

**GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES  
FINAL FORMAL CONSULTATIONS  
3-4 July 2018, Geneva  
STATEMENT BY TURKEY**

- I would like to begin by commending Assistant High Commissioner Mr. Türk and the UNHCR team involved in this lengthy process for their devotion, hard work as well as their close interaction with states and other actors in bringing about the final draft.
- We understand the challenge in incorporating all the points raised by each and every actor involved in this process.
- We preserve our optimism that international community is moving in the right direction in creating system of strengthened international solidarity and determining useful arrangements for burden and responsibility sharing.
- The Global Compact on Refugees has the potential to present a great window of opportunity and a refreshed spirit for the international community concerning refugee related matters that should not be lost.
- As rightfully defined in the final draft, the GCR intends to provide a basis for predictable and equitable burden and responsibility sharing among member states and relevant stakeholders.
- Throughout this process, Turkey has tried to be constructive as much as possible and to do its best in reflecting and linking her good intention with the practical components in the text.
- Although we are aware of the benefits of multi-stakeholder approach in terms of enhancing the contributions of different actors in line with widening and strengthening burden and responsibility understanding, we very much agree that national ownership and leadership must definitely be keys for the successful implementation of the GCR.
- In this vein, we have tried to incorporate wordings reflecting this fact in the relevant sections of the text to ensure that national policies and priorities of host states are respected by those actors providing support.
- Apart from this, we thank the UNHCR for reflecting many of our proposals in a wide range of areas into the text and look forward to further cooperation, collaboration and exchange in the future, notably in the implementation phase.

Mr. Chairperson,

- Having said that, if may I continue and express our total views in its entirety in this section, allow me to express in general terms our perception on where we stand now and highlight areas which are also important to be focused on during the implementation phase of the GCR.
- We have come a long way from the Zero Draft. We saw clearly the increasing interest of the international community through the active participation of many states starting from the thematic discussions in 2017.
- We were also pleased with and contributed to the events held throughout this process allowing interactive exchange with relevant stakeholders such as the World Bank, the NGOs and most importantly refugees themselves.
- We welcome the final changes made in the text with fortified language in the introduction and clearer definitions on the purpose and objectives of the Global Compact.
- The objectives of the GCR are indeed both interlinked and interdependent. While aiming for collective outcomes and progress towards the objectives of the GCR, it is of paramount importance that equal focus is given to each objective. We therefore welcome that this aspect is reflected in the text.
- On the Global Refugee Forums (para 17-19), we support the current frequency, which is set for every 4 years. We hope that the convening of high-level officials' meetings held every two years between Forums will address rightful expectations of some delegations, requesting for more frequency.
- Both in paragraphs on support platforms and solidarity conferences, we are pleased to witness more references to resettlement and pathways for admission.
- We welcome the retitling of Part 3A as “arrangements” rather than “mechanisms” with a view that such arrangements may also be a guide in establishing real mechanisms in the forthcoming period.
- In line with our view on the importance of national priorities, strategies and policies, we appreciate further clarification made on the intention of Part III.B, highlighting the non-prescriptive and non-exhaustive nature and the fact that the intention is not to create additional impositions or burdens on host countries.

- We deem positive the retitling of section 2.4, 2.5 and 2.10 on “Gender”, “Children” and “Coexistence” to a more extensive wording and positive connotation.

- We also welcome the revisions made under the follow up and review title. We support the development of indicators for each objective ahead of the first Global Refugee Forum and are ready to actively participate in this process both at technical and formal level.

Mr Chair, Assistant High Commissioner Türk, Distinguished Delegates,

- Maybe the GCR, in its current form, is not fully satisfactory in bringing a real change, we still believe that the norms for effective international solidarity and responsibility sharing in refugee issues are open to be improved and reinforced.

- Even so, we find it valuable that the international community has come to a common understanding that displacement issues need to be tackled at a global scope with a political participation and sincere will.

- Quoting an expression used by our (Iranian) colleague in one of the consultation meetings, we think it is important at this stage to preserve our “whole of globe” approach and to keep the notions of “international solidarity” and “burden and responsibility sharing” high on the international agenda.

- We preserve our hope that in the implementation phase, more states will start to assume moral, political and legal responsibility for the sake of humanity and human dignity and act in conformity with their commitments under the 1951 Convention as well as the New York Declaration.

- Echoing Assistant High Commissioner Volker Turk, the GCR is not the end but the beginning.

- Turkey, as the largest refugee hosting country, will continue to push for having the improved application of GCR in the forthcoming period especially for the well-being of refugees and generous host countries and closely follow-up its implementation phase.

- We trust the UNHCR in promoting further burden and responsibility sharing among states with a view to achieving equitable success in the four objectives of the Global Compact.

Thank you.