



**UN High Level Summit on large movements of refugees and migrants**  
**Reactions to the zero draft of the outcome document and Global Compact on Responsibility**  
**Sharing for Refugees**  
**6<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

The zero draft of the negotiated outcome document and the Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees include useful references and commitments to existing norms and standards regarding refugees, displaced people more broadly and migrants. To ensure that the UN Summit delivers on the unprecedented opportunity to share responsibility for refugees and sets the agenda for an inclusive and accountable process for a Global Compact on Migration, Oxfam calls on UN Member States to strengthen the documents by including concrete, time bound commitments and follow-up mechanisms to ensure implementation.

The following is an assessment of both documents. It provides general comments on the different

This note has been drafted by Oxfam International in reaction to the zero draft of the negotiated outcome document and the Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees. For any comments or questions, please contact Josephine Liebl at [jl Liebl@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:jl Liebl@oxfam.org.uk).



21. para 1 *In addition to resettling all refugees in need of resettlement or at least 10% of the refugee population, ~~Make~~ available or ~~enhance or facilitate~~ increase admission pathways for refugees through such means as expanded resettlement, medical evacuation and humanitarian admission programmes, and also opportunities for skilled migration, labour mobility, education, family reunion and other pathways by the end of 2017.*

22. UN Member States who have not yet established resettlement programmes ~~are encouraged to consider~~ *will* doing so at the earliest opportunity. Those who have already done so ~~will be encouraged to consider~~ significantly increase in the size of their programmes *by the end of 2017.*

23. Member States ~~will work toward~~ *commit to* the provision of resettlement places and other legal pathways on a scale which would enable at least 10 per cent of the global refugee population to benefit annually.

## **On the zero draft of the outcome document for 19 September 2016**

### **Overall Message and Framing**

The political declaration should stress the need for responsibility sharing for refugees while at the same time acknowledging the contributions of refugees and migrants.



for education (e.g. scholarships and student visas). We will increase substantially the opportunities for skills training and vocational education for refugees.

### **Affirm that all Member States must uphold the right to claim asylum both in policy and practice**

The political declaration should stress that the establishment of safe and legal routes must never be used as justification for undermining the right to claim asylum which is a cornerstone of international law. It should further **reinforce the need for all Member States to uphold the right to claim asylum both in policy and practice, including in agreements with third countries**. At present, we consider the declaration particularly weak on this point.

We recommend retaining the following language:

5.ix Reaffirming that all persons seeking to cross international borders are entitled to due process in the assessment of their legal status, entry and stay, we will consider alternatives to detention while these assessments are underway. Furthermore, we commit never to detain children for this purpose.

We recommend the following changes:

1.5 The benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration are considerable and are often underestimated. Our world is a better place for the contribution made by migrants; diversity enriches many societies. Displacement and irregular migration, on the other hand, present enormous challenges. *While it is often necessary for people to travel irregularly in search of protection, the rise of large-scale displacement has had a deeply unsettling effect, most deeply felt by displaced communities themselves.*

5.iv We are determined to counter ~~irregular, unsafe and unplanned migration, as well as the~~ exploitation, abuse and discrimination suffered by many migrants as a result of *irregular, unsafe and unplanned migration*. We are further resolved to promote regular, safe, and planned migration as an alternative, while recognizing that irregular migration is sometimes the only option for asylum-seekers and other forcibly displaced persons.

5.ix Reaffirming that all persons seeking to cross international borders are entitled to due process in the assessment of their legal status, entry and stay, we will *not detain refugees or migrants* ~~consider alternatives to detention~~ while these assessments are underway. *Particularly, Furthermore,* we commit to never to detain children for this purpose.

6.iv We reaffirm respect for the institution of asylum, including the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, as applicable under the Convention *and that irregular migration is a legitimate, and sometimes necessary, means of seeking asylum.*

6.vii We strongly discourage restrictive refugee admission policies, *policies meant to deter the irregular migration of asylum-seekers, or other arrangements which curtail rights*. We wish also to see administrative barriers eased with a view to accelerating refugee admission procedures to the extent possible. *We commit to avoid engaging in bilateral or multilateral agreements that may directly or indirectly pose a threat to the right to seek asylum.*

### **Improve humanitarian response and dignified futures for displaced people**

Generally, the zero draft includes strong language on opening opportunities for people in situations of protracted displacement to work, obtain healthcare, and access educational opportunities. These same people should be viewed as development constituencies and included in national development plans.

The zero draft **does not adequately convey the urgent challenge to reform the humanitarian system that is responsible for helping meet the needs and uphold the rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants**. To that end, it is critical to commit to better identify the needs of women and girls. Additionally, the declaration **should endorse the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit, in particular the Grand Bargain and the commitment to channel at least 25 percent of all humanitarian funding to local actors as directly as possible by 2020. Member States should deliver on their individual commitments made at the Summit to improve responses to displacement.**

We suggest the following changes:



## **Increasing safety and human rights for all people on the move**

The declaration must ensure **that all people on the move are safe and able to enjoy their human rights**. The zero draft includes useful reference and commitment to existing norms and standards regarding refugees, displaced people more broadly and migrants.

who may need protection and assistance. These *shc*