

High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

Towards a global compact on refugees: comprehensive refugee responses
12-13 December 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva

SESSION 3: Measures to be taken in pursuit of solutions

German Intervention (2 Minutes)

Ladies and gentlemen,

The primary focus on our engagement in the pursuit of durable solutions is to bring about conditions that help refugees **return in safety and dignity** to their home countries. Proper counselling of potential returnees in their host countries or regions is as important as supporting an early and sustainable reintegration in the home country. Initiatives that provide pre-departure counselling in Germany are needed as much as counselling upon re-entry in the home countries.

We support the inclusion of **greater investment in preparedness and long-term planning** as basis for **local integration** in the Programme of Action. In this regard valuable lessons can be drawn from our **Forecast-based Financing approach** as well as from our **long-term development support** for hosting communities in building up resilience and providing livelihoods for refugee and local populations alike. Enhanced data and evidence capabilities will be crucial to improving the international community's response to large movements of refugees and protracted situations. We therefore welcome the recently-announced World Bank-UNHCR joint data centre, which might be a basis on which to build in the Programme of Action.

Resettlement is an essential contribution to international responsibility sharing and the protection of the most vulnerable refugees. That is why Germany calls upon all states to support UNHCR activities by providing legal alternatives to onward movements. **Better use of existing legal pathways** is important to broaden the framework of international protection and for reducing irregular border crossings. Also in that regard we need an international shared responsibility.

To support further development of resettlement, Germany will co-chair the Annual **Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement** (ATCR) in 2018. We aim at encouraging new and emerging resettlement countries and want to discuss new pathways besides developing existing procedures.

Thank you.