



**European Union**

**GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES**

**Fifth Thematic Session**

**Second panel: How can we ensure a whole-of-society response to large movements of refugees  
and protracted situations?**

**Geneva, 15 November 2017**

**– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –**

**Global Compact on Refugees**  
**Fifth Thematic Session**

**Second panel: How can we ensure a whole-of-society response to large movements of refugees and protracted situations?**

*Mr./Ms. Chairperson,*

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States stand behind the New York declaration and its whole-of-society approach. We reaffirm our commitment to support the involvement of refugees host communities, local and regional authorities, and civil society organizations that provide the first response in protracted and mixed situations. These key actors provide crucial inputs to the discussions leading to the adoption of the future Global Compact for Refugees.

We commend the private sector for its role in the socio-economic inclusion of refugees' child care. We acknowledge that this will require access to language courses, education, vocational training, housing, health-care and the labour market as a holistic approach.

The EU and its Member States recall that all stakeholders, with a primary responsibility for States, should contribute to address the refugee challenges in line with the principles of solidarity, and responsibility sharing. We reiterate our commitment to combat discrimination, fight xenophobia and intolerance against refugees.

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\* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

We consider it indispensable to provide tailor-made responses, in full compliance with international human rights and international refugee law. That is why we strongly recommend ensuring mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the whole response process and tackling sexual and gender-based violence. Protecting all refugee children, including unaccompanied children and particularly girls is another top priority for the EU and its Member States. Also, the rights of other vulnerable persons, notably the elderly and persons with disabilities, should be upheld.

The EU and its Member States invite UNHCR to track progress of the application of the relevant elements of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in all major refugee situations, with the involvement of all relevant actors. We encourage UNHCR to provide guidance on how to ensure greater coherence between refugee and migration responses according to specific needs. We recall the Grand Bargain commitment to make the international aid system more efficient.

*Thank you, Mr./Ms. Chairperson.*