



Thematic discussion 1: Past and Current Burden- and Responsibility-Sharing Arrangements

**Room XVII, Palais des Nations
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Intervention by ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies)

Mr. co-Chairs, distinguished delegates, NGO colleagues,

- The **lack of responsibility-sharing in responses to date is one of the core concerns that the Global Compact was called to address**. As such, responsibility-sharing arrangements should be central to the Program of Action. We therefore thank UNHCR and various member states for efforts towards jointly defining elements of burden- and responsibility-sharing.
- Mr. co-Chair, Assistant High Commissioner, in your introduction you asked how multiple actors can be involved in responsibility-sharing. **As NGOs, we are working to do our part**. In refugee situations, national and international NGOs implement both development and humanitarian programs. In this process, we often **bring our own financial and human resources and focus on gaps that we have collectively identified and strive to provide innovative protection and assistance**. Please, do not forget or minimize NGO contributions to burden- and responsibility-sharing arrangements.
- We heard a lot of concrete examples at the [UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations](#). This year's NGO Rapporteur's Report – to be presented at ExCom – will be an important contribution to the debate and help in the stocktaking exercise.
- Among the many NGO proposals on the Global Compact, let me highlight the **“[NGO Reflection Paper](#)” coordinated by ICVA and [endorsed by over 20 NGOs and networks](#)**. Answering another of your questions, Mr. co-Chair, this paper suggests a set of **standards and principles** that should form the basis of the Compact, in particular:
 - The Compact should be **relevant to the primary stakeholders** – the refugees themselves – and their host communities
 - The Compact must **not only reaffirm, but also strengthen international refugee law**
 - The Compact must also **strengthen the foundations of humanitarian action** on behalf of refugees (humanitarian principles, the Principles of Partnership, among others)
 - The Compact must be **human rights-based** and **promote international cooperation**

- The Reflection Paper also calls for the creation of a transparent responsibility-sharing system. This should be done in a way that **helps States identify when and where they have responsibility** in response to a large movement or protracted situation. Therefore, as you mentioned, Mr. Chair, clearly defined **triggers** need to be attached to responsibility-sharing arrangements. Those triggers should be **based on and adjust to the scale, length and trends** in displacement.
- The Reflection Paper also indicates that we **need to define what, concretely, that responsibility entails**, for example:
 - Incentivising increased financial support for refugee responses, including through **new and innovative funding mechanisms**;
 - financial and technical support for the **development of host country legislative and governance frameworks to uphold refugees' rights**;
 - **improved service access for refugees and their hosts**, taking into account populations' views, especially women, boys and girls – the majority of refugees.
 - increased resettlement places, expanded complementary pathways and legal migration channels;
 - **improved accountability measures with regard to pledges**. Responsibility-sharing should mean that we all make pledges in a responsible and transparent way.
- Finally, Mr. Chair, answering the question on the 'key elements' of burden- and responsibility-sharing arrangements, I would like to suggest that all the elements are key. **None can be put aside or downplayed**. To develop efficient and relevant burden- and responsibility-sharing arrangements, we also need to **look at how the various elements balance and strengthen each other** in the response.
- Thank you co-chairs and panelist and we look forward to the continued joint work.