

PODIUM VERSION

Check against delivery

**Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Program
Protection Debate**

**Statement by the Government of Canada
Delivered by Mr. Donald Cochrane**
Minister- Counsellor
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

to the
69th SESSION
of the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Geneva, 1 – 5 October 2018

Vérifier à l'audition

**Déclaration du Gouvernement du Canada
Prononcée par M. Donald Cochrane**
Ministre-Conseiller
Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

À la 69^{ième} SESSION
du
COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF
DU HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES
NATIONS UNIES POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

Genève, 1 – 5 octobre 2018

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INTERVENTION TO THE 69TH SESSION OF THE
UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

PROTECTION STATEMENT

Thank you Madam Chair,

Our collective commitment to refugee protection and UNHCR's unique protection mandate are as important today as they have ever been.

I would like to thank the Assistant High Commissioner for the Note on International Protection.

On the one hand, Canada remains deeply concerned with rising rates of displacement globally. The Global Trends report reminds us that last year, every *two seconds*, on average, another person was forced to flee their home in fear. On the other hand, we see before us clear opportunities to dramatically improve the way in which the international community responds to these situations.

The Global Compact on Refugees offers us a roadmap for concrete actions in the years to come. We are pleased that the Compact reaffirms the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, respect for the institution of asylum, and the principle on non-refoulement. Canada strongly welcome its assertion of our common imperative to improve international cooperation and responsibility-sharing.

As we look ahead to the envisioned implementation of comprehensive responses under the Refugee Compact, Canada stands firmly with UNHCR in pursuit of its objectives.

Canada recognizes the challenges faced by countries hosting large numbers of refugees. These countries have provided a true, global public good, often under very challenging circumstances.

As the number of vulnerable refugees in need of resettlement continues to climb, it is crucial to work together to increase global resettlement capacity. For our part, Canada is leaning in to turn these words into action. We are increasing our resettlement numbers through multi-year, multi-region commitments. We will resettle 1000 more vulnerable women and girls. We are testing new complementary pathways in Africa and the Middle East. And we strongly encourage other countries here today, including those

not traditionally involved, to join us because every single new space represents a life saved, a solution found, and a responsibility shared.

Canada looks forward to working with all stakeholders in the development and implementation of the Refugee Compact's three-year resettlement strategy. This strategy will build on progress already underway thanks to the leadership of many states here, who are championing community-based refugee sponsorship programs in addition to existing resettlement programs. We encourage new resettlement states to leverage the support that the Emerging Resettlement Country Mechanism and the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative can provide.

Madam Chair,

Effective protection and empowerment for women and girls remains a priority for Canada, and we urge UNHCR to address the particular needs and risks they face.

La politique canadienne d'aide internationale féministe souligne l'importance d'une action humanitaire tenant compte des particularités de chaque sexe et réaffirme l'importance d'une aide humanitaire fondée sur des principes, rapide et axée sur les besoins, qui répond mieux aux besoins et au potentiel des femmes et des filles.

Nous félicitons le HCR pour sa *Politique sur l'âge, le genre et la diversité*, et nous attendons avec intérêt d'être informés de sa mise-en-œuvre sur le terrain.

Nous encourageons nos partenaires humanitaires à mettre systématiquement en œuvre l'ensemble de services minimums initiaux et à combler les lacunes existantes dans les services de santé sexuelle et reproductive.

Madam Chair,

As we mark this year the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Canada calls for increased and sustained focus on better addressing the needs of internally displaced persons worldwide. The GP20 initiative is an important start, and we see potential for the GP20 Plan of Action to improve coordination at the country level.

We strongly support UNHCR's efforts to implement these recommendations within an overall, coherent interagency response. In particular, we call on UNHCR, within its Protection Cluster role responsibility, to work with other stakeholders to develop and advance truly effective durable solutions for IDPs.

In closing, let me underscore Canada's steadfast support for UNHCR. It is the fundamental responsibility of states to safeguard the international protection regime. Canada calls upon all ExCom members to endorse and implement the Global Compact, not just to realize the opportunity it presents the international community to better share responsibility, but also for the sake of the promise it holds for the futures of both refugees and the communities that host them.