

Agenda item 4: Programme of action: Areas in need of support – meeting needs and supporting communities (Part III.B.2)

- First of all, we should always keep in mind that contributions foreseen under the section “meeting needs and supporting communities” have to be in full coordination with relevant national authorities and should be linked to ongoing efforts and policies. So, this should be clearly reflected again in this section, too.
- We welcome the reference to Sustainable Development Goals and how hosting large number of refugees may pose development challenges that may leave host communities as well as refugees behind in the progress towards achieving them.
- Ensuring complementarity between humanitarian and development actors is key in this regard as well as the national ownership and coordination with host states.
- We appreciate the clear instruction that these areas of support constitute a call for contribution from others to be read together with the mechanisms for burden and responsibility sharing.
- Among the particular areas listed in the text, such as education, health and livelihoods, significant support from the international community is needed to strengthen the resilience of refugees and host communities.
- We see education as an area where the international community must be most active in meeting its commitment to prevent “lost generations”.
- Improving the quality of national education systems and educational facilities and capacities should always be targeted while extending this support.
- Moreover, in order to meet the time limit of maximum 3 months out of school, more direct financial support should be mobilized, especially through assistance for the establishment of new schools, additional classrooms and employment of new teachers.
- We welcome the expansion in paragraph 74 on ways to support jobs and livelihoods and foster inclusive economic growth for host communities and refugees.

- We welcome the insertion of the sections on children and social cohesion to the text.

- Women, girls and children indeed require specific attention.

- For the actions foreseen in the gender and children section, a kind of reference to such as “attention should be given to ongoing policies and coordination with relevant national institutions” should be clearly reflected in the text in order not to create duplications with ongoing good practices.

- Lastly, as we agree that social cohesion is also an important aspect of refugee management, we welcome that it is mentioned under a separate subtitle.

- In terms of fostering social cohesion, tolerance and understanding in relation to refugees, we believe that the role of the media should be highlighted. Also a call to avoid any kind of hateful rhetoric of discrimination, particularly for political purposes should be made.

- Thank you.