



World Health Organization

WHO Statement Formal Consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees
Geneva, 13 June 2018

AGENDA ITEM 3: Areas in need of support (Part III.B)

Thank you Assistant High Commissioner and Mr Co-chair,

At the outset, WHO welcomes this revised Draft 3 of the Global Compact on refugees and commends the efforts of UNHCRs secretariat to respond to the recommendations to date. We also value the continued efforts to achieve consensus in meeting the goals and objectives of the NY Declaration in this Compact.

WHO welcomes the opportunity here today to be heard and while we fully embrace the better balanced and streamlined version, we believe Health should be stronger asserted, like it was reflected in Draft 2 paragraph 55 and 56.

We are deeply concerned that the current version lowers expectations, by including language such as “depending on the context” or removing elements as “insuring a basic package of health services”.



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In the same breath, by not including “disaggregation of key health indicators by refugee status “ we seem to allow health systems inequality which is a missed opportunity to the achievement of Universal Health Care.

As widely stated yesterday, we would encourage the text to be lifted to another level, and ensure the Universal Health Care principles transpire. UHC enables everyone to access the services that address the most important causes of disease, and ensures that the quality is good enough to improve the health of the people, regardless of their status, who receive them. Achieving UHC is one of the targets set when adopting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to UNHCR and look forward to working in concert with all stakeholders and remain committed towards the adoption of the GCR in 2018.

Thank you very much.