



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
Fifth Formal Consultation towards a Global Compact on Refugees
Introduction – Part I
Geneva, 12 June 2018

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

Once again, the Delegation of the Holy See extends its gratitude to the UNHCR for releasing this most recent Draft and, in particular, to the Assistant High Commissioner and his team for their endurance and leadership throughout the process.

Changing refugee situations require flexible and tailored approaches to offer a future to people who have been forced to flee as well as to support the States and communities that generously host them.

While the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) is not intended to serve as a legally binding instrument, it contains action-oriented commitments that can be considered as morally binding on the international community as a whole. In this regard, Pope Francis repeatedly calls on governmental leaders and other policy-makers to replace the globalization of indifference with a globalization of solidarity, with particular concern for those most in need and other vulnerable members of the human family.

For these reasons, the Delegation of the Holy See welcomes the “vision”, outlined in Part I, of strengthened international cooperation and genuine solidarity with refugees and the host communities through more equitable and predictable responsibility-sharing. The guiding principles and objectives outlined in Paragraphs 5-7 are rooted in well-recognized values and principles that constitute a common patrimony of humanity enshrined in international law.

Madam Moderator,

It is incumbent upon all of us to address the root causes of forced displacement through the recognition, defense, and fostering of human rights in order to avoid further destructive conflicts.

This Delegation also welcomes the concern in Paragraph 8 on “Prevention and addressing root causes”, as it places the human person and his/her inherent dignity and rights at the center of our concern. Forced displacement is not a matter of “bad luck”; more often than not, it is the result of political decisions and abuses derived from a limited vision of the human person.

Everyone is connected and everything is connected. In this regard, this Delegation welcomes the acknowledgement in Paragraph 8 that climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters do interact with the drivers of refugee movements. While the causes of forced movements are manifold, we are reminded that what is at stake are the lives of human persons.

In an increasingly globalized world, we must come to the realization that justice and solidarity are the best guarantees for a peaceful common future. Ultimately, the most comprehensive and sound way to achieve durable solutions is to ensure the rights of all to live and to thrive in dignity, peace, and security in their countries of origin.

Thank you, Madam Moderator.