

*Mister/Madame Chair,*

*Assistant High Commissioner Triggs,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*Germany would like to thank the Assistant High Commissioner for her first Note on International Protection and congratulate you, Ms. Triggs, on your new post. We are looking forward to a close and trusted cooperation.*

*Last year's affirmation of the Global Compact on Refugees marks a historic milestone in the international refugee protection regime. The GCR has the potential to substantially change our approach to refugee situations globally; the first Global Refugee Forum will be the litmus test for the international community, for all of us.*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*The current displacement figures that the High Commissioner presented in Berlin this year show another*

*worrying increase in the number of forcibly displaced around the world. We remain deeply concerned about major new displacements out of Venezuela, violations of the fundamental rights of refugees in Libya and limited access to over 1.5 million people inside Syria. We are also worried about plans to return large numbers of refugees from Turkey to Syria. We call upon UNHCR to continue insisting that – in all refugee situations around the world – returns must take place voluntarily, in safety and dignity, and to use all access options available to provide protection to people who have decided to return.*

*Hosting ourselves in Germany a large number of refugees, we stress that host countries need the reliable support of the international community as a whole, and we need more countries offering asylum to refugees. We regret the continuing trend of diminishing resettlement places available. Germany has contributed considerably to the EU resettlement scheme and will increase its resettlement quota for 2020. We call upon member states to make substantial pledges in this regard at the Global Refugee Forum.*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*With its new IDP Policy, UNHCR lays the ground for a more decisive and predictable engagement in situations of internal displacement. At the same time, a “business as usual” approach to extremely complex IDP situations will not bring us closer to desperately needed solutions; we need a coherent engagement of all UN agencies – from anticipation to response.*

*Effective protection systematically takes into account the specific needs and capacities of persons belonging to very different groups. We encourage UNHCR to further translate its Age, Gender and Diversity Policy into concrete action in its operations and stand ready to support you in your effort.*

*Lastly, sexual exploitation and abuse are a grave breach of the trust that people in need place in humanitarian actors to protect and support them. Germany has a zero-tolerance-for-inaction approach to tackling sexual*

*exploitation, abuse and harassment and appreciates UNHCR's decisive engagement in this regard.*

*Thank you.*