

## Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea believes that the Global Compact on Refugees is a historic opportunity that leads us all to a more comprehensive and predictable cooperation to reach out to those in direst need. Reaffirming our steadfast commitment, the Republic of Korea would like to share **our priorities** in reviewing the zero draft of the global compact.

- Above all, we must recognize that everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution. While states have rights and responsibilities to manage and control their borders, individuals must not be returned at frontiers, particularly to territories where the individual’s life or freedom would be threatened, or he or she would be in danger of being subjected to torture. Every state should respect the **principle of non-refoulement**, be it country of origin, destination, or transit. However, the zero draft omits mentioning respect for this principle, and we therefore request this important principle to be inscribed in the document.
- Addressing the needs of **refugees with special protection concerns** has always been a priority in our humanitarian endeavors. Children, especially unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking, victims of trauma, as well as refugees with disabilities and older persons should receive special protection and assistance in the course of all refugee responses. Specific consideration should also be given to **women at risk**, particularly victims of sexual and gender-based violence, in order for the global compact to be gender-responsive and people-centered. The Republic of Korea finds that the zero draft properly sheds light on this point, and expects it to remain in the draft and preferably be developed through the consultation processes.
- Assistance to refugees and host communities should be made in a way that would tap their potential and enhance their contribution to **sustainable development**. We should promote investment in building human capital and self-reliance by providing **education and vocational training** for refugees and host communities. These efforts are also in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we commend UNHCR for highlighting the importance of this area.
- One of the yardsticks to assess the success of global compact is whether we ensure

sustained international financial and other forms of support for refugees and host communities. **Mobilizing adequate resources** is pivotal to sharing burdens and responsibilities, meeting needs of refugees and host communities and ultimately securing full implementation of the global compact. Practical ways to achieve this is crucial, and the document should address the needs of **diversifying partnership and funding sources**, and **various innovative financing mechanisms**.

- Regarding solutions, it is crucial to foster conditions leading to global expansion of resettlement and complementary pathways for admission. We should provide **more assistance to countries who have been establishing or expanding their resettlement and complementary admission programs**. Also important is to respect each state's existing refugee admission policies and arrangements together with their relevant socioeconomic contexts, in order to make solutions more durable and sustainable. However, the zero draft lacks concrete remarks on assistance to encourage resettlement and complementary pathways of admission, which needs further works for revision later on.
- Finally, we should work through **close coordination between humanitarian, development, and peace and security efforts**. This holistic approach will allow us to more effectively address refugee issues, considering that today's refugee movements are mostly protracted in duration and primarily driven by conflicts. We believe that the zero draft rightly indicates the complementarity between those three pillars.

With these priorities in mind, we are generally in support of major points articulated in the zero draft. We will bring concrete textual proposals as necessary in the forthcoming consultations, and look forward to fruitful discussions and cooperation with UNHCR and all other relevant stakeholders. /The end/