

“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Formal Consultation 5, Geneva

12-13 June 2018

Country Statement

Republic of Korea

Thank you Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea commends the High Commissioner and his team for preparing the Draft 3 of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). My delegation is pleased to note the rapid progress made so far through a series of consultations up until today, particularly with the solid draft that we have for our next final formal consultation. Among others, we welcome:

- UNHCR’s endeavors to make the draft clearer and more concise by simplifying the text and eliminating duplications while reflecting specific points raised by delegations at previous rounds of consultations;
- Making clear the four key goals of the GCR (Global Compact on Refugees) in line with CRRF (Comprehensive Refugee Response Network) and further emphasizing the multifaceted aspect of the massive refugee crisis;
- Expanding the part on “children” into “children and youth” and emphasizing practical partnerships between relevant stakeholders including UNHCR and IOM.

Introduction

We recognize that the Introduction made clear the four key objectives in line with CRRF– (i) easing pressure on host countries, (ii) enhancing refugee self-reliance, (iii) expanding access to third country solutions, (iv) and supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. Simplifying our objectives will enable us to prioritize our goals and make our collective endeavors result in ‘collective outcome.’

Programme of Action

We also recognize that movements are not always homogenous but multifaceted phenomena, as stated in the revised chapeau of the Programme of Action. Refugee situations entail distinct and complicated backgrounds and require context-specific alternatives to address specific cases. In this regard, we believe that it is essential to use existing partnerships in the field between relevant stakeholders including UNHCR and IOM and further expand practical cooperation.

Mechanisms for burden- and responsibility-sharing (Part A)

We welcome that the draft emphasized the support provided by Support Platforms to national arrangements and the comprehensive plan developed by host States, stressing the humanitarian principles (humanitarian funding) and the importance of partnership and country ownership and leadership (development action).

Areas in need of support (Part B)

We are pleased to see that paragraph 76-77 expands its scope from ‘children’ to ‘children and youth,’ considering that particular attention should be paid not only to children but also to adolescents (aged 17-21) who are the most affected by the prolonged refugee situations. Many young people experience difficulties accessing higher education or finding a job, even after they complete essential education or vocational training. We should find ways to garner support in various forms to enhance access by refugee boys and girls to resettlement and complementary pathways for admissions. In this regard, cooperation between relevant stakeholders including UNICEF would be crucial to support and empower youth.

Follow-up and Review

Last but not least, we would like to emphasize that we are in full support of GRF(Global Refugee Forum)’s role as the main vehicle for measuring progress to promote a shared agenda and the achievement of collective outcomes. And yet, we believe that we should continue to work on how to measure qualitative factors such as socio-economic contexts of host countries and indirect costs regarding contributions by host countries, as we develop indicators including ‘indicative outcomes.’

Again, we firmly believe that Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) can play a pivotal role in building a system that strengthens resilience to the refugee crises and facilitating a more equitable and predictable distribution of contributions among States. We are looking forward to our final formal consultation which will serve as a cornerstone for the Global Refugee Forum to be held next year. The Republic of Korea reaffirms our constant commitment to draw on a better Global Compact on Refugees.

Thank you. /END/