



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

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UNHCR
**Second Formal Discussion on the
Global Compact on Refugees**

Statement of
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Agenda Item 1: Introduction

We thank the UNHCR staff for drafting the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The Republic of Macedonia positions herself as a friend of the development of the GCR.

Since Macedonia in the past has been, first, in a **position of host country** giving refuge to over 200.000 refugees during the Kosovo crisis, and second, in a **position of transit country** that provided safe passage to over 1.1 million refugees and migrants several years ago, it is our principled position that the Global Compact of Refugees **succeeds** to operationalize the commitments from New York for burden-sharing with the countries that are confronted with large movement of refugees in protracted situations.

As general principles, we believe that it is necessary for the Global Compact to accomplish the following:

- Define concrete modalities for burden-sharing;
- Reflect strong and concrete commitments for support of the host countries;
- Define precisely the way in which the international community will mobilise itself to provide support to the affected countries; and
- Ensure a comprehensive follow-up review mechanism, with a central position of the UNHCR, as a way to facilitate progress in conditions of a legally non-binding instrument.

That said, I am glad to state that **our assessment of the first-draft is positive**, as it is built on valuable suggestions, best practices, lessons learnt, and good ideas. It should be acknowledged, we see that many efforts have been made in response to the major concerns expressed by states during our first formal discussion.

We would like to welcome the fact that the introductory part of the Draft 1 is now more developed, and that it reiterates clearly the goals whose accomplishment will determine the success of the Compact.

We particularly welcome the emphasis that the Compact aims to mobilize stronger and more predictable humanitarian and development responses, as well as to strengthen the efforts on addressing root causes and planning for durable solutions from the onset of emergencies.

In that respect, we appreciate the approach proposed in paragraph 6 in regard to the voluntary contributions that are to be determined by each state and stakeholder according to their respective resources, capacity and expertise, and further developed in the Section III.A on how the framework will be put in place, so as to ensure that the support provided to the affected countries will be timely, predictable and transparent.

Agenda Items 2&3: Programme of Action: Mechanisms for burden and responsibility sharing & Follow-up arrangements

Regarding the Mechanisms for burden and responsibility sharing, we acknowledge the **great improvement** of the previous Draft in addressing the major concerns expressed during the First formal consultation on the necessity to improve on burden-sharing, with a view to make the *support for host countries tangible, timely and concrete*.

We welcome the proposal for convening **regular global high-level refugee summits** where countries will announce concrete and mutually reinforcing pledges in support for the achievement of the goals of the Compact, as well as take stock of the progress made of previous pledges. We commend the High-level approach proposed here, as we believe it is the best way to ensure the needed financial, material and technical assistance.

Further, we commend the proposed structure that should translate these pledges to the specific needs of any concrete refugee situation, namely the **Global Support Platform** that will be “triggered” by the High Commissioner for Refugees in close consultation with both affected and contributing countries. This ensures that important mechanism will be put in place for activating international solidarity and focusing attention to the country concerned.

We express our support to the inclusion of additional tools, such as the **mapping of the cost and impact of hosting refugees**. This will contribute greatly to transparency and will help address major concern of the large host countries, namely that their efforts have not been sufficiently acknowledged in the past.

Turning to the areas in need of support, we commend the **preparedness and contingency planning** approach and we particularly welcome the envisaged support for managing arrivals and responding to immediate reception needs. In that respect, it should be emphasized that support should be provided, **to host, and to transit countries alike**, especially when it comes to large movements of refugees and mixed situations of refugees and migrants. This support is particularly needed for initial registration and identification of specific needs, provision of essential services, as well as for security screening of new arrivals. UNHCR action on development of national capacities in the area of **registration and documentation** is highly welcomed.

Our support also extends to the measures envisaged for **meeting needs and supporting communities**, with particular emphasis on education and promotion of economic opportunities for host communities and refugees; as well as to **solutions**, such as resettlement and support for creating favourable conditions for sustained voluntary repatriation as preferred solution.

Regarding **follow-up arrangements**, we support the proposal that the goals of the Global Compact should be measured against key indicators— indeed, against well developed monitoring frameworks— starting from the first global refugee summit in 2019. UNHCR

should include states in the development of these monitoring frameworks. We support the inclusion of information on the progress made in the application of the Compact in the annual report of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly.

Similarly, we welcome the suggestion for the application of the Global Compact, including the implementation and impact of pledges, to be assessed periodically and at a high-level. We believe that this will keep the attention of the international community focused on the need for global action in response to refugees and will contribute significantly in the implementation of the Global Compact.

I thank you, Chair.