

Statement by Denmark
Final draft of the Global Compact on Refugees
Check against delivery

Thank you Chair,

- Denmark aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU and its member states.
- We welcome that the final draft has become even more streamlined and succinct as compared to earlier drafts. We also welcome that important references to the absolute need for coherence and coordination between humanitarian and development activities is part of the text. With this and other important revisions, including with regard to indicators, we do believe that the text as it stands will serve its purpose of being the basis for a roll-out of more comprehensive responses to forced displacement situations. In particular, we think that the Global Refugee Forum and the senior officials meetings in between is an important innovation with a strong potential for improving burden- and responsibility-sharing, if prepared and managed well.
- Having said this, we nevertheless feel that more could have been achieved. UNHCR has strived hard to ensure consensus and we do hope that this will be confirmed during this formal consultation. In that process, however, important elements have been lost and some issues have not been unpacked as much as could have been desired.
- First, in spite of improvements, this applies to the manner in which the draft captures the humanitarian-development nexus that lies at the heart of comprehensive approaches. Comprehensive approaches have to be underpinned by national leadership and ownership and with development actors providing additional assistance. However, the institutional arrangements for this crucial element remain unclear.
- Closely linked to this, we also regret that there is no attempt to spell out the legal and social framework conditions that are necessary for a truly inclusive and comprehensive approach to be rolled out across the humanitarian-development nexus.
- Second, we are very disappointed that the sections on gender appear to be underrepresenting what is globally agreed, and that the focus has become even more narrow in the latest draft, with the heading now referring to women and girls only, whereas other gender-related vulnerabilities are not covered at all. We deeply regret that it was not possible to reflect globally agreed language on sexual and

reproductive health and rights. The fact that even maternal mortality and morbidity and infant mortality is not included is surprising - but surely this must be an oversight that could well be corrected, even at this late stage.

- In spite of these shortcomings, we do believe that UNHCR has managed the entire process in an inclusive and transparent manner. This has not been an easy task, given the diversity of opinions of member states which are now reflected in the document that we have before us today. The outcome is very much our collective responsibility - and so is the process ahead of us.
- Hence, it is in our collective hands to ensure that the follow-up to the Global Compact on Refugees becomes as robust as possible, not least at national level. And in doing so, we need to stay as loyal as possible to the real potential of the CRRF to be a game changer. We therefore call on fellow donors, host states as well as UNHCR and all other assistance actors to step up to the fact that we all need to transform our way of working if we are to succeed in improving the response to refugee situations. We must be bold in the implementation of the GCR. Less will simply not do.
- Denmark is committed to the implementation of the GCR. We have already more than doubled our humanitarian funding which is now at record levels. At the same time we have allocated significant development funds in support of refugees and host communities in CRRF countries, along with in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. In 2017, this totalled more than 300 million USD.
- Let me close by thanking Assistant High Commissioner for protection Volker Türk and his team for their commitment, hard work and steadfastness in steering the formal consultations over the last few months. They deserve a long and restful vacation once all this is over - knowing that a job well done is behind them and that this may well be the platform for a much better response to refugee situations in the future – ensuring a better outcome for refugees and the communities that host them.
- Thank you.