



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

69th Session of UNHCR Executive Committee 1 – 5 October 2018

Agenda Item 4 a) International Protection
Statement by Norway

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Thank you chair,

Norway would like to thank UNHCR for the tremendous efforts over the last year and for the excellent cooperation. We especially thank UNHCR for the hard work on the consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees.

Norway thinks states hosting large numbers of refugees and states that have adopted the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

Norway will continue to provide unearmarked funding for UNHCR and other agencies in order to ensure sufficient flexibility, so that resources can be utilized where they are most needed.

There is a need for more states to step up the funding efforts. This will be crucial for the Global Compact on Refugees to become a success. Sadly, there are numerous situations for refugees and IDPs that are deeply disconcerting, both protracted ones and newer situations that may become protracted. These situations should not be of concern for just a few states, but for all.

With our support, UNHCR and partners must address the protection risks and needs of affected populations both in protracted crises and in emergency response. We will continue to support and expect UNHCR to enhance their protection response capacity.

Norway has launched a new humanitarian strategy, where protection, innovation and comprehensive approaches are main priorities. Norway aims to strengthen its efforts in the coming years in the following areas: Protection of refugees and IDPs, children and youth, civilian documents, restoring family links, preventing and responding to SGBV, education and health.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the guiding principles on internal displacement. These detail the rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of IDPs from forced displacement, to their protection and assistance during displacement, up to the achievement of durable solutions. Since the adoption of the guiding principles, the number of IDPs has roughly doubled. This underscores the urgent need for collective action to increase assistance and find solutions. Together with other states, **including heavily IDP-affected states**, Norway has requested the Secretary General to consider the establishment of a high-level panel on internal displacement, with a focus on finding solutions and inclusion of development actors **and in close consultation with states**. We **encourage** states and **UN** organizations to support this initiative.

Chair,

We would like to emphasize the need for a step-change in international humanitarian response to the needs of IDPs. The humanitarian cluster system was set up exactly for this response. We expect all humanitarian actors to shape their plans to achieve protection outcomes. The Resident and Humanitarian coordinators must lead the country teams to meet this expectation. UNHCR, as the protection cluster lead, has a particular responsibility to ensure that protection of affected people is at least one of the overall objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plans.

Chair,

While respecting the UN convention on refugees and international humanitarian law, Norway remains clear that in order to have a well-functioning asylum system, we also need well-functioning systems for return of those not deemed to be in need of international protection as this is critical for the credibility of the asylum system.

With regard to resettlement, we commend UNHCR for the openness in situations where fraud has been detected as we are depending on files to be “clean” for the sake of legitimacy of resettlement.

Norway will continue to work on durable solutions for refugees, and we are currently in the process of deciding on the size and composition of next year’s resettlement quota.

I thank you.