



**Statement by Permanent Mission of Syrian Arab Republic
"Towards a global compact on refugees"**

Formal consultation 1

Geneva on 13/02/2018

Madam Co-Chair,

At the outset my delegation joins other colleagues in thanking the Secretariat of the UNCHR for the efforts they have exerted in this important process.

My delegation wants to highlight initial remarks on the zero draft of the global compact of refugees.

Despite of the ambitions to strengthen of responsibility and burden sharing with refugees hosting countries and despite the concerns of major refugees hosting countries, which were expressed, particularly the developing countries, the zero draft didn't reflect these concerns. We noticed that there are additional commitments for the hosting countries while on the other side the burden and the shared responsibilities requirements by the international community are optional. My delegation supports the demands expressed by representatives of major refugees hosting countries accordingly.

- My delegation expresses serious concern regarding the additional conditions imposed on countries of origin for the voluntary return of refugees; these conditions will only contribute to the prolonging and extending of the refugee situations around the world.

- Regarding the issue of root causes of forced displacement, these causes should refer also to violations of International Law and terrorism and Unilateral coercive measures imposed on countries and accordingly addressing root causes must address them as well.

- To conclude we stress that this work we are doing here do not relate to the mandate of other UN agencies particularly UNRWA which deals with Palestinian refugees.

Thank you