

Oral update on the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF)

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Madam Chair,
Excellencies and
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

This update marks 18 months since the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants – and its Annex, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)- , and 6 months since my Director, Mr. Daniel Endres, informed you about progress made in the application of the CRRF.

This morning I am going to address three areas: 1) complement the updates provided by my colleagues, the Directors of the Regional Bureaux for Africa and the Americas, Mr. Tapsoba and Ms. Dubini, on the latest operational developments in rolling out the CRRF in Africa and the Americas; 2) share with you the progress made in broadening partnerships in applying comprehensive responses; and, 3) conclude with few thoughts on the way forward.

I. Key developments in the CRRF roll-out

1) Since September, we have welcomed new countries applying the CRRF.

In the **Americas**, **Belize** confirmed its participation in the regional application of the Comprehensive Refugee Protection and Solutions Framework (“MIRPS” in Spanish).

In **Africa**, **Kenya** and **Zambia** joined the countries rolling out the CRRF, building from their rich experiences in hosting large populations of refugees. We are going to support these countries in their efforts to roll out the CRRF.

Also in **Africa**, we received, to our regret, the **United Republic of Tanzania's** decision to withdraw from the formal application of the CRRF. You have heard from the Representative of Tanzania about the various reasons for the withdrawal. You have also heard that the Government of Tanzania will continue to uphold its international obligations towards refugees, as it has done the past few decades. Since the Government's announcement, the Director of the Africa Bureau and my own Director have visited Tanzania and had senior level discussions with the authorities. UNHCR will continue its strong and constructive engagement with the government, for strengthened protection and management of refugees, and the pursuit of solutions, for the many refugees hosted in Tanzania.

We have also most recently welcomed **Rwanda**, as the newest country rolling out the CRRF, bringing to **13 the number of countries doing so**.

2) We have been greatly encouraged by tremendous progress in the roll out countries (*national developments*)

In November, we welcomed **Ethiopia's** launch of civil registration for all refugees in the country, an important step toward the full realization of its nine pledges for greater refugee protection. This adds to the progress made in increasing education enrolment, as part of the realization of the pledges.

In **Djibouti**, the new refugee law is being implemented through two decrees that implement the right to movement and access to legal employment and social services such as healthcare and education.

In **Uganda**, clear advances in the application of the CRRF include a strategy to transition from water trucking in the emergency to more sustainable delivery, as well as integrated planning and service delivery in the sectors of education and health.

In the last quarter of 2017, **roadmaps were adopted** by Governments and their partners in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania (before its withdrawal). These roadmaps, designed with the leadership of Governments, and the support of partners, contain concrete deliverables for the application of comprehensive responses. The roadmaps are being implemented and could be made available to delegations which wish to receive them.

In **Central America and Mexico**,

- The MIRPS contains national chapters with targeted actions for the six governments and institutional partners to take forward. 30 priority projects have been designed, covering all four pillars of the CRRF.
- We are encouraged by the UN Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean's *Tri-National Project for Resilience and Social Cohesion in Northern Central America*, which was approved by the UN Peacebuilding Fund in December. The project, jointly implemented by IOM, UNHCR and UNDP, will address root causes, strengthen prevention and contribute to the creation the conditions for voluntary, safe and sustainable return.

3) In the last six months, we have also seen **regional collaboration strengthened through comprehensive responses, as demonstrated...**

... in the **Americas**, a defining quality of the MIRPS is its emphasis on a comprehensive approach in countries of origin, transit and asylum that pursues four elements simultaneously:

- i. addressing root causes;
- ii. minimizing the suffering and exploitation of displaced persons;
- iii. access to effective asylum procedures; and
- iv. pursuing safe, dignified and sustainable solutions.

MIRPS countries have welcomed the participation of ten cooperating States, which bring financial assistance and technical cooperation. Moreover, the **Organization of American States (OAS)** has been invited to develop a follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the MIRPS and to facilitate the exchange of best practices.

In Africa,

- ...Member States adopted a **roadmap and results framework** in September for the IGAD regional approach for Somali refugees.
- ... Furthermore, ministers of education of IGAD countries, convened at the **first ever regional IGAD conference on education**, committed to harmonise education standards for refugees and host communities, and to integrate education for refugees and returnees in national development plans by 2020.
- The fifth **African Union Humanitarian Symposium** held in Nairobi in November focused on developing an AU-wide “common perspective on solidarity and solutions for large scale refugee movements”. We welcomed

the AU's call to its member states to harness the expertise and resources of multiple actors working in humanitarian, human rights, development, peace-building, reconstruction and governance sectors.

- In January, the **Executive Council of the African Union** called upon all Member States to include refugees, IDPs, and persons at risk of statelessness in civil registration and vital statistics systems. UNHCR warmly welcomes this decision and stands ready to assist States with technical and other support.

Madam Chair,

As I end the developments in the application of the CRRF in Africa and the Americas, a key lesson we are learning over and over in applying the CRRF is the need to **enhance support to host countries**. If progress to date has been most significant toward enhancing refugees' self-reliance by these countries, we have to **recall that all four objectives of the CRRF [namely supporting host countries, enhancing refugees' self-reliance, increasing third country solutions and opportunities, and creating conditions in countries of origin for a voluntary return] are interdependent and should be pursued with equal vigor**. While we very much appreciate the considerable support of many member States represented here as well as partners not here- as was also acknowledged by the Directors for Africa and the Americas Tuesday and many member States in the course of the past three days- the generosity and solidarity of host governments and the hundreds of communities that welcome refugees across the globe must be matched by **more timely and predictable support**, in line with the spirit of responsibility-sharing. We are encouraged by the consultations underway with our Assistant High Commissioner for Protection regarding the key components of the Global Compact on Refugees, including in relation to efforts for fairer responsibility sharing.

Allow me now to turn to the significant support we are witnessing from partners, including new ones, or partners engaged in refugee matters who are designing new tools, all with the aim of contributing to comprehensive responses.

II. Significant development in partnership or by partners

1) Enhanced multilateral engagement with international financial institutions.

The relationship between UNHCR and the World Bank Group continues to grow through close cooperation on policy development, programme preparation, data, evidence and analytics.

- Specifically, a fourth joint World Bank-UNHCR mission in a CRRF roll-out country took place last month in Kenya, to assess its eligibility to access financing under the **IDA 18 regional sub-window for refugees and host communities**. The objectives of this sub-window are:
 - (i) to mitigate the impact of refugee movements and create social and economic development opportunities for refugees and host communities;
 - (ii) to facilitate sustainable solutions to protracted refugee situations through sustainable socio-economic inclusion of refugees within host countries and/or their return to their country of origin, and
 - (iii) to strengthen preparedness for increased or potential new refugee flows.
- In October, the World Bank and UNHCR agreed to establish a **Joint Data Centre** on Forced Displacement that will cover all of UNHCR's persons of concern and the communities hosting them. The data centre - to be established this year - will ensure quality and timely data, and will build the evidence necessary for both advocacy and operations.

2) **Second, we have been very encouraged by the increased engagement of bilateral cooperation agencies in comprehensive responses.**

- The German **BMZ** is supporting 19 CRRF related projects, amounting to over 140 million euros, in four roll-out countries [Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Uganda], providing development support to refugees, host communities and returnees.
- Commendable efforts are also underway by **DEVCO, DfID, JICA, and KOICA** to contribute to more sustainable and systemic responses, through their allocation of dedicated funding for projects that build the capacities of local authorities to respond to refugee movements.

3) **Third, UNHCR is pursuing its strong collaboration with NGOs and civil society in the context of the CRRF.**

- The theme of this year's **Annual Consultations with NGOs** – to be held in Geneva in June - is “Putting People First”. It will include reviewing collective efforts towards putting “people” – both refugees and host communities – at the heart of comprehensive responses.
 - As you know, NGOs from across the globe have been contributing **good practices** on the application of comprehensive responses. An online platform of these inputs will be released at the end of March.
- 4) Fourth, as advised by Member States in the New York Declaration, **refugees should be at the heart of comprehensive responses.**
- Therefore, to ensure their inclusion in processes that shape their lives, partners and UNHCR conducted **consultations on the CRRF with refugees** in six countries [in 2017], including in four that are applying the CRRF: Ethiopia, Djibouti, Uganda, and Tanzania.
 - We are further encouraged that refugees have been invited by governments to participate in CRRF **facilitation mechanisms**, as is the case in Uganda, Djibouti and Ethiopia, where refugee *and* host community representatives are members of either steering committees, secretariats, or technical working groups.
 - Finally, as regards **refugee participation**, efforts are deployed to give refugee voices and perspectives a global platform through the Global Youth Advisory Council, which was created by the High Commissioner in December.
- 5) Fifth, our collaboration with **sister UN Agencies** has continued to grow in the past six months.
- We have continued to implement joint projects with UN Agencies in roll-out countries, and have initiated new ones, such as a **community project in Ethiopia**, jointly implemented by the Government, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UN Police, to deliver a more structured approach to social cohesion and policing in areas of high refugee density. If fully funded, this project could be a good example of the operationalisation of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee guidance on [Addressing Forced Displacement through Development Planning and Co-operation](#), whereby humanitarian and development actors work together with the host

government to improve national systems and services – in this case, the Police - for the benefit of refugee and host communities.

6) Last but certainly not least, in line with the recognition that businesses must be at the heart of predictable and sustainable responses to refugee movements, we have pursued our engagement with the **private sector**.

- As previously discussed in this body, the CRRF envisages that the private sector not only play a philanthropic role to support refugees and their hosts. It is clear from our engagement with business and private sector leaders that they aspire to contribute to *sustainable solutions* for refugees. One of the most natural roles in which they can support comprehensive responses is by contributing to the economic inclusion of refugees, through employment or other livelihoods models.
- We are delighted to see one of our long-term private sector partners – the IKEA Foundation - exploring with us and partners how to shape future investments within the CRRF contexts in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya.

III. Looking ahead

Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to conclude with the following thoughts:

1. 2018 signals a period of transition as we move away from applying the CRRF in a number of countries towards a time when **comprehensive approaches become a way of working** for UNHCR, partners and the international community writ large.
2. As the Deputy High Commissioner briefed you yesterday, a **Division of Resilience and Solutions** was created last month. Led by the former Director for Comprehensive Responses, Mr. Daniel Endres, the Division is intended to support UNHCR fully embracing this new way of working as well as sustaining the integration of comprehensive approaches in all operations. As indicated by my colleague, Arafat Jamal, earlier today, all efforts are deployed to ensure

that the Division support the field, in close coordination with Regional Bureaux, other HQ Divisions and Services. We will continue seeking your support in realizing the objectives of the Division.

3. In the coming months, we can expect to see results of greater **inclusion of refugees in district development plans**, like in Uganda, and in the new generation of UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), where such preparations are underway in Guatemala, Mexico and Rwanda.
4. In just a few weeks' time **IGAD will convene the first inter-ministerial meeting** dedicated to the review of progress on the Somali refugee situation made one year since adoption of the Nairobi Declaration. The stock-taking meeting will bring together ministries of interior - or those responsible for refugee affairs - , ministries of finance, planning or treasury, and local government officials, who will set the priorities for the coming 6-12 months.
5. **In ending**, I must highlight the willingness, the ambition, and the sense of imperative of so many actors and partners who have been engaged in the application of the CRRF in the past 18 months. As we move towards the adoption of a global compact on refugees, we must ensure a **balanced implementation of the four objectives of the CRRF** and pursue all four with equal vigour. Attention only to the second objective, without a balance among the other three, will not be sustainable. This is our both our common challenge and our opportunity.

Thank you.
