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General Debate item 3
Danish statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Carsten Staur

Madam Chairperson, High Commissioner, Distinguished delegates,

In my capacity as Head of the Danish delegation, I would like, on behalf of my Government, to extend our warmest welcome to High Commissioner Grandi at this, his first Executive Committee meeting.

As highlighted yesterday by the Secretary General and the High Commissioner 2016 might very well be one of the more important years in the history of UNHCR. The recorded number of refugees and IDPs is higher than ever and the displacement situations ever more protracted. The resulting impact across the world is profound; displacement is now recognized as one of the defining global challenges of our time.

The Syria-conference in London in February, the Wilton Park meeting in April, the World Humanitarian Summit in May and the High Level meetings in New York all confirmed this. It is time for the international community to deliver a much more comprehensive, predictable and long-term response in support of both displaced people and affected communities and countries.

Madam Chairperson,

The High Level meeting in New York two weeks ago reaffirmed the 1951 Convention and endorsed the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework as the basis for addressing the global displacement challenge. This will guide all of us in the process towards a Refugee Compact. Denmark lends its full support to UNHCR leading this process through engaging with States and other relevant stakeholders over the coming two years.

It is essential that UNHCR approaches this in the right manner, based on its core protection mandate. The upcoming process calls for new partnerships that extend well beyond the humanitarian actors and instead places refugees on the development agenda. Affected governments, bilateral donors, multilateral development institutions along with civil society actors and the private sector must all play their part by coming together to find the best possible solutions for all.

In this, we see UNHCR's key role as monitoring adherence to protection standards and ensuring that the most vulnerable are prioritized while feeding relevant information and data on displacement to development partners. The key objective is to ensure that no one is left behind and that core humanitarian needs continue to be met while longer-term, inclusive solution oriented approaches are brought to the forefront. It is about engaging humanitarian and development partners where they have their respective comparative advantages – without compromising core protection standards.

In this regard let me highlight and applaud the partnership between UNHCR and the World Bank, which further materialized earlier this year when the Bank joined the governing board of the Solutions Alliance. We encourage the development of such partnerships between UNHCR and other development actors – and would highlight the Solutions Alliance as an ideal framework for operational collaboration.

The global dialogue this year has focused on refugees. However, the plight of IDPs is very much part of the global displacement challenge that we have all agreed to address in a much more comprehensive fashion. In short, we must never forget IDPs when working to improve protection and solutions.

Finally, we would like to thank the High Commissioner for choosing 'Children on the move' as the topic for this year's Protection Dialogue. This is timely and highly relevant.

To conclude, let me reaffirm that Denmark stands behind UNHCR as the key agency in ensuring the protection of displaced people, now and in the future. We are ready to engage constructively in the process leading up to the adoption of the refugee compact in 2018.

I thank you