

**Canadian Government interventions for the fifth round of the
Formal Consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees
Geneva, June 12 - 13**

Agenda item 1: Introduction

Canada welcomes Draft 3 and firmly believes the current draft will allow us to reach consensus in just a few weeks' time.

We are supportive of the revised introduction to the Refugee Compact. The successful implementation of comprehensive refugee responses must begin with, and reinforce, strong national ownership and leadership, with appropriate support from the international community. To this end, we welcome the emphasis on achieving collective outcomes, as mutually reinforcing engagement on the part of refugee hosting countries, donors, and other relevant stakeholders will be essential to achieving the objectives of this Compact.

Canada is a strong proponent of the value of whole-of-society approaches in this Global Compact. While states have the primary responsibility for refugee protection, better enabling the contributions of other stakeholders is necessary to improve responsibility-sharing. We therefore recommend removing references to including other stakeholders and "as appropriate" and "where relevant" in paragraphs 3 and 7 to emphasize that the Global Compact will be enacted through a truly multi-stakeholder effort. These changes would also align with the follow-up and review section, which emphasizes support for the Global Compact as a task for all states and relevant stakeholders.

Finally, we welcome the addition of paragraph 12 on mixed movements, which helps to clarify the contemporary realities of many large population movements. We agree that these situations present particular and complex challenges. Therefore, states and other stakeholders must actively take into account the realities of mixed movements when applying the CRRF and the Programme of Action. UNHCR's 10-point action plan for refugee protection and mixed migration provides good guidance in that regard.

Canada wishes to ensure that, when taken together, the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration will be coherent in advancing policies and approaches that guarantee the right to seek asylum, meet protection needs in line with international obligations, and safeguard the human rights of all people on the move.

Agenda item 2: Mechanisms for burden- and responsibility- sharing

We feel that good progress has been made in refining this section of the draft Compact in line with views and recommendations from the last round. We support the changes made to the description of the Global Refugee Forum, although we believe it would be advisable to keep the location of these meetings flexible in order to take advantage of potential opportunities for synergy with other high-level events.

We fully support the Global Refugee Forum being the main vehicle for pledging, taking stock, and reviewing and measuring progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the Global Compact. Canada believes that we all have a shared interest in understanding our collective progress and would therefore ask that the High Commissioner be specifically requested to report on this at the Global Forum.

We remain supportive of the section on the Support Platform. We do believe, however, that this tool could be called in to support regional approaches as well as national arrangements. Additionally, the range of options that a Platform may draw upon in increasing support for a given context is still not entirely clear, although this is understandable given that Support Platforms are a new mechanism. We would therefore propose that the text include a reference to UNHCR working with stakeholders to further develop this tool after the Compact is adopted.

We are heartened to see a stronger focus on the inclusion of refugees in some sections of the draft Compact. Involving refugees and host communities as true partners can lead to well-tailored and more effective responses. We encourage a continuation of the trend of increasing participation of refugees in designing and implementing responses as well as in global policy dialogue related to refugee protection.

Agenda item 3: Areas in need of support

Canada welcomes UNHCR's efforts to streamline elements of this section, as making the text more concise overall is in keeping with the operational nature of the Programme of Action. While we recognize that some good practices and positive areas for potential support have been removed, we fully expect to see these reflected in the digital platform to be developed by UNHCR.

We strongly support the changes to the chapeau paragraphs for section IIIB, and for the sub-section on meeting needs and supporting communities. These paragraphs accurately note that the good practices outlined in part IIIB will hinge on progress achieved in increasing responsibility-sharing for comprehensive responses. We welcome changes made to this text that clarify the differences between humanitarian assistance, which is based on humanitarian principles, and development cooperation, which is based on principles such as the importance of national ownership.

We welcome UNHCR's call for a partnership approach and the identification of collective outcomes as a means of mobilizing increased development resources for both refugees and host communities. It is our belief that continuing to make progress on the humanitarian development nexus and mobilizing other stakeholders, including the private sector, can make an important difference.

We are generally quite pleased with the inclusion of considerations in relation to age, gender and diversity in the Compact. While we continue to regret the lack of reference to advancing the life-saving provision of sexual and reproductive health services, we strongly welcome the call to facilitate access to age- and gender-responsive health care services. Furthermore, while we strongly support the section on children and youth, it could better emphasize respect for the rights and best interest of the child, as well as addressing their particular risks in relation to sexual and gender-based violence.

With respect to durable solutions, Canada agrees with the guidance provided in UNHCR's 10-point Action Plan on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration, which clearly states that an integrated approach that combines all three solutions implemented in close cooperation with all relevant actors, as well as the refugees themselves, offers the best chances for success.

Finally, we welcome the further refinements to the sub-section on resettlement. The three-year strategy to increase the number and quality of resettlement places, in particular, offers an important means to demonstrate real responsibility-sharing, and to stand in solidarity with refugee hosting countries. We also appreciate the reference to complementary pathways for admission, which is consistent with the CRRF.