

**Statement by Ms. Karine Sujayan
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High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

Towards a global compact on refugees
12-13 December 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Resumption of plenary discussion, focusing on suggestions
and priorities for follow up**

Mr. Chairman,

Gross violations of human rights are a major cause of mass exoduses and the protection of refugees must be seen in the broader context of the protection of human rights.

For the prevention mass flows of refugees universally recognized human rights should be guaranteed, including the rights to life, protection from torture and ill-treatment.

Since we are working on the zero draft of the Global compact on refugees, I want to draw your attention to the following important components to be included in this document.

First, the international actors should continuously work on the concept of prevention, this brings us closer to guaranteeing the protection of human rights.

Our Delegation is of the strongest opinion that the international actors should take decisive steps to develop early warning and, more important, early action mechanisms to prevent mass exoduses and cross-border displacement. That means timely and effective responses to the warning signs, among which are use of force and/or threat of use of force, state sponsored propaganda of war, discrimination, marginalization and scapegoating of national or ethnic minorities, large-scale hate rhetoric, incitement to hate crimes, mass atrocities and genocide on ethnic, national and religious grounds and glorification of perpetrators of such crimes, etc.

Second, the international actors should promptly react to the facts of violations of the international humanitarian law, in particular to the cases of intentional targeting of civilian population, including children, women and elderly.

Third, we believe that for the implementation of the pledge of leaving no one behind, the universal application of human rights should be ensured equally and without any discrimination to all refugees in need, regardless of their location and irrespective of the political status of the territory that they live in.

Designation of specific focal points in the government, additional authority in this regard for national ombudsmen and active engagement of the civil society structures may serve as possible responses to the challenge of institutionalization of human rights of refugees.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, Governments and political leaders should demonstrate their genuine political will towards this end. Political motives to exploit the plight of refugees are a demonstration of political and moral bankruptcy, dishonesty and callousness towards these vulnerable persons.

The unhindered humanitarian access of the relevant United Nations agencies, UN special procedures and humanitarian organizations should be granted to, all refugees, including those residing in conflict areas.

Thank you