



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Investing in rural people



World Food
Programme

UNHCR's "Towards a global compact on refugees" - Formal consultation 1

This statement is on behalf of the Rome-based agencies, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP)

(delivered by Ms. Gordana Jerger, Director WFP Geneva)

13 February 2018

Madam Chairperson,

The Rome-based agencies wish to commend the High Commissioner for Refugees for the efforts to present the "zero draft" of the global compact on refugees.

FAO, IFAD and WFP strongly align themselves with the draft Programme of Action's overall approach to facilitate the application of a comprehensive response. In realizing the objectives of the Global Compact, we believe a more operational and action-orientated set of actions could set the foundation for a new way of working in refugee contexts, bridging gaps between humanitarian, development and peace efforts, while seeking to promote long-term solutions for both refugees and host communities. We welcome the clear focus on investments to build resilience and self-reliance, including through jobs and livelihood support.

Madam Chairperson,

Today, far too many refugees are food insecure. Not meeting their food needs, implies devastating health, social, economic consequences. FAO, IFAD and WFP would welcome the inclusion of food security and nutrition in the Programme of Action as a separate section, and incorporated in the Declaration. Our aim in proposing this addition is to ensure that concrete actionable commitments to tackle acute and chronic food insecurity and malnutrition are recognized as critical to responding to the needs of refugees and their host communities, including in protracted displacement contexts.

Madam Chairperson,

Food insecurity and hunger are major factors driving people away from their homes. With the unprecedented surge of forced displacement in recent years, the Rome-based agencies wish to underscore the urgent need to invest in food security and nutrition at or near people's place of origin, both in urban and rural areas, hence helping to prevent further displacement. Reducing forced migration will result in more cost-effective humanitarian interventions and yield greater socioeconomic benefits over the long term.

The adoption of this Compact stands as one of our most important collective priorities for 2018 and beyond. FAO, IFAD and WFP are committed to supporting Member States and UNHCR to ensure comprehensive refugee responses.

We look forward to an interesting and valuable debate.