

DRAFT OF OUTCOME DOCUMENT FOR 19 SEPTEMBER 2016 HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TO ADDRESS LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2016 to address the question of large movements of refugees and migrants, have adopted the following Declaration.

1. Defining the challenge

- 1.1 Since earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of new opportunities and horizons. Others move to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism or poverty. Still others do so in response to natural disasters, climate change or other environmental factors. Many move, indeed, for a combination of these reasons
- 1.2 We have considered today how best the international community should respond to the growing global phenomenon of large movements of refugees and migrants, and recognize the need to foster international relations of win-win cooperation and a community of a shared future for human kind, and to strengthen international cooperation.
- 1.3 Refugees and migrants are distinct categories of persons whose treatment is governed by separate legal frameworks. They also face many common challenges, including in the context of large movements. The definition of "large movements" depends primarily on the geographical context, on a receiving State's capacity to respond and on the impact of a movement which is sudden or prolonged; it would not, for example, cover regular flows of migrants from one country to another. "Large movements" may involve mixed flows of people, whether refugees or migrants, who move for different reasons but who use similar routes and irregular channels.
- 1.4 We are witnessing in today's world an unprecedented level of human mobility. More people than ever before live in a country other than the one where they were born. Migrants are present in all countries in the world. In 2015 their number surpassed 244 million, growing at a rate faster than the world's population. There are roughly 65 million displaced persons, including 25 million refugees and asylum seekers and ~~40 million internally displaced persons.~~
- 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 to development. In adopting a year ago the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we recognized clearly the role of migrants as agents of change and as enablers for development in countries of origin, transit and destination.
- 1.6 Large movements of refugees and migrants present a range of complex challenges and are at the heart of our deliberations today. Such movements of refugees and migrants have political, economic, social, developmental, humanitarian and human rights ramifications which cross all borders. These are global phenomena which call for global approaches and global solutions. No one State can manage such movements on its own. Neighbouring or transit countries also carry unfair burdens. A relatively small number of countries, usually developing countries who are in the immediate vicinity of a conflict zone, have borne the brunt for too long. Their capacities have been stretched to a breaking point, threatening their own social and economic cohesion as well as their development and security. In addition, protracted refugee crises are now commonplace, with long-term repercussions for those involved and also for their host countries and communities. These burdens must be shared with such countries on an equitable basis.
- 1.7 We declare our profound solidarity with, and support for, the millions of people in different parts of the world who, for reasons beyond their control, are forced to uproot themselves and their families from their homes and to seek refuge and safety elsewhere.

- 1.8 Refugees and migrants in large movements often face a desperate ordeal. Many take great risks to reach safety, embarking on perilous journeys – frequently by sea – which they may not survive. Many fall prey to criminal groups. Even if they reach their destination, they face an uncertain reception and a precarious future.
- 1.9 The challenge to world leaders is moral and humanitarian. We are determined, first and foremost, to save lives. We will combat with all the means at our disposal the abuses and exploitation suffered by countless refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations. We acknowledge a shared global responsibility to manage

justice provisions to ensure conformity with our obligations under international law standards on migrant smuggling, human trafficking, maritime safety and border management. We will establish or upgrade, as appropriate, national and regional anti-human trafficking policies. We note initiatives such as the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants. Reaffirming the importance of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two relevant Protocols thereto, we encourage ratification of, accession to and implementation of relevant international instruments on preventing and combatting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

- 2.12 We will ensure, on the basis of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, that adequate, sustainable and predictable financing is made available to enable countries to respond to the immediate humanitarian and developmental needs of the large numbers of refugees and migrants arriving in their territories.
- 2.13 We will take steps to combat discrimination in our societies against refugees and migrants and to strengthen their inclusion in all spheres of life. National policies will be developed to this end in conjunction with civil

- 3.5 We will ensure that migration and reintegration after return are fully integrated ~~mainstreamed~~ in global, regional and national sustainable development plans and humanitarian policies and programmes.
- 3.6 We take note of ~~welcome~~ the work done by the Global Migration Group to develop principles and practical guidance on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations within large and/or mixed movements.
- 3.7 Reaffirming the importance of a strong normative framework to support migrants, we call upon States that have not done so to consider ratifying, or acceding to, the 1990 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. We call also on States that have not done so to consider acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions, as appropriate. We note, in addition, that migrants enjoy rights and protection under various branches of international law.
- 3.8 We wish to strengthen global governance for migration. We therefore warmly support and welcome the [agreement] to bring the International Organization for Migration, an organization with a global leading role in the field of migration, into a closer legal and working relationship with the United Nations. We look forward to the implementation of this [agreement] which will assist migrants, help Member States to address

- 3.15 We strongly encourage cooperation between, on the one hand, countries of origin or nationality and, on the other, countries of destination and other relevant countries in ensuring that migrants who do not meet the criteria for staying in the latter can return to their country of origin or nationality in a safe, orderly and dignified manner. Any type of return, whether voluntary or otherwise, must be consistent with international human rights law standards. It must also respect the rules of international law and must in addition be in keeping with the best interests of children and with due process. We support enhanced reception and reintegration assistance for those who are returned.
- 3.16 We commit to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a Global Compact for Safe, Regular, ~~and~~ Orderly and responsible Migration. This Global Compact will set out a range of principles and understandings among UN Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions. It will make an important contribution to global governance on this set of issues, will deal with the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration and will be rooted in

recognize also that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees.

4.3 We reaffirm respect for the institution of asylum and for the right to seek asylum. We reaffirm also respect for the fundamental principle of non-refoulement according to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

4.4 We underline the centrality of ~~responsibility-sharing and~~ burden-sharing within international refugee protection. Echoed in the emphasis on international cooperation in the preamble to the 1951 Convention, this has been reaffirmed in successive General Assembly resolutions. We commit to international cooperation ~~an equitable sharing of responsibility~~ for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, while taking account of the differing capacities and resources among Member States for shouldering the burdens involved. We will casys 3(g)4(w4(ith)-2(m)-4asis)9(equ)5(itab)-3(s)[aring canbe3(er d-3(h)3(n)5(te))4(r)12(m[(ied)4(

- 4.12 We encourage Member States who have not yet established resettlement programmes to consider doing so at the earliest opportunity; those who have already done so are encouraged to consider increases in the size of their programmes. We are setting as a target the provision of resettlement places and other legal pathways for admission on a scale which would enable the annual resettlement needs identified by UNHCR, or at least 10% of the total refugee population, to be met.
- 4.13 We will pursue this target through measures such as the expansion of existing humanitarian admission programmes; possible temporary evacuation programmes (including evacuation for medical reasons); flexible arrangements to assist family reunification; private sponsorship for individual refugees; and opportunities for refugees with particular skill sets, for labour mobility (including through private-sector involvement) and for education (e.g. scholarships and student visas). We will increase substantially the opportunities for skills training and vocational education for refugees, based on national conditions, laws and policies.
- 4.14 We commit to providing humanitarian assistance to refugees so as to ensure essential support in key life-saving sectors, e.g. food, water and sanitation, shelter, based on national conditions, laws and policies.
- 4.15 We commit to providing quality primary and secondary education for all refugee children and to do so within a few months of the initial displacement, based on national conditions, laws and policies. We recognize that access to education gives fundamental protection to children and youth in displacement contexts, particularly in situations of conflict and crisis.
- 4.16 We highlight also the role of tertiary education; we recognize that, in crisis situations, higher education protects a critical group of young men and women, helps to build resilience, fosters inclusion and non-discrimination and provides a foundation for the rebuilding of war-torn societies.
- 4.17 We will ensure that the health needs of refugee communities are met, based on national conditions, laws and policies. We will also develop, as appropriate/where possible, national strategies for the protection of refugees within the framework of national social safety nets, based on national conditions, laws and policies. Welcoming the positive steps taken by individual Member States, we encourage host governments, as appropriate/where possible, to open their labour markets to refugees. We will work to strengthen host communities' self-reliance and resilience, assisting them, for example, with employment creation and income generation schemes.
- 4.18 We will develop improved data collection systems to identify and monitor the needs of refugees and host communities.
- 4.19 To meet the challenge posed by large movements of refugees, close coordination will be required between a range of humanitarian and development actors. Host Governments and communities will require support from relevant UN agencies, local authorities, international financial institutions, regional development banks, bilateral donors, the private sector and civil society. We strongly encourage joined-up responses involving all such players which would strengthen the nexus between the humanitarian and development dimensions, facilitate cooperation across institutional mandates and, by helping to build self-reliance and resilience, lay a basis for sustainable solutions. In addition to meeting direct humanitarian and development needs, support will be needed to assist with environmental and infrastructural rehabilitation in areas affected by large movements of refugees.
- 4.20 We note with concern a significant gap between the needs of refugees and the available resources. We encourage support from a broader range of donors, and with flexible multi-year funding, in order to close this gap. UN agencies such as UNHCR and UNRWA must have sufficient funding to be able to carry out their

financing for affected communities. It is clear, furthermore, that private sector investment in support of refugee communities and host countries will be of critical importance over the coming years. Civil society will also be a key partner in every region of the world in responding to the needs of refugees.

- 4.21 ~~Welcoming~~ Noting the high-level meeting on refugees which the United States will host on 20 September 2016, we look forward to the pledges of support which individual Member States are expected to make there.
- 4.22 We have agreed a Global Compact on international cooperation ~~Responsibility-Sharing~~ for Refugees, the text of which is attached to this Declaration. [change the whole sentence according to the co-facilitator's proposal on the two global compact]

5 Follow-up and review of our commitments

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