



Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva

UNHCR
69th Session of the Executive Committee

International protection

Madam Chair,

This year's international protection note was organized around the **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework** and the **key areas of the Global Compact on Refugees**.

We believe that the lessons learned from the CRRF can greatly contribute to the implementation of the Compact. We welcome, in this regard, the progress achieved so far in areas such as documentation, education and livelihoods. Such areas are crucial to the fulfillment of one of the four objectives of the Global Compact, which aspires to enhance refugee self-reliance.

The same improvement has not been achieved, nonetheless, with respect to the other three objectives, which aim at **easing pressures at host countries, expanding third countries solutions** and **promoting conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation**.

In light of the interlinked and interdependent nature of the four objectives, lack of progress may cast doubts on the potential of the Global Compact to effectively redress responsibility-sharing grievances.

We are concerned, in particular, by the increase in the proportion of refugees hosted by developing countries, which has risen from 84% in 2016 to 85% in 2017.

We are also seriously concerned by the reduction of 54% in resettlement places and the decrease of 40% in the number of emergency cases submitted by UNHCR in 2017.

Those figures are a testament to the need to enhance responsibility-sharing, through an approach that promotes the four objectives of the GCR in a balanced manner.

Last June, when the international protection note was discussed by the Standing Committee, we called attention to a worrying trend that we have been noticing for the past few years.

In 2016, the report presented by UNHCR had 13 paragraphs on issues such as **access to territory, detention and status determination**. In 2017, there were 6 paragraphs devoted to those same topics. In this year's note, there are only 2 paragraphs referring, **in very broad terms**, to those subjects.

Traditionally, the note on international protection represents an important moment to discuss challenges related to the observance of the principle of non-refoulement and of the right to seek and enjoy asylum.

Those challenges, which are at the very core of UNHCR's mandate, require our continued scrutiny.

While acknowledging the relevance of the topics addressed in the report before us, it is important not to lose sight of the need for more in-depth discussions on the impact of policies and practices involving **physical and administrative barriers** at borders, **offshore processing** and **forced transfers** to third countries, as well as of other measures that may adversely affect global asylum space or pose grave protection risks, including serious violations of the rights of the child.

We trust that actions towards the implementation of the GCR will not be carried out at the expense of crucial protection activities. We would suggest, in this regard, that a **separate reporting line** is established, in the future, to inform on progress on the GCR.

As recognized in the report, Brazil continues to maintain an open-border policy, despite the growing and increasingly challenging movements of persons towards our territory.

Brazil also continues to engage in responsibility-sharing efforts, especially through its visa programme for persons affected by the Syrian conflict, which

was renewed until 2019. Over 740 additional Syrians were recognized as refugees since September 2016, when the Leader's Summit on Refugees was held.

We thank UNHCR for recognizing initiatives that we have recently undertaken, including the establishment of a stateless determination procedure and of national protocols to ensure the best interests of the child. *with regard to the latter, Brazil welcomes the High Commissioner's decision to hold a High Level Event on statelessness in 2019.*

In the area of documentation, Brazil has recently created a temporary identity card for asylum seekers, which will replace the paper asylum claim receipt. The card will facilitate the issuing of other documents, such as work permits, and the access to public services.

We are also appreciative of references to measures implemented at the municipal level, taking into consideration the important role of cities in refugee protection and assistance.

Brazil will continue to support UNHCR and do its utmost to protect refugees and promote more equitable and predictable responsibility-sharing.

Thank you.