

Consultations on the Second Draft of the Global Compact on Refugees June 12-13, 2018

Statement of the World Bank

Mr. Co-chair, Excellencies, colleagues

To avoid taking the floor too often my comments relate to all of draft 3.

We congratulate UNHCR for the strong vision they have provided throughout this complex consultation process. We are very encouraged by the progress that has been made towards a “mid-point” between our various positions, allowing all stakeholders to support a common endeavor while at the same time keeping substance in the conversation. As we said in May this is a “tour de force” and we are very grateful for UNHCR’s leadership.

Over the last few months, we have heard from donor countries, host countries, multilateral organizations and civil society, these are useful distinctions but, as Volker has so often reminded us, we should also emphasize what unites us: and that is a determination to strengthen our collective response to the refugee crisis and to ensure an adequate sharing of responsibilities. In this context, the global compact on refugees provides us with a powerful opportunity to articulate a set of commitments that we are making to each other (even if they are not legally binding).

From our perspective, these commitments need to be shared, effective, coherent, and realistic.

- Shared because success will require strong international cooperation and responsibility sharing by the whole international community and, possibly a willingness for all to go an “extra step”.
- Effective in the sense that we should look for ways to reduce the needs – and to address the flaws of traditional models that have proven not to work, including the “care and maintenance” approach – while of course taking into account the circumstances of each host country
- Coherent, in that we need to ensure that humanitarian and development actors can best complement each other, and that the debates about the nexus are finally translated into comprehensive assistance and action on the ground.

- And realistic, because we need to make sure that the course of action we intend to take can indeed be implemented – in terms of both financial resources and political will.

In our experience, success will also require that we develop a strong sense of collective outcomes, of results we are collectively working towards and accountable for. We welcome the fact that the Global Refugee Forum will not only be the opportunity for pledging, taking stock, and reviewing, but also for measuring progress – in a way that is specific enough so that we can both measure the results of our efforts, and adjust our actions in real time as may be needed to maximize impact.

As we have said earlier the World Bank stands ready to play its role in this endeavor.

Let me conclude by noting that it has been increasingly clear that the global compact on refugees represents a ‘once in a lifetime’ opportunity to make a difference – to ease the pressures on host countries and communities, enhance refugee self-reliance, pursue solutions and support the conditions in countries of origin for successful return. As we near the end of our consultations process, let us make sure we make the most of this opportunity and, are able through implementation of this compact, to make a real difference to the lives of affected people.

Thank you.