanism to transfer new arrivals to safe areas away from borders, offering appropriate conditions for longer-term settlement, preferably out of camps and thus in line with UNHCR policies in this field.
- We also welcome that the text notes the legitimate security concerns that may arise from a large refugee influx – while also stressing that this may well be fully complementary with a well-functioning refugee protection system.

- We ask for clarification of the concept of ‘broader international protection challenges’ and how it should be included in the GCR that should remain clearly focused
- We would also underline the importance attached to securing proper data through registration and documentation. We stress in this connection the need for collection of quality data which is age, gender and diversity disaggregated and the need for refugee youth-specific data. In this connection, it could be considered to call for measures to strengthen the quality of data and to ensure greater global harmonization of formats and standards to ensure stronger compatibility and an improved basis for planning and implementation of targeted support measures, while also respecting key principles related to confidentiality of data on individuals. In this connection, we would point to the important role of the coming World Bank-UNHCR Data Centre.
- I thank you.