

**74<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee  
(5-7 March 2019)**

**Agenda item 7  
Oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges**

**1. Overview of the 2018 Dialogue**

The High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, which took place from 18 to 19 December 2018, focused on "Protection and solutions in urban settings: engaging with cities". Recognizing that the vast majority of displaced people today live in urban environments, the Dialogue explored the role of cities and local authorities in protecting and assisting displaced and stateless populations.

Some 600 representatives from States, cities, local authorities, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as well as refugees and other experts, participated in a series of active and constructive conversations, exploring current challenges and opportunities relating to Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the following topics:

- (i) Meeting the needs of the displaced in urban areas;
- (ii) Urban conflict and violence;
- (iii) The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the role of cities and municipalities;
- (iv) Supporting self-reliance in urban areas: economic inclusion, access to livelihoods and the role of the private sector;
- (v) Harnessing community support for solutions; and
- (vi) Internal displacement.

As a result of the Dialogue, participants agreed that the GCR provides a solid framework for developing the existing affinities between UNHCR, cities and partners. Cities were found to have demonstrated tremendous leadership in welcoming refugees, efforts which should be further recognized and supported by the international community. By helping to shape a positive narrative around refugees and migrants, cities have proven that they are central to facilitating inclusion. UNHCR agreed to work with existing city networks to forge common approaches, facilitate further exchange of good practices and support the work on bench marks for inclusion, access issues and resources.

The following concrete actions were agreed upon:

- (i) UNHCR will review its urban refugee policy, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- (ii) A space will be dedicated on the GCR digital platform to support inter-city exchanges on displacement-related issues.
- (iii) In the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, UNHCR, in consultation with the co-hosting member State, will provide space for cities to participate in and contribute to the Forum, drawing upon their experience and expertise.
- (iv) In collaboration with its partners, UNHCR will further engage with city networks to elevate displacement issues on their respective agendas and help facilitate access of city governments to international resources in responding to refugee situations.
- (v) UNHCR will continue to work with like-minded partners in diverse sectors to promote solidarity and tackle growing xenophobia through targeted communication and advocacy.

## **2. Updates on previous High Commissioner’s Dialogues**

UNHCR will provide a brief update on follow-up to the 2017 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges, which took stock of progress made “Towards a Global Compact on Refugees. UNHCR will also provide an update on the recommendations from the 2016 Dialogue on “Children on the move”.

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*UNHCR, 27 February 2019*