

## **Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme Sixty-eighth session**

### **Special segment on the comprehensive refugee response framework Geneva, Switzerland, 2 October 2017**

#### Information note on the special segment

## **I. Introduction**

One year ago, United Nations Member States unanimously adopted the “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”<sup>1</sup> (New York Declaration), a landmark political declaration directed at strengthening the way in which the international community responds to large movements of refugees and migrants. In annex I to the Declaration, the General Assembly provided a “comprehensive refugee response framework”, (CRRF or framework) containing the elements of a comprehensive response based on the principles of international cooperation and burden- and responsibility-sharing. It requested that UNHCR initiate and develop the framework, in close cooperation with relevant States and through a multi-stakeholder approach.

Today, 11 countries are formally applying the CRRF,<sup>2</sup> including through two regional comprehensive responses.<sup>3</sup> On 2 October 2017, the opening of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom) will feature a special segment on the comprehensive refugee response framework. This note sets out the objectives, agenda and background for the special segment.

## **II. Objective**

The special segment will reflect the “whole-of-society” approach that is an important element of the CRRF. The panellists include representatives from countries applying the CRRF, other major refugee-hosting countries, donors, civil society and the private sector.

Through the panellists' remarks – as well as the interventions of ExCom member and observers during the subsequent general debate – it is hoped that participants will help build understanding of the practical application of the CRRF, including the capacities and contributions of a range of actors; share good practices supporting its application; as well as elicit elements that could be included in a “programme of action” that will form an integral part of the global compact on refugees, which the General Assembly has requested the High Commissioner to propose in his annual report to the General Assembly in 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/71/1.

<sup>2</sup> Costa Rica, Djibouti, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

<sup>3</sup> In the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia, the Heads of State and Governments of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) committed to collectively pursue a regional application of the CRRF for the Somali refugee situation. In relation to multi-causal movements in Central America, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama are developing a Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework.

In particular, panellists are invited to share their views on ways in which the CRRF presents an opportunity to:

- develop a comprehensive and people-centred refugee policy and response, including measures to support self-reliance while also benefitting local communities;
- expand support through a whole-of-society approach that engages not only national and local authorities but also refugees and host communities themselves, and other stakeholders;
- formulate suggestions on ways to strengthen responsibility-sharing and predictable responses; and
- suggest proposals for inclusion in the programme of action.

### **III. Panellists**

Hon. Eng. Hilary Onek  
Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees of Uganda

His Excellency Ambassador Cihad Erginay  
Deputy Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

Mr. Ahmad Mohammadi Far  
Director General, Bureau of Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs  
Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ms. Annett Günther  
Deputy Director-General for Humanitarian Assistance, Crisis and Peacebuilding  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany

Mr. Hader Abdera  
Director of the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs of Ethiopia

Ms. Salma Al Nimes  
Secretary-General  
Jordanian National Commission for Women

Mr. John Denton  
First Vice-Chair  
International Chamber of Commerce

### **IV. Proceedings**

The 68<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Committee will commence at 10:00 on Monday 2 October, in the Assembly Hall of the Palais des Nations. The Chair of the Executive Committee, Her Excellency Ambassador Rosemary McCarney (Canada) will open the segment, introducing the panellists and also sharing key findings of her recent mission to Ethiopia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Subsequently, each of the panellists will be invited to speak – from their seat – for approximately 7 minutes. Following the presentations of the panellists, the High Commissioner will make summary remarks, and the Chair will close the special segment at 13:00.

Delegations have been invited to include comments on the themes of the special segment in their subsequent interventions during the general debate, which will start shortly after 15:00 on the same day.

## **V. Additional background on the New York Declaration**

At the high-level summit for refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016, United Nations Member States unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, a milestone for global solidarity with refugees and the countries and communities who receive them. The Declaration reaffirms the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees as the foundation of the international refugee regime, and recognizes that protecting those who are forced to flee – and supporting the countries that receive them – is a global public good and a shared international responsibility.

In particular, United Nations Member States recognized the unprecedented level of displacement currently being experienced, affirmed the rights of refugees, and committed to enhancing the protection and durable solutions available to them. Member States expressed their determination to address the root causes of forced displacement, pledged to provide more predictable and sustainable support to refugees and host communities, and agreed to actively promote durable solutions for refugees.

One of the most important issues addressed by the New York Declaration is responsibility-sharing; that is, the idea that the countries and communities that host large numbers of refugees should be supported by the international community in doing so. In the New York Declaration, Member States have made a strong, concrete statement of international commitment to share the responsibility for hosting and assisting the world's refugees more equitably.

Annex I to the Declaration, the CRRF, contains what Member States have agreed are the elements of “a framework for a comprehensive and people-centred refugee response” that is to be applied to “each situation involving large numbers of refugees”.

The framework has four stated objectives, namely to:

- ease pressures on host countries;
- enhance refugee self-reliance;
- expand access to third-country solutions; and
- support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The Declaration states that comprehensive refugee responses should involve a broad, multi-stakeholder approach. In particular, the framework seeks to ensure more sustainable refugee responses by linking humanitarian and development efforts early on in a crisis, and by strengthening sustainable approaches that invest in the resilience of both refugees and local communities, including through investment in national and local systems and services wherever possible.

*1 October 2017*

## **Selected references**

1. *The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*, A/RES/71/1.
  2. *The Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia* (available at [refworld.org](http://refworld.org)).
  3. *Towards a global compact on refugees: a roadmap*, UNHCR (available at [unhcr.org/towards-a-global-compact-on-refugees](http://unhcr.org/towards-a-global-compact-on-refugees)).
  4. *Oral update on the comprehensive refugee response framework*, remarks of Daniel Endres at the 70<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee, 22 September 2017 (available at [unhcr.org/70standco](http://unhcr.org/70standco)).
  5. *Global external CRRF update*, August 2017 (available at CRRF web portal, [crrf.unhcr.org](http://crrf.unhcr.org)).
  6. *Follow-up to the New York Declaration and the comprehensive refugee response framework*, UNHCR, EC/68/SC/CRP.21, 7 June 2017 (available at [unhcr.org/70standco](http://unhcr.org/70standco)).
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