

High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges:

"Towards a global compact on refugees"

12-13 December 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva

SESSION FIVE: complementarity between the global compact on refugees and the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration

German Intervention (2 min.)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the statement given by the EU on behalf of its member states.

Germany is seeking to create a politically but not legally binding basis for a more equitable burden- and responsibility sharing. It should also address the implementation of the objectives of Agenda 2030 Agenda with respect to migration.

Germany fully recognizes that the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration are two distinct efforts based on very different legal frameworks. It will remain of utmost importance to ensure that neither of the processes undermines the existing refugee protection scheme. Any proposed state action and state cooperation with regard to irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants must be based on international law, including human rights, and must not undermine the legal right to asylum.

At the same time, both Compacts draw on the 2030 Agenda and its transformative vision for a sustainable future and its principle of leaving no-one behind. And consequently the New York Declaration has identified important topics that cut across both Compacts. They range from legal and safe pathways, family reunification, all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance, remittances, smuggling/trafficking, admission and reception, to economic and social integration, in particular labour market integration. GCM and GCR should therefore take into account synergies wherever possible and effective without putting in question the crucial legal differences between refugees and migrants.

In the preparations of both Compacts, Germany has been promoting social, economic and financial inclusion of refugees as well as all migrants who are legally residing in host societies by implementing

a national regulatory framework for integration. We therefore encourage UNHCR to closely cooperate with IOM on this topic in order to ensure coherence and complementarity.

In addition, the issue of return and sustainable reintegration is one of the core themes that cut across both compacts. A close cooperation between UNHCR and IOM as well as other state and non-state actors is therefore necessary in order to avoid building up parallel structures and foster complementarity.

We see a particular need to ensure coherence between the compacts with regard to disaster displacement. Disaster displacement is multi-causal with climate change being one important factor. And disaster displacement is often taking place in fragile contexts and might be linked to situations of armed conflict or internal violence. The processes leading to the development of both compacts should therefore be carried out in a way to enhance cooperation, coordination and action among relevant stakeholders that are dealing with the broad range of policy and action areas, including humanitarian assistance, protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection and disaster risk reduction.

Lastly, in order to successfully combat racism and discrimination against refugees and migrants in host societies, it will be crucial to align our efforts also on this pressing issue.

Thank you.