



Statement by H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, Permanent Observer of the Holy See
to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva at the
Fourth Formal Consultation towards a Global Compact on Refugees
Statement 2 – Programme of Action: Areas in need of support – reception and admission
(Part. III.B.1)
Geneva, 9 May 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Once again, the Holy See Delegation wishes to stress the importance for the Global Compact on Refugees to be firmly centered on the human person, urging that the dignity of each and every human person and his/her fundamental human rights should guide and underpin all aspects of the Program of Action.

In Paragraph 57, related to the section entitled “Immediate reception arrangements”, my Delegation wishes to reiterate the comments made in our previous intervention, namely to avoid using the term “diversity consideration” but rather “diverse needs”. This same consideration applies to using the word “disability” in the plural form.

Regarding subsection 1.6 on “Identifying international protection needs”, the Holy See Delegation wishes to see some stronger language to ensure access to justice for refugees and asylum seekers, without fear of detention or deportation. In this regard, we would like to propose a brief addition to Paragraph 67 whereby the UNHCR or other relevant stakeholders could also “provide guidance to ensure access to justice for refugees and asylum seekers and guarantee their freedom and security to report abuse without fear of detention or deportation”.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.