

“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Formal consultation 4

Geneva, 8 - 10 May 2018

Agenda item 1

Intervention by MONTENEGRO

Mr. Chairman,

Let me extend a great appreciation of Montenegro to the High Commissioner Grandi and thank him for his presence with us today. We commend the UNHCR’s excellent substantial work on the global compact on refugees and the leadership in this highly important process.

Montenegro thanks the Assistant High Commissioner Turk for the presentation of the improved second draft of the global compact. We very much welcome a new text, which in our view reflects a vast majority of comments raised during the previous consultations. We believe that this round of consultation will bring us closer to consensual and balanced text.

As we’d stated before, we are encouraged by a high level of participation and constructiveness demonstrated so far. Therefore, we hope that we will keep the same spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding throughout the process ahead of us.

With regards to Agenda item 1, we are pleased to see further strengthened introductory part as a whole; with much more concrete language on specific issues raised by delegations or groups of states. We are of the opinion that we have a well balanced text and, in general, we are very supportive of.

Montenegro noted a new language in paras 1, 3 and 4 with reference to equality and predictability in burden and responsibility – sharing. We consider it of utmost importance.

We thank the UNHCR for inclusion of older persons as one of the most vulnerable groups within refugees and host communities, together with women, children and persons with disabilities (para 7).

We also welcome improved text on GCR objectives, including a clear reference on interlinkage between the protection and socio-economic conditions. We find it as a very balanced manner to recognize the importance of a new approach we tend to introduce; that will enable stronger correlation and complementarity between humanitarian and development aspects taking into consideration, at the same time, the specific needs and capacities of each state, in particular the host countries.

Lastly, we are very pleased to see a specific language on the responsibility of countries of origin in terms of prevention and addressing root cause.

Again, let me thank the UNHCR team for a very well done work.