

**Canadian Government intervention for the final round of the
Formal Consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees
Geneva, July 3 - 4**

Thank you, Chair.

We have reached a critical milestone on the path towards the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees. We would like to commend the immense efforts by UNHCR to lead such an inclusive, consultative process.

It is clear that UNHCR has listened to the many and varied views during each of the consultations, including our own, and has been able to arrive at a final draft that has successfully balanced the different perspectives. After such a comprehensive consultative and iterative process, in the spirit of solidarity of which Mr. Turk spoke, Canada can support this final version of the Global Compact on Refugees as is and we believe it merits consensus endorsement.

Many positive refinements have been made from the third to the final draft. It is clear that mobilization of political will, a broadened base of support, and more effective responsibility sharing arrangements will be critical to achieving the Compact's four objectives. The timing and frequency of the Global Refugee Forums and high-level officials' meetings provide a good compromise for maintaining momentum and political will while also guiding the Compact's implementation. The

meaningful participation of a broad range of refugee representatives in these events reflects numerous calls we have heard throughout these consultations. Finally, the addition of resettlement and complementary pathways at Support Platforms and Solidarity Conferences appropriately reflects their importance as elements of responsibility-sharing.

Canada welcomes the inclusion of the additional details that describe the approach envisioned for assessing our collective progress towards achievement of the Compact's objectives, which will be undertaken along-side assessing the impact of hosting, assisting, and protecting refugees and the development of a mechanism to track implementation of pledges. UNHCR's performance in leading us through the consultative process to develop the GCR gives us confidence that the Agency, working in close consultation with States and other stakeholders, can establish constructive approaches in these processes that reflect the apolitical nature of the Global Compact.

We recognize that arriving at a consensus requires compromise by all parties, including on the part of our delegation. Not all of our priority suggestions are reflected. For example, our wish to have seen specific references to sexual and reproductive health services as well as reference to inclusion of refugees in national education sector plans.

However, we also understand that Section 3B is not exhaustive and Canada will continue to be strong supporters of these approaches in our international assistance. We reiterate our support to this version of the draft of the Global Compact for Refugees.

Canada believes we all share in the responsibility to help ensure asylum for those who have fled their homes, provide them with opportunities to use their skills and capacities to build a better future, **and support the countries and communities that host them.** For too long, this responsibility has fallen far too heavily on only a small number of countries. We firmly believe that this Global Compact provides us all with an opportunity to change this reality. We must rise to the occasion.

In the words of Canada's Prime Minister Trudeau, shared just a few days ago on World Refugee Day, let's "*stand with refugees, displaced people, and all those who are forced to leave home behind. How we treat the most vulnerable among us defines who we are – as individuals, as countries, and as a global community.*"

I would also like to speak briefly about the process itself. In addition to being a country that deeply values and promotes respect for human rights and fundamental norms, Canada is also a country that firmly believes in multilateralism and in the importance of a rules-based

global order. We have the opportunity through this process to demonstrate that UN member states can come together to effectively and jointly address the challenges that face us and to meet our collective responsibilities.

Now is the time to recognize the value in what we have developed together and to lift our attention from the clauses and paragraphs of this document to the real job that lies ahead – to put more actions behind all of these words and arrangements. We are hopeful that all of the engagement and contributions that we have seen in this process to develop the Compact will be mirrored in the process we ultimately hope to see in its application.

Finally, as we come to a close in this long process of thematic discussions followed by formal consultations, we would like to take this opportunity in particular to thank Assistant High Commissioner, Volker Turk, Senior Advisor to him, Ellen Hansen, the Head of UNHCR's secretariat, Johan Cels, and their teams for their immense efforts on our behalf these past two years. Their steadfast dedication to this process, exemplified by their openness, collegiality, and professionalism, is commendable. We hope that they all do get some good rest and vacation over the summer to see this process through to a successful conclusion in the fall. Thank-you.