

Lebanon – on Zero drafts of outcome document and Global Compact for 19 September 2016 high-level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants:

Based on the priority issues Lebanon highlighted during the informals and the first reading of the zero draft, Lebanon wishes to reiterate some issues and accordingly to propose a number of drafting amendments to both the draft outcome document and the global compact.

1. On the normative framework:

As previously mentioned, a number of countries, including Lebanon, are not part to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. Yet, we acknowledge the need to stress the importance of abiding by the general principles and rules of Customary International Law applicable to large movement of refugees, such as those reflected in said Convention and other regional refugee instruments.

Therefore, the section “Normative framework” in the Draft Global Compact, should be in line with para iii under “6. Commitments for refugees” in the draft outcome document, itself based on agreed language from GA Resolution 70/135 and relevant preceding ones.

Lebanon proposes to proceed with paragraphs in the following order: 5 – 3 then 1 and 2 amended as described above then 4.

2. On the Return of refugees:

- The return of refugees to their country of origin should be highlighted as a **priority goal** with the necessity to work on bringing about the conditions that would help them return in **safety and dignity**.
- Since the term “voluntary” return of refugees could be confusing especially vis-à-vis host countries, it is advisable for the sake of consensus to rather stress the full respect of the principle of non-refoulement and non-coercive return. Also once the conditions for the safe and dignified return of refugees are met the reasons for their displacement become void and a reconsideration of the legality of their presence in hosting countries becomes possible too.
- Therefore Lebanon proposes
 - o to delete the word “voluntary” in the “Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees”, as it appears in the title of the section “Solutions”, as well as in paragraph 19 sub-paragraph 4 .

- o to add the following language:

“We reaffirm that the priority goal should remain to bring about the conditions that would help the return in safety and dignity of refugees to their countries of origin. In this regard, we emphasize the need to achieve necessary political solutions and to assist in reconstruction efforts.”

- 1- In the Draft Outcome, under “Commitments for Refugees”, as a pre-v paragraph. (to strengthen the language of paragraph x as it stands).
- 2- In the Draft Global Compact as a general principle under “Solutions” before the sub-sections on “~~Voluntary~~ Repatriation”, “Interim solutions” ... etc...

3. On civil registration and documentation:

In paragraph ix under “Commitments for Refugees” Lebanon proposes to replace “legislation” by “**measures**”, or preferably to replace paragraph ix by the following language from OP24 of Ecosoc HAS 2016 resolution and GA Resolution 70/134:

ix.alt Recognizes the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, and notes the many and diverse challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status.

4. On providing services: (education, health, jobs)

Developmental assistance to host communities of large number of refugees should be highlighted as a necessary precondition to any commitment regarding fundamental services such as education, health or jobs.

Whereas this is relatively reflected in the draft global compact, Lebanon proposes to review relevant paragraphs in the draft outcome document, especially paragraphs xvi to xix in section 6 “commitments to refugees”.

In a similar context, in the draft outcome document, section 5 “Commitments for migrants and refugees jointly” paragraph xii, Lebanon proposes to delete “and refugees” and if need be move the paragraph to section 4 on “Commitments for migrants”.

5. On resettlement in third countries:

In the draft outcome document section 6 “Commitments for refugees” paragraph xiii, and in order to clarify the idea behind this paragraph which is addressed to countries other than host countries, Lebanon proposes to replace “for admission to our countries” by for “relocation / resettlement in third countries”.