



Statement by H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, Permanent Observer of the Holy See
to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva at the
Fifth Formal Consultation towards a Global Compact on Refugees
Program of Action – Part III.A “Mechanisms for burden- and responsibility-sharing”
Geneva, 12 June 2018

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

Just as during the previous formal consultations, the Holy See Delegation wishes to stress once again the importance for the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) to be firmly centered on the human person, urging that the dignity of each and every human person and his/her fundamental human rights should guide and underpin all aspects of the Program of Action.

In order to ensure better protection of refugees, particularly in those countries affected by large refugee movements or by protracted refugee situations, this Delegation wishes to reiterate that, for the overarching purpose of the GCR, it would be more useful and effective to refer, in Paragraph 13, to “diverse needs” rather than to the more abstract “diversity” considerations.

The reference to “diverse needs” better captures the whole spectrum of displacement, including those in need of protection, and takes into account all dimensions and fundamental aspects of the human person, as well as respect for the local communities. Thus, it is commendable that the GCR intentionally refers to “diverse needs” throughout its various paragraphs and subsections.¹ Once again, we are happy to provide these suggestions in writing.

Madam Moderator,

Existing instruments focusing on refugees, as well as other human rights conventions, constitute a continuum that the GCR can help solidify and make more effective for the purposes of alleviating suffering and fostering hopes.

This is particularly important to keep in mind when we consider the aspect of mixed flows and strive to avoid the repetition of tragedies, with which we are all too familiar. This Delegation appreciates that the latest version of the Draft, since, in paragraph 12, it positively dedicates more attention to this issue and encourages operational partnerships among relevant actors, including UNHCR and IOM, in order to ensure a coordinated approach.

¹ For example, Part III.B refers to “Areas in need of support”, Paragraph 1.5 to “Addressing specific needs”, Paragraph 1.6 to “Identifying international protection needs”, Part.III.B.2 to “Meeting needs and supporting communities” and so on.

Madam Moderator,

In conclusion, this Delegation welcomes the recognition in the GCR of the role of faith-based organizations (FBOs). Religious communities have an enduring presence in the field, which even predates the joint efforts of the international community. They are often the first providers of protection during emergencies. It is critically important to strengthen this vital partnership with States and intergovernmental organizations so that the protection mandate may be better achieved, which already has been highlighted several times, as for instance, by the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges on "Faith and Protection"²

The response of FBOs is driven by solidarity, not according to creed, but rather according to needs. For this reason, it is important that the role of FBOs be clearly recognized, including in efforts to activate the Support Platform proposed in Section 2.2.

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

² Geneva, 12-13 December 2012.