

GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES
Fifth Thematic Discussion

Third Panel: In what ways can regional institutions contribute to comprehensive refugee responses?

Intervention by MONTENEGRO

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Montenegro aligns itself with the EU statement.

Here we would like to highlight the important role of regional organizations in finding solutions for the refugee situation in the Western Balkans.

As you may know, with the support of the UNHCR, the four governments launched the regional initiative which, among other things, resulted in the Regional Housing Program. Its implementation enabled the resolution of the long-standing and above all humanitarian problem. At the same time, this process was an integral part of the reconciliation process, shaping the future of displaced population in our states.

The process should be seen as an example of extraordinary cooperation between partner countries and the regional organizations, in particular the European Union, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

We do believe that durable and sustainable solutions are possible only with strong support of regional organizations. But, their role and impact should not be overestimated if there is no political will within countries of origin and countries of asylum.

In addition, we are more than confident that political commitment at the state level, including the readiness of the region to resolve the issue of refugees, is a key reason for donor community to support the process.

The support given to the governments should always be a stimulus for better bilateral cooperation.

This concrete process addressed very important issues, such as legal status, documentation and housing. The implementation is still ongoing and its effects on the ground are evident.

Therefore we are of the opinion that the experience from our region, together with its more or less positive sides, should be taken into account when discussing future GCR.

Thank you.