

	Comments from Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela.
4. <u>Commitments for refugees</u>	
4.1 Recognizing that armed conflict, other situations of violence, instability and human rights violations are among the factors which give rise to large refugee movements, we will work to prevent or resolve conflict by peaceful means. We will tackle the root causes of conflict and work in every way possible for the achievement of the political solutions required. Early response to human rights violations and abuses is critical and we note in this respect the Secretary General’s “Human Rights Up Front” initiative. We will also promote good governance, the rule of law and sustainable development at the international, regional, national and levels. Recognizing that displacement could be reduced if international humanitarian law were respected by all parties to armed conflict, we renew our commitment to uphold humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law. We confirm also our respect for the norms which safeguard civilians in conflict.	The group has not common position.
4.2 We reaffirm the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime. We recognize the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody. We note with satisfaction that 148 States are now parties to one or both instruments. We encourage States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them. We recognize also that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees.	Delete “with satisfaction”
4.3 We reaffirm that international refugee law, (including regional refugee instruments), international human rights law and international humanitarian law provide the legal framework to strengthen the protection of refugees. We will ensure, in this context, protection for all who need it.	OK. Strongly agree with this addition.
4.4 We reaffirm respect for the institution of asylum and the right to seek asylum. We reaffirm also respect for, and adherence to, the fundamental principle of non-refoulement.	

<p>4.5 We underline the centrality the principles of solidarity, 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 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.</p>	<p><u>On behalf of Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Panama, Peru:</u></p> <p>Suggest addition of solidarity</p> <p>Replace centrality with principles</p> <p>Last part of last sentence is repetitive. We suggest deletion.</p>
<p>4.6 We believe that a comprehensive response should be developed, initiated and coordinated by member states and UNHCR , and involving other relevant UN entities, for all situations involving large movements of refugees. This should involve a multi-stakeholder approach spanning national and local authorities, international organizations, international financial institutions, civil society partners (including faith-based organisations, diaspora organizations and academia), the private sector, the media and refugees themselves. A comprehensive framework of this kind is annexed to this Declaration.</p>	<p>It is of paramount importance to add Member States in the process elaboration of the comprehensive response (not only UNHCR).</p>
<p>4.7 We will ensure that refugee admission policies or arrangements are in line with our obligations under international law. We wish also to see administrative barriers eased with a view to accelerating refugee admission procedures to the extent possible; we will also ensure access for children to child-friendly procedures. At the same time, we recognize that refugees’ ability to lodge asylum claims in any country of their choice may be regulated under certain circumstances, subject to their protection being assured elsewhere.</p>	<p>We suggest deletion of the last sentence as it is not clear its meaning, the reference to “certain circumstances” is too vague and it seems it goes against the 1951 Convention.</p>
<p>4.8 We encourage the adoption of measures which would facilitate access to civil registration and or documentation for refugees and stateless persons.</p>	<p>Replace “and” with “or”</p> <p>Add “and stateless persons”</p>
<p>4.9 We recognize that statelessness can be a root cause of forced displacement; in turn, forced displacement can lead to statelessness. We take note of UNHCR’s campaign to end statelessness within a decade and we encourage States to consider actions they could take to reduce the incidence of statelessness. We encourage those States who have not yet acceded to the two conventions for the prevention and reduction of statelessness to consider doing so. We further call upon all States to adopt and implement nationality legislation consistent with their obligations under international law, including with respect to elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls in nationality-related matters.</p>	<p>The group has not common position.</p>

<p>4.10 We recognise that refugee camps should be the exception and, to the extent possible, a temporary measure in response to an emergency. We note that 60% of refugees worldwide are in urban settings and only a minority are in camps; we will ensure that the delivery of assistance to refugees and host communities is adapted to the relevant context. We underline the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements. We will work to strengthen security in refugee camps and surrounding local communities.</p>	<p>Delete the second sentence as it is too vague.</p>
<p>4.11 Welcoming the extraordinarily generous contribution made to date by countries which host large refugee populations, and the global public good which this constitutes, we will work to increase the support for these countries and we call for pledges made at recent relevant conferences to be disbursed promptly. We commit to sharing in an equitable manner the enormous burden these countries have been carrying.</p>	<p>The “global public good” is not clear what it means. Suggest deletion.</p> <p>We suggest deletion of the last sentence.</p>
<p>4.12 We commit to working towards solutions from the outset of a refugee situation. We will actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, including voluntary return, where possible, local integration and resettlement. with a focus on sustainable and timely return in safety and dignity. Such return encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. We encourage States and other relevant actors to provide support through, inter alia, the allocation of funds.</p>	<p>Focus “on return” is not acceptable as there are other options.</p> <p>We suggest adding local integration and resettlement.</p>
<p>4.13 We will expand the number and range of legal pathways available for refugees to be admitted to, or to be relocated or resettled in, third countries. In addition to easing the plight of refugees, this has benefits for countries who host large refugee populations and for third countries who receive refugees.</p>	<p>Delete “relocated” as it is not clear its meaning.</p> <p>Delete “third countries” as it is too limiting.</p>
<p>4.14 We urge 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 to be met.</p>	

<p>4.15 We will develop 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 all skill levels sets, for labour mobility (including through private-sector partnerships) and for education (e.g. scholarships and student visas).</p>	<p>Replace “particular” with “all skill levels”</p>
<p>4.16 We will provide humanitarian assistance to refugees so as to ensure essential support in key life-saving sectors, e.g. health care, shelter, food, water and sanitation. We will support host countries and communities in this regard.</p>	<p><u>On behalf of Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Panama, Peru, Venezuela:</u></p> <p>Add reference to “health care” is essential.</p>
<p>4.17 We commit to providing safe quality primary and secondary education for all refugee children and to do so within a few months of the initial displacement. We will provide host countries with the support they need in this regard. Access to education gives fundamental protection to children and youth in displacement contexts, particularly in situations of conflict and crisis.</p>	<p>We strongly support this language as it is essential for the children safety and protection.</p>
<p>4.18 We will support early childhood education for refugee children. We will also promote also the role of tertiary education, skills training and vocational education. In crisis situations, higher education protects a critical group of young men and women, helps to build self-reliance, fosters inclusion and non-discrimination and provides a foundation for the rebuilding of war-torn post-conflict societies.</p>	<p>replace “war-torn” with “post-conflict”</p>
<p>4.19 We will ensure that the basic health needs of refugee communities are met, and that women and girls have access to essential healthcare services. We will also develop national strategies for the protection of refugees within the framework of national social safety nets.</p>	<p>We strongly support this language as proposed.</p>
<p>4.20 Welcoming the positive steps taken by individual Member States, we encourage host governments, where possible, to open their labour markets to refugees. We will work to strengthen host communities’ resilience, assisting them, for example, with employment creation and income generation schemes. In this regard, we recognize the potential of young people and will work to create conditions for growth, employment and education which allow them to be the drivers of development.</p>	<p>We strongly support deletion of “where possible” as access to labor market is essential for reintegration of refugees in host societies.</p>

<p>4.21 To meet the challenge posed by large movements of refugees, close coordination will be required between a range of humanitarian and development actors as well as with peacebuilding and human rights actors. Host Governments and communities may need 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 transition from humanitarian assistance to longer-term sustainable development, 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, we will work to support environmental, social and infrastructural rehabilitation in areas affected by large movements of refugees.</p>	<p>Add “social” in the last sentence.</p>
<p>4.22 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 we will take measures to make humanitarian financing more flexible and predictable, with 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 mandates effectively and in a predictable manner. We welcome the increasing engagement of the World Bank and multilateral development banks and improvements in access to concessional development 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 is also a key partner in every region of the world in responding to the needs of refugees.</p>	
<p>4.23 Noting the high-level meeting on refugees which the United States, Jordan, Ethiopia, Sweden, Canada, Germany and the Secretary General will host on 20 September 2016, we look forward to the pledges of support which individual Member States are expected to make there.</p>	<p>The group has not common position.</p>
<p>5 <u>Follow-up and review of our commitments</u></p>	

<p>5.1 We agree that arrangements are needed to ensure systematic follow-up and review of the range of commitments we are making today. These arrangements might be envisaged, in particular, in the context of reviews of progress on implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Accordingly, we request the Secretary General to ensure, with input from the Special Representative of the Secretary General on International Migration, UNHCR, IOM, other agencies and others, that the progress made by Member States and the UN in implementing the commitments made at today's High Level Meeting will be the subject of periodic assessments provided to the High Level Political Forum, and accordingly to Member States, as part of the Secretary General's reporting on review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p>	<p>We suggest deleting the reference to HLPF and process of follow-up and review of the Agenda 2030.</p>
<p>5.2 In addition, a role in reviewing relevant aspects should be envisaged for the periodic High Level Dialogues on International Migration and Development and for the annual report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to the General Assembly.</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>5.3 — In recognition of the need for significant financial and programme support to host countries and communities affected by large movements of refugees and migrants, we request the Secretary General to recommend to the General Assembly during its 71st session ways of achieving greater efficiency, operational effectiveness and system-wide coherence, as well as ways of strengthening the engagement of the United Nations with International Financial Institutions and the private sector, with a view to full implementation of the commitments outlined in this Declaration.</p>	<p>We suggest deletion of the whole paragraph as it is not clear and goes further from the mandate of the meeting.</p>