

**Statement delivered by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to
the United Nations during informal consultations on the zero draft
declaration of the high-level plenary meeting to address large movements of
refugees and migrants
(7 July 2016)**

Madame Ambassador,

We would like to thank both you and Ambassador Donoghue for your hard work on both the draft outcome document as well as the Global Compact for Responsibility Sharing on Refugees. We believe that both provide a good basis for negotiations moving forward.

Building on some of the comments made during our last session, we will highlight a few specific concerns and concepts that we believe could be strengthened, particularly within the draft outcome document. Some of these concepts will also be relevant for the global compact on responsibility for refugees, but we are still reviewing the draft and awaiting comments from Rome.

First, we would like to see language around developing special protections for unaccompanied children and children separated from their families. In fact, throughout the draft we speak to separated children, but we think it is important to mention who they are separated from, namely their family. In addition, we would like to see stronger language around ensuring not only that children are never detained, but also on providing alternatives to detention and preventing unnecessary detention more generally.

Second, we would also like to strengthen language related to human trafficking, specifically about increased screening and opportunities for identifying migrants that are at greater risk of being trafficked. We would also welcome specific references to the goals and targets within the 2030 agenda that address human trafficking and the exploitation of migrants.

Third, we would also like to strengthen language related to the importance of religious leaders and religious based organizations who, like civil society, are

actively engaged in caring and working toward the integration of migrants and refugees in host communities.

Fourth, like other we would also ask for the mention of “durable solutions” for refugees, specifically return, resettlement and integration as highlighted by the UNHCR .

Fifth, we agree with others that not all migrants are vulnerable, and would prefer the use of “migrants in vulnerable situations” and/or “migrants that are vulnerable”. This language should focus on the most vulnerable, specifically women, girls, the elderly, children and the disabled.

Lastly, like other delegations we believe that it is essential for this draft to address the situation of the internally displaced, recognizing that the causes and drivers of internal displacement are also the same as those for refugees and migrants that are forcibly displaced. We call for language addressing their situation, not doing so would miss a crucial opportunity to make sure that no one is left behind in the current crisis.

We also reiterate our call to address the root causes and drivers of the current crisis, including poverty, economic development, access to justice, good governance, and conflict. We emphasize that before migrants and refugee have the right to seek out a better life for themselves and their families, they have a prior right to remain in their country of origin and to live in conditions of peace, security and prosperity.

I thank you.