

*Your Excellency Ambassador McCartney,*

*High Commissioner,*

*Esteemed fellow panelists,*

*Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,*

*Since the New York Declaration was adopted the number of refugees worldwide has grown by yet another million people; and about 60% of all refugees continue to be hosted by only ten countries, many of which are represented on this panel. This shows again how timely the adoption of the New York Declaration was and how urgently a more comprehensive approach towards large refugee situations and above all a more equitable sharing of responsibility – globally – is needed.*

*However, what is different to the situation one year ago is that in October 2016 the CRRF was merely a theoretical concept laid out in Annex 1 of the New York Declaration; while today 11 countries have embarked on the journey towards a more human rights-centered, effective and sustainable response to refugee situations that will benefit refugees and host communities alike; an approach that should become the new global standard for tackling large refugee situations and preventing protracted crises.*

*I would, therefore, like to first and foremost commend the CRRF countries for their commitment which stands out as exemplary practice and deserves our support and recognition. A welcoming and open stance of your governments and host communities towards refugees is crucial and must be strengthened in every possible way. Your experiences will deliver essential lessons-learnt for the Global Compact on Refugees.*

*In addition, I am glad to see that regional cooperation and responses like the Nairobi Declaration and the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework in Central America have been greatly fostered through the CRRF.*

*Germany was among the first countries to directly support UNHCR and its task team financially for CRRF roll-out – because we believe in CRRF's potential to be a game changer. We strongly support the CRRF as a very concrete example for the implementation of the so-called New Way of Working in refugee contexts. Apart from direct CRRF support,*

*Germany has been granting large-scale predictable multi-year humanitarian and development funding in large refugee hosting countries for years – to help you and your communities cope with large influxes of refugees and to ensure refugee protection and assistance.*

*We welcome the stronger cooperation between humanitarian, peace and development actors in large-scale refugee situations. Only if development actors together with host governments, private sector and civil society actors are ready to engage in durable solutions at an earlier stage, protracted crises can be solved or prevented. The Worldbank and UN development actors are crucial partners in this endeavor.*

*Ladies and gentlemen, fellow panelists,*

*Also in Germany, we have been able to cope with the large influx of refugees only by enabling and truly practicing not only a whole of government, but a whole of society approach.*

*Not only did the Chancellor herself show strong leadership in the refugee response, but a dedicated coordination structure was put in place to facilitate a whole of government approach: At the highest level of the federal government, a coordination body for the overall political coordination was established under the leadership of the Chancellery. A task force of the State Secretaries of various relevant Ministries was established, which aimed at ensuring a coherent approach. The German Länder and the local authorities are responsible for certain aspects of the refugee system, in particular in the areas of reception and integration.*

*Weekly coordination meetings were organized with representatives of the 16 Länder.*

*However, we could have never done without the tremendous efforts of individual citizens from host communities as well as institutionalized civil society actors from all walks of life!*

*The significant engagement of German civil society in our refugee response was critical, in particular in receiving the refugees at the local level and in the process of integrating them into the host society. In addition, the integration of refugees in the volunteer engagement – refugees helping refugees – was a crucial part of our whole of society approach. Providing support for civil society actors as well as for migrant organizations in their work with refugees*

*were therefore the main funding priorities of the Federal Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration.*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*I was also asked to formulate suggestions on ways to strengthen responsibility-sharing and predictable responses that could be included in the Programme of Action of the future Global Compact on Refugees.*

*In this regard, let me re-iterate our core suggestions for more equitable international responsibility sharing made during the first thematic discussion: We need to establish a mechanism to put the responsibility a country should be assuming for refugees – according to parameters that we will have to agree on – in relation to its actual contribution through hosting refugees and supporting other host countries in doing so. And, we need robust stand-by arrangements that ensure early and coordinated action when a potential refugee crisis is looming so as to prevent new protracted refugee crises from arising, in the first place. Early and coordinated action is also contingent on appropriate emergency funding mechanisms: we need a clear commitment to contribute equitably to a greater share of core funding for emergency funds and to better coordinate humanitarian and development activities in crises. The Programme of Action should address these issues. It should make a real difference by setting out concrete steps through which international solidarity becomes a reality at all stages of refugee situations: preventing them wherever possible in the first place; providing and supporting assistance and protection to refugees wherever necessary; pursuing durable solutions wherever feasible; and effectively supporting host countries and communities in taking on their responsibilities – through a comprehensive and coordinated application of all the instruments at our disposal.*

*As long as there are millions of refugees in this world, every country should contribute to global solidarity, not only by contributing financially, but also by hosting refugees; only more equitable responsibility and burden sharing arrangements will be sustainable and ensure asylum spaces and continued refugee protection!*