

Global Compact on Refugees

Agenda Item 2: Support for the application of the CRRF; reception and admission, meeting needs and supporting communities, and solutions

U.S. Statement

We appreciate the draft Program of Action's recognition that there is an "urgent need to broaden the support base in a wide range of areas." The United States has long been the global leader in providing humanitarian assistance, and we continue to do so. However, the last two years, and indeed our gathering today, reflect the reality that business as usual is not sustainable. We cannot continue to rely on the same donors to be the sole funders of emergency assistance through humanitarian organizations. We see the Global Compact on Refugees as a call to action for others to do more.

Protracted crises and the lack of durable solutions for refugees require us to think more broadly about how to support the communities hosting refugees and the refugees themselves so that they can return home to rebuild their lives as soon as it is safe to do so. We appreciate the countries who have hosted and provided assistance to those who are among the world's most vulnerable. However, it is time for each among us to determine how we can contribute to finding new and innovative durable solutions for the more than 22 million refugees globally.

While we appreciate the call for a platform to assist with building comprehensive responses to large movements of refugees, we believe that the focus should be on regional responses driven by sovereign States. The refugee compact should focus on making refugee responses more effective and efficient – as close to home as possible – without creating new processes or increased bureaucracy.

The United States is particularly supportive of seeking out non-traditional methods to addressing the refugee crisis, in particular suggestions included in the draft Program of Action related to the potential and increased role of the private sector as well as development actors and financial institutions. We also appreciate the reference to the need to prioritize processes that maintain accountability to affected populations.