

Statement on behalf of the “Group of Friends on Burden and Responsibility Sharing”

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

It is my delegation’s honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the “Group of Friends on Burden and Responsibility Sharing”¹.

The Group of Friends is open to membership for all UN Member States and will aim to achieve inclusivity and cross-regionality, in order to discuss the theme of burden and responsibility sharing in a comprehensive manner.

Mr. Chairman,

While the number of refugees worldwide is constantly on the rise, a small number of States continue to disproportionately shoulder the responsibility for hosting and supporting them. The majority of refugees are hosted in low and middle-income countries resulting in pressure on already limited resources. The principle of burden and responsibility sharing is central to addressing the unequal distribution of the responsibility to host and assist refugees.

The Global Compact on Refugees provides a framework for equitable, predictable and sustainable burden and responsibility sharing between all UN Member States and represents the political will for strengthened cooperation and solidarity with refugees and host States. The first Global Refugee Forum, convened in December 2019, resulted in a large number of voluntary pledges that aim to give effect to the principle of burden and responsibility sharing and to ease the burden on refugee hosting countries.

The purpose of this Group of Friends is to provide an inclusive platform that builds on the momentum generated by the GRF in order to continue to advocate for equitable, predictable and sustainable burden and responsibility sharing. It complements the work already done within the Burden and Responsibility Sharing Co-Sponsorship group in the lead up to the GRF.

¹ Ecuador, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

Through the group, we hope to be able to discuss and share good practices and updates on national and regional developments in the area of burden and responsibility sharing, mobilise and promote diplomatic engagement on the principle of burden and responsibility sharing, explore areas for further cooperation and development of pledges.

We invite all interested Member-States to approach us if they are interested in joining the Group.