

## **TOWARD A GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES**

**Third formal consultations, 10 and 11 April 2018**

### **Statement of the Republic of Slovenia**

#### **The global compact on refugees, DRAFT 1, Part III.B.1. Reception and admission**

##### **General:**

- Since we are taking the floor for the first time, we would like to start by thanking the UNHCR for conducting this important process and to Mr. Volker Turk and Ms. Beatriz Londono Soto for co-chairing the third formal consultations;
- Slovenia aligns with the EU statement.
- Slovenia believes that a compact on refugees would bring added value by contributing to a comprehensive approach toward contemporary challenges the refugees are facing today and increase protection standards worldwide;
- . We need to create sustainable and long term support for refugees and develop effective programmes aimed at their self-reliance and self- sufficiency;
- Slovenia considers the development of standards for care and accommodation of refugees, integration measures and special programmes for vulnerable refugees a big step toward better living conditions in the host country;
- In our statement Slovenia would like to contribute by describing a positive experience. From October 2015 to March 2016, almost half a million people in a vulnerable situation entered or transited Slovenia as a consequence of mixed refugee flows along the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan route. Slovenia is a country with a population of two million people. The competent authorities, services and organisations tried very hard to make the reception procedures, registration, health care and food distribution as dignified and humane as possible. Special attention was devoted to the most vulnerable groups (safe spaces for children and breastfeeding mothers, psycho-social counselling etc.). Excellent cooperation with NGO's and international organisations complemented assistance in the field. In the meantime, effective regional cooperation between all the countries along the migratory route both on a political and operational level was established.

##### **Reception and Admission:**

- We believe that a constant monitoring and improvement of standards for care and accommodation of refugees is necessary. Special attention should be given to

vulnerable groups. Humanitarian and development aid should complement the assistance;

- In Slovenia, accommodation capacities could be increased if necessary. The competent authorities are acting in close collaboration with the international and non-governmental organisations. Unaccompanied minors receive special attention. They are provided with full day professional care while particular emphasis is placed on enhancing minors' competence to take responsibility for their lives and to pursue opportunities, lifestyles and value systems which will help them integrate into the society;
- Registration of refugees is key for states to know who has arrived. In our opinion, the registration of refugees and applicants who entered the territory should be upgraded by monitoring any subsequent status of these persons (births, deaths, marriages). It is also necessary to introduce the registration of subsequent legal identities of people. In this way we can have a clear picture of the structure of the population and their needs;
- In Europe and also elsewhere we are faced with numerous persons who cannot return to their countries of origin. In our opinion, special modalities need to be established in order to provide them with "prima facie" protection;
- Concerning the education of refugees we would propose to add awareness-raising programmes on the added-value of education, and we would also suggest to emphasize the active role of parents in the process of education.