

Statement by Denmark

Zero draft of the Global Compact on Refugees

The Programme of Action, Principal modalities for burden- and responsibility-sharing

Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

Denmark aligns itself with the statement by the EU and would like to thank UNHCR for a fine and very useful first draft, which reflects the rich thematic consultations quite well and also provides an excellent outline of the goals. I would specifically refer to paragraph 2 of the draft and the four elements outlined here that should guide us all when seeking to develop and implement the Programme of action. The Programme of Action may be narrow in scope but it should be deep in content, with potential effects to improve the lives for millions of refugees.

We acclaim the strong recognition of the need for sustained, nationally led, inclusive approaches supported by development actors with additional, flexible and multiannual funding, acknowledging also in deed that this is a Global Public Good. And we are pleased to note the focus on strengthening resilience among the most vulnerable groups.

We would recommend that the programme of action to a greater extent builds upon the language contained in the New York Declaration, including the CRRF annex. In its current form, the draft appears much like a catalogue of good ideas and intentions – but it could go further in outlining how governments can commit themselves to building the necessary predictable and comprehensive response.

The Programme of Action should in our view include a more detailed, up-front reference to relevant international processes and agreements. This would include the ongoing UN reforms in the areas of prevention, peace, security, development and peacebuilding, the Grand Bargain and the New Way of Working. These are processes and commitments that are of direct relevance to the CRRF and the Programme of Action.

Denmark would also recommend that the current draft be strengthened in the three regards:

First, it should provide a clearer description of roles and responsibilities within a multi-stakeholder approach. Denmark would recommend that the Programme of Action underlines and builds support for UNHCRs core protection functions – as a primary way of facilitating a much stronger engagement by existing and new stakeholders, including development actors and the private sector – and most importantly, by the refugees themselves. Similarly, we also call for the crucial role of civil society to be recognized and explored in a much stronger fashion than is currently the case.

Second, the draft should be stronger in calling for a clear commitment to burden- and responsibility-sharing until durable solutions for refugees are secured. As an important means towards this, we endorse the proposal to establish a Global Platform but with membership restricted to donors and affected governments only. Its tasks may include arranging initial solidarity conferences when sudden displacement crises emerge and more systemic follow-up is needed, in particular when situations become protracted. In such displacement situations, national and regional platforms should be set up to ensure sustained and predictable collective operational planning, coordination and funding.

Third, the Programme of Action should reflect a strong approach to **accountability**. This is about measuring progress and learning from experience as we move along, both at the national and global levels. The SDGs provide a logical reference. Linked to this, there is a strong need to put in place measures to improve data and evidence – in order to improve understanding of the socio-economic impact of displacement and having as precise demographic data as possible.

With these measures in place, the CRRF may well prove to be the turning point in our collective ability to find solutions to displacement. Denmark is fully committed to support this in every way we can – to the benefit of refugees and affected host countries and communities.

Thank you.