

Global Compact on Refugees – Fourth Formal Consultations 08 – 10 May, Geneva

Agenda item 5: Programme of action: Areas in need of support – solutions (Part III.B.3)

European Union

- On solutions, we express satisfaction with the introduction in para. 89 that strikes an adequate balance.
- Support para. 90 describing support for countries of origin, third country solutions and local integration. However, highlight that offers of resettlement and other pathways need to be specified as 'voluntary'.
- Note with satisfaction the carefully redrafted paras on voluntary repatriation and support to countries of origin (paras 91-95).
- References to resettlement (paras 96-99) are in general adequate. Suggest keeping the forward looking, aspirational perspective of the GCR when referring to resettlement. Instead of mentioning traditions and limited number of countries, mention: 'broadening the basis and support to resettlement'.
- Similarly, support that para. 97 refers to the identification and support for emerging resettlement countries; suggest adding a reference to regional organisations after the contributions sought 'from States'. Would allow, as in our case, the EU as a whole, not just each individual EU MS, to offer such contribution.
- Para. 98: suggest for the reference to 'resettlement of at least 25 per cent of annual resettlement submissions within six months', to retain a clearer formulation referring to speeding up the processing of resettlement (e.g. by aiming at using flexible processing modalities that fully account for security concerns in order to ensure at least 25 per cent of annual resettlement submissions within six months of UNHCR referral).
- Support the reference to existing multilateral resettlement architecture in para. 99.
- On other pathways for admission (paras 100-102), we find the revised text satisfactory.
- Satisfied with the improved text on local solutions (paras 103-105).

Germany

- Facilitating conditions for voluntary repatriation is not dependent on other States.
- We appreciate support for countries of origin and voluntary repatriation; need to add housing, land and property issues, and more explicit references to international humanitarian law and care for returnees along the entire returns continuum.
- Crucial to expand the support base for resettlement by numbers of country mechanism designed to facilitate expansion of solutions. Resettlement is a tangible tool. We just announced taking in 10,000 refugees; national sovereignty and operational reality need to be borne in mind when discussing specific targets.
- Para. 101: needs to highlight enhanced access to procedures for family reunification, not expand family reunification.
- Section on social cohesion welcome, however strong language on local solution including adoption of legal and administrative framework were deleted including equal enjoyment of service; would like this to be reintroduced.

Norway

- Text regarding solution is in line with our views.

- There is a need for more States to contribute with resettlement and complementary pathways; the question is how to achieve this. We support proposals for a three-year strategy; would welcome opportunity to increase and expand solutions and improve international responsibility- and burden-sharing.
- Understand the need for multiyear resettlement pledges, but the problem is we have to work with annual budgets and need to take this into consideration.

Malaysia

- Appreciate durable solution as primary objective. Welcome clarification and details incorporated on how hosting and origin States could collaborate on various measures to achieve durable solutions, work for peace and security in countries of origin to ensure safe and dignified voluntary returns, and support multi-stakeholder approach in countries of origin upon request to remove obstacles to return and enable favourable condition.
- Conditions for voluntary repatriation in countries of origin should not be seen as a sole priority; mechanism for voluntary repatriation should be discussed with host countries and countries of origin.
- Another key instrument is resettlement; welcome that the GCR seeks a tangible strategy to increase the scope and size of resettlement programmes. Important to see how States can expand this, with special targets for women and girls, and those at risk.
- Will there be technical support for countries willing to resettle? Especially for those in precarious situations is important especially those at risk of being radicalised as well as other forms of manipulation such as trafficking in person.

Ethiopia

- Appreciate this section. In the context of large movements of refugees, resettlement is a vital tool. We welcome focus on resettlement and traditional solutions, and recommend having specific targets. We also acknowledge security concerns. However, the programme of action should ensure resettlement procedures are done in a predictable, transparent and speedy manner.
- Well-coordinated complementary pathways are needed and must be conducted in close cooperation with host States. Alternative pathways and emerging countries should be supported to ensure programmes are well designed and sufficiently resourced.
- Without prejudice to refugees' right to return, refugee returns must take place only when the situation allows. Returns not subject to political settlement is open to interpretation.
- Regular provision on reliable information with regard to country of origin for voluntary repatriation is very important.

Poland

- Large refugee situations need durable solutions, among which support for countries of origin and voluntary repatriation are key priorities. These must be pursued with broaden engagement with the international community.
- Facilitate returns through targeted development cooperation, supporting removal of obstacles leading to a preferable course of action; welcome expanding text in this area.
- Work toward voluntary repatriation is complementary with other solutions to offer possibility to third countries and countries of origin.
- In broadening the support base of resettlement countries, countries should receive adequate support.

- Justified security concerns and social cohesion should be taken into account. Broadening resettlement should in the end be the competence of States and must be always respected.

Russian Federation

- The most preferred and sustainable solution is voluntary repatriation, and reintegration in their countries of origin. All other solutions should be considered as secondary resort and States should have the right to undertake resettlement on a voluntary basis.
- Main root cause of refugee movements is sustained interference in the internal affairs and countries who have done so must engage more including in resettlement.

Indonesia

- Importance of durable solutions as well as other complementary pathways. Wish to highlight the need to take into account capacities and therefore proposes to add: 'as well as national laws and regulations', after human rights in para. 103 in line four.
- Encourage focus on elements that are of common concern and avoid reference that do not enjoy universal consensus to guide towards an outcome that is universally accepted.

Canada

- Welcome focus on solutions; stronger alignment with responsibility-sharing mechanisms and durable solutions, and these mechanisms carry added value.
- Also pleased that this section is gender- and child-sensitive. Stand ready to contribute resources including through the global resettlement sponsorship initiative.
- Building resettlement capacity on scale that will meet annual resettlement targets, while recognising that resettlement is a sovereign decision. Annual resettlement target needs to have capacity development.
- Welcome disaggregated reporting and this will help in measurement of programmes.
- Paras 100-102 refer to complementary and other pathways and should be consistent with the CRRF.

Mexico

- We believe voluntary repatriation is the ideal desired solution, and where this occurs grateful that this be done keeping in mind protection efforts and conflict settlement in order to lead to sustainable voluntary repatriation.
- The local nature poses significant challenges and to achieve this we believe it is necessary to work with UNHCR programmes, with bilateral structures and bearing in mind structures already in place as well as cultural and social dynamics, carried with all stakeholders.

Iran

- Protection and solutions should be seen as requiring international commitment.
- Para. 89: insert nature of protection and understanding of protection as solution; need to strike a balance between protection and solutions and need to avoid the flawed trend that more protection leads to less solutions.
- Areas unbalanced, distorted, with adverse consequence on durable solutions. Para. 91 on large scale voluntary repatriation only recognises the issue not mentioning host countries.

- Problem of host countries should be highlighted in the same para. Facilitated voluntary returns and resettlement should be highlighted as well as follow up on this, especially for protracted situation.

Japan

- Welcome revised version. Appreciate mention of the three-year strategy: Could UNHCR elaborate on its content what the strategy will include?

Spain

- Like to highlight some national points. The new text positive.
- Refer to the value of seeking durable solution, and conditions for voluntary repatriation, and the three durable solutions, we believe are also relevant and we have emphasis on voluntary repatriation; recognise the importance of resettlement in this compact and the fact that it would allow us to broaden the base of States committed to resettlement in line with effort made by UNHCR.
- Other pathways in para 101, we understand para should be not set out an exhaustive list in line with the aim of the text.

USA

- A mix of solutions is needed and critical to increase the three durable solutions and opportunities for other solutions, and the priority must be to address causes of forced displacement in countries of origin to allow for voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity and with full respect of the principle of non-*refoulement*.
- Welcome complementary pathways, developing these with UNHCR. There are good examples to expand burden-sharing; hope more States will develop more pathways.
- Since the beginning of this year, 26,715 people have been accepted for resettlement by the current administration; we encourage others to do more and we support developing a three-year strategy.
- Appreciate language on linkages to existing multilateral initiatives such as the annual tripartite consultations on resettlement and emerging resettlement countries.
- Decisions related to resettlement including who, how and when remain the purview of sovereign States.

France

- Welcome the bolstering of the introductory para. of this section, which distinctly contributes to burden-sharing. Voluntary repatriation is a solution favoured by refugees.
- As recalled by the HC, resettlement is implemented by a limited number of countries, and depends on sovereign decisions; we support a three-year strategy by UNHCR and welcome that efforts will be in line with existing multilateral architecture for resettlement.

Denmark

- Strongly welcome introduction in para. 89. We are pleased that the text recognizes the need to plan for solutions from the outset of emergencies. This has important implications in terms of the need to promote inclusive framework conditions and involve development actors in order to focus on retaining and developing livelihood capacities among refugees from the very beginning. This approach will be of immediate benefit to host communities

and to refugees. It will help ensure refugees eventually will be better able to return voluntarily and reintegrate in their country of origin. This could be reflected in the text.

- We highly appreciate the reference to the need for comprehensive approaches covering political and security cooperation, diplomacy, development, and the promotion of human rights. This underlines the GCR extends beyond a purely humanitarian perspective and that common commitments and outcomes within a multi-stakeholder approach is crucial.
- We also agree with para. 90 that highlights the crucial importance of support for countries of origin to facilitate conditions for voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity. However, at the same time, the GCR should call for States to fully mainstream voluntary repatriation and reintegration across national reconstruction plans instead of this issue being dealt with in isolation. Such an approach would be fully in line with recent experience from large-scale repatriation, e.g. in Afghanistan.

UK

- Welcome three-year strategy, enlarging the base of resettlement countries. Useful to better understand plans to deliver, and realise this is a challenging process and we stand ready to support planning work ahead of 2021.
- Need to better identify resettlement countries and need to support them in building on good practices from the Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism (ERCM). These could be more ambitious and actively build on links; this process needs political momentum, not just funding; important not to put ERCM on hold.
- Twinning projects with roughly equal capacities is welcome, but also with different capacities.

Algeria

- Attach great importance to durable solution as a means of responsibility-sharing; durable solutions go much beyond local solutions and our aim remains voluntary repatriation. Need to prevent further displacement as well.
- Strengthening protection systems must not create pull factors in host countries and not undermine efforts toward durable solutions; need clear indicators in the regard in the GCR.
- Think including ExCom Conclusion 112 as footnote is not doing justice to addressing root cases. Reiterate need to include addressing root causes in para. 91.

Brazil

- Important to refer to laws and policies and practices to align to the highest standards; outsourcing of asylum, detention of asylum seekers pushes people to seek asylum in already overburdened neighbouring States.
- Para. 90: align policies and laws with asylum norms.
- Suggest language on the HC continuing to work with partners to sustain resettlement.
- Para. 97: UNHCR will continue to maintain the level of resettlement pledges.
- Para. 98: discussion of selection criteria for resettlement and other complementary pathways must bear in mind different criteria.

Turkey

- Para. 89, after the first sentence, request to see a clear wording pointing out that ‘the most effective way for durable solutions is the elimination of root causes in the countries of

origin. This is not only important for facilitating the conditions for voluntary repatriations but also to prevent new crisis from emerging.

- The inclusion of cash assistance in para. 95 is also appropriated as returnees will have to design new lives once they return to their own countries and therefore will still be in need of some kind of assistance.
- On the ultimate aim to achieve durable solutions, we believe that the current options for resettlement and other pathways for admission fall behind their actual potential.
- Continue to believe there is need for stronger call for every single country to take its share from global resettlement according to economic indicators and self-reliance capacity.
- Would also be useful to increase the annual resettlement submission within six months of UNHCR referral above the foreseen 25% target.
- We support the multi-year strategies and schemes in order to enlarge the pool of resettlement countries and the volume of resettled people.
- Although a wide range of parameters in order to be eligible for resettlement are indicated, the UN Vulnerability Criteria is still not mentioned. We attach importance to include such a reference, with the ultimate aim of making resettlement exercise much more functional.
- Furthermore, national authorities should be consulted in determining those refugees to be resettled. Therefore, it is better to add the wording 'refugees identified by national authorities' to an appropriate sentence of the resettlement section.
- We believe that resettlement and other pathways for admission could also be activated in cases where refugees' needs are left unmet due to the overloaded capacity in host countries, particularly in the areas of education and livelihood opportunities.
- We welcome the expansion of the possible tools for support under para. 101 on other pathways for admission. Especially we attach importance to the establishment of simplified procedures to facilitate access to family reunification.
- On local solutions, we reiterate our view that this is solution that is strictly based on the choice of the host country and cannot be seen as an obligation.

Australia

- Good to see shared global responsibility for durable solutions; support focus on expanding the number of countries. Pleased to see language revision clarifying the scope the strategy in para. 97.
- We stand ready to support, and recognise the importance of stabilisation and reconstruction to enable voluntary repatriation. In para. 93, welcome tripartite agreement and support reference to IDPs in para. 95 as good practice.
- We support more flexible language in para. 98 with regard to composition of the resettlement programme and States' right to determine resettlement taking into account socio-economic realities.
- Para. 101: increase private and community sponsorship welcome; request reflecting expanding business and community support as a component in addition to regular resettlement pathways.
- Paras on local integration is good.
- Need to continue support the GCR adding value to the 1951 Convention and strong practical outcome for refugees.

Jordan

- Para. 89: in second sentence, add 'international cooperation' after 'development'.

- Para. 96: should address and not postpone tangible mechanisms to the year 2021.
- Noting that para. 98 mentions at least 25% of resettlement within six months, request to know what is current status, and how much this translates into. Must fully account for security consideration and refugee concerns.
- Para. 99: resettlement core group must include host country; in paras 103 to 105, local solutions need to be separated from local integration.

Thailand

- Strongly support voluntary repatriation in a safe and dignified manner; two days ago successful returns of displaced people to Myanmar, which had arrived three decades ago. This return was made possible through bilateral framework and supportive of established bilateral consultative platform with each other's comfortable level and these can provide for third party donor countries involvement including UNHCR and IOM.
- Welcome the three-year strategy as well as quotas for emergency urgent cases and established multilateral schemes.
- Reiterate that specific time frame and quotas crucial for real-burden sharing.

New Zealand

- On resettlement, we support three-year strategy to enlarge the base of resettlement countries; don't know what will be the final outcome, but to relieve pressure on hosts, all avenues should be explored.

Belgium

- Emphasise strengthening of the text including various paras, especially that on non-*refoulement*, voluntary and that UNHCR in cooperation with others will devise a three strategy to reach out to countries not already participating in global resettlement efforts.

Italy

- Appreciate the current articulation of the section as far as resettlement is concerned.
- Welcome alignment under existing multilateral schemes and broaden the base of resettlement countries.
- Appreciate that multiyear schemes in para. 98 will be coordinated with existing resettlement arrangements and other complementary pathways; on family reunification appreciate new language, but recommend reunification mechanisms should be improved rather than expanding the eligibility criteria.

Cuba

- Most delegations support the three-year strategy. Now as we have said, a concern in para. 94, third point: too detailed referring to small arms and light weapon and security sector reforms; as requested earlier, this reference should be deleted.
- Para. 95, footnote 62: guiding principles on internal displacement refers to a document, which has not been negotiated in an inter-governmental framework, therefore footnote must be deleted. When referring to displacement, refer to 'forced displacement'.

Venezuela

- Local integration is a sovereign decision and recognise voluntary repatriation as the most reliable and lasting solution and cannot be conditioned on the countries of origin.

- States should provide support in promoting voluntary repatriation and the compact must establish measures that will help countries of origin receive returnees.
- Respect the non-interference principle and refer to the UN Charter and international law in para. 89.
- Request, in the first point in para. 90, for facilitating conditions for voluntary returns, and we request addition in paras 94 and 95; and support the points by delegation of Cuba.

Syria

- Only cosmetic redrafting and our concerns still remain.
- Para. 89: need clear reference to the UN Charter and international law and reference to protracted displacement should be replaced by 'protracted refugee situation'.
- Upon the request of concerned States, in para. 91, delete 'sustainable' repatriation. Who decides on sustainability: is it UNHCR or donors? Qualifier 'sustainable' must be deleted.
- Para. 92: redrafted text goes beyond the mandate of UNHCR and constitutes interference in internal affairs of countries of origin.
- Paras 94-95, consent of countries of origin for any action and measures crucial. Requirement in para. 94 and in all bullet points in para. 95: these are micro-detailed action, which we consider as indirect conditionality for voluntary repatriation and interference in countries of origin. These are unacceptable. Reiterate that this para goes beyond the mandate of UNHCR and request its deletion.
- Follow-up and key indicators must be developed in UN intergovernmental process that will result in consensus; global refugee forum should be convened at UN headquarters in Geneva or NY so that no Member State is excluded for political reasons. Important to stress that the GCR is meant to help as much as possible to ease the burden on host countries; should there be conditionality directly or indirectly on host countries and countries of origin, this would prolong the refugee status and be counterproductive.

IOM

- As UNHCR primary partners on resettlement, we add our voice, and are supportive of resettlement and the increased focus on early identification of durable solutions from the onset of refugee emergencies, which is embedded in the CRRF approach.

NGO statement on Agenda 5 is available [here](#).

Volker Turk: Closing remark

- In Germany, a new law passed on new family reunification criteria to include beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. On voluntary repatriation, we will look at the root causes section and will make clear that the text is balanced.
- There is a lot of existing standards we have negotiated in many countries as well as at the ExCom and GA levels including UNHCR mandate in relation to voluntary repatriation. And one of them, ExCom Conclusion 40; if you want, we can present a compilation of various standards in relation to voluntary repatriation if it is helpful.
- On resettlement, there is a clear idea that the three-year strategy is an important one, and gives us all the possibilities to look at national systems and to what extent they are able to contribute or whether they can be expanded. The delegate of Jordan raised this, and at the June Standing Committee, we will give an idea of where we are on resettlement, what can be done, and also on complementary pathways.

- Based on experience, private sponsorship actually allows us to enhance quality and to ensure there is social cohesion. Private sponsorship is a two-way process and one way to address some concerns; it is about the most vulnerable people who are identified in need of resettlement.
- How we can relate the text with the NY Declaration so that it is coherent with it including on complementary pathways? Take Jordan's comments on local solutions and local integration. It is clear that local integration is a durable solution that is a sovereign decision of States and indeed the ultimate aim of protection is solutions and there is language in that regard.
- We noted one comment from Brazil, calling to ensure national policies are reviewed from the perspective of protection and not to criminalise entry; I think it is an important aspect of protection. This underlines what we are trying to achieve.
- In relation to security aspects, Jordan mentioned that it is not just about processing modalities, but also applies to States receiving large influx of refugees and tried to address security aspects in paras 59-60. Some also ask to look at this for protracted situation.