

Excellencies, thank you for this opportunity to share my organization's perspectives with you today.

The mission of the Women's Refugee Commission is to improve the lives and protect the rights of women, children, and youth displaced by conflict and crises.

We have seven central priorities for the summit that I will very briefly mention, some of which are well reflected in the most recent draft of the outcome document, while other require increased consideration for future drafts.

First, we urge Member States to advance effective asylum and legal protection mechanisms to ensure the protection of refugee and migrant women, children, and youth. We must end arbitrary detention for asylum seekers, which should be reflected in paragraph 2.10.

Second, we encourage reform of gender discriminatory nationality laws to ensure women and men have equal rights to confer nationality on their children and spouses. This is a leading cause of statelessness and is recognized by the Security Council as exacerbating displaced women and children's vulnerability.

Third, we call for integrating gender-specific considerations throughout the outcome document and the Global Compact more holistically than the current draft allows. The comments that UN Women provided on the zero draft are a helpful model of how this can be accomplished.

Fourth, in paragraph 4.14, the commitment to providing humanitarian assistance in key lifesaving sectors fails to mention the most lifesaving service for women, which is comprehensive reproductive health services. This is essential and must be available in refugee response situations to combat harmful consequences of sexual exploitation, abuse, complications during pregnancy, and childbirth.

Fifth, WRC is pleased to see Member States make an explicit commitment to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, while in transit and upon reaching their destinations. Rightfully, the current draft includes women's participation in the development of their own solutions as a goal in 2.8.

Sixth, we support the expansion of legal and safe employment opportunities, as in paragraph 4.17, but specifically call for opportunities that leverage the capacity of refugee women and youth in this.

Last, States should affirm the importance of working with and for refugee youth, who currently are not mentioned in the current draft, which we believe misses opportunities to capitalize on their significant potential, as highlighted in the recent Global Refugee Youth Consultations.

In closing, I want to highlight the line in paragraph 4.20 that states 'civil society will be a key partner in responding to refugee needs'. It is clear from the recent meetings here, as well as the view from the field, that civil society already is a key partner in refugee response with significant expertise to inform the mobilization for the upcoming Summit, as well as ongoing and future refugee response efforts. Civil society, and particularly, those local, grassroots organizations who are the first responders in a crisis, merit this consideration and funding as such.

Thank you.

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