



European Union

GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

Fifth Thematic Session

First Panel: How can we address the root causes of large movement of refugees?

Geneva, 15 November 2017

– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

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First Panel: How can we address the root causes of large movement of refugees?

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 recognise that responses to large movements of refugees should be context-specific, and conducted in full respect of international human rights law and international refugee law. Responses should also be guided by the "*do no harm*" and the fundamental humanitarian principles.

We would like to recall our commitment to tackle the root causes of forced displacement at source by stepping up efforts to prevent new conflicts, resolve the existing ones and address all major drivers of forced displacement. In addition to conflicts this includes inter alia, human rights violations and persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

We recognise the importance of political engagement in order to seek durable solutions to crises and address the root causes of displacement at all stages of the response cycle. Preventive diplomacy, support to the efforts of the UN Secretary General, and regional arrangements between countries of origin and host countries are key aspects in this context.

The EU and its Member States reaffirm the need for more coherent and comprehensive approaches to humanitarian assistance and development cooperation to more effectively address the drivers and triggers of displacement. These approaches should support peacebuilding and security, and be gender sensitive.

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

We remain committed to the full implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. We further recall the importance to integrate human mobility within climate mitigation and disaster-risk reduction policies, preparedness and early-warning mechanisms.

Thank you, Mr./Ms. Chairperson.