

*Mister/Madame Chair,
Assistant High Commissioner Türk,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

Germany would like to thank the Assistant High Commissioner for his Note on International Protection. We appreciate that this year's note is organised around the key areas of the Global Compact on Refugees. We congratulate the Assistant High Commissioner and his team once again for the successful completion of the GCR process and echo UNHCR's readiness to work with the international community as a whole to bring the GCR to life.

We express our gratitude to all countries that have continuously been providing protection and perspectives to refugees. A more comprehensive approach to refugee situations based on shared international responsibility will also be crucial to uphold quality asylum space for the millions of refugees worldwide. To this end, we strongly welcome the creation of the new Division of Resilience

and Solutions. At the same time we are concerned about the significant reduction of resettlement places available in 2017. Germany increased the number of resettlement places and calls upon other member states to do so as well.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The number of UNHCR's persons of concern has grown to a worrying new record level. Protection challenges remain extremely complex, also in the light of large mixed movements.

In many of today's conflicts, the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee and IDP sites and settlements is not respected, thus putting civilians and humanitarian workers at severe risk. We convey our sincere respect to all UNHCR staff working in an often dangerous environment, risking their own safety and security for the protection of others.

We are deeply concerned about immense humanitarian and protection needs inside Syria and limited access to over 1.5 million people in hard to reach areas. We call

upon UNHCR to continue insisting that returns must take place voluntarily and to utilise all access options to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to millions of people in need.

In addition, growing displacement inside and out of the DRC and the protracted situations of South Sudanese and Somali refugees will continue to require particular attention. The affected host countries will need our continued support in providing protection to refugees in the region.

As we see in many situations, particularly in the case of Rohingya refugees, statelessness is cause and effect of displacement. Germany welcomes the important efforts of countries hosting Syrian refugees to reduce the percentage of Syrian children who are undocumented and thus countering the risk of statelessness. We are pleased to announce that Germany will provide financial support to UNHCR's to dedicated activities around the mid-term point of the #IBelong Campaign next year.

Lastly, we encourage UNHCR to continue addressing and reporting on protection issues that are not covered primarily in the GCR. Let us not forget that the vast majority of forcibly displaced people are IDPs. While for example more than 750,000 IDPs returned in the first six months of 2018 inside Syria, more than a million have been newly displaced, many of them not for the first time. 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. An anniversary that reminds us that the more than 40 million internally displaced persons require our concerted effort and more sustainable solutions. We are particularly looking forward to UNHCR's new IDP Policy and welcome UNHCR's commitment to putting a stronger focus on protection of and solutions for IDPs. We call upon all relevant agencies to work in close cooperation and coordination to ensure IDPs are protected and assisted in a comprehensive manner.

Thank you.