

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

NB: Comments are specific to Section 1 of the draft outcome document

Thank you, Madame co-facilitator. I would like to thank both for your leadership during this process, and particularly for your sincere care and concern in addressing the realities of the current crisis we are all facing with concrete and meaningful actions while at the same time building authentic consensus.

1. First, we would welcome stronger references to children, disabled and elderly and particularly to access to health care and education, in this section, we do not have a specific proposal in this respect but would suggest similar language in 1.9 where we address policy support and practical assistance.

2. Second, would like to see a similar reference as made by AG to 1.8 on traffickers and smugglers, and at the bottom of 1.13 would like to add “the elimination of” human trafficking and the exploitation of children” at the end, so as to better reflect the language of the targets in the 2030 agenda we are referring to.

3. Third, we would also express our concern at the deletion of various references to forced displacement in this section and would ask that this language be added once more. In addition, we would welcome language focused more specifically on root causes.

4. Fourth, we would also call for speaking specifically to IDPs in paragraphs 1.6 and 1.20 and would agree with the US delegation, that for consistencies sake we should agree to a listing that includes IDPs in addition to refugees and migrants throughout the section, and more generally in the text. On this note, we would also welcome language, like that made in the US proposal, calling for the re-establishment of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons as has been recommended by the current Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs as well as for regional frameworks protecting IDPs internationally.

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

NB: *Comments are specific to Section 2 of the draft outcome document*

Mister/Madame co-facilitator,

We have only a few specific suggestions and general comments.

1. First, in para 2.2, in the first line, we would first like to add “all” in front of “people” and then would call for the deletion of “LGBTI persons” from the listing. We believe all migrants in vulnerable situations have the same rights and deserve the same protections, regardless of migratory status. However, we do not believe this is the forum to discuss concepts and terms that are not only controversial but that lack international consensus and definition.
2. Second, in para 2.4, after the last sentence we would like to add the following new sentence, “we will screen and identify those who are trafficked or at risk of human trafficking.”
3. Third, in para 2.6 we would add in line 2, after “search”, the word “protection” since both refugees and migrants deserve protection in route to their destination and not only after the fact.
4. Fourth, in para 2.7, we would add after the last sentence, the following, “we will also develop special protections for all children, women and girls in this regard.”
5. Fifth, in para 2.8, we would like to replace the beginning of lines 3 and 4 with “we will eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination to which migrant and refugee women and girls are subject”.

6. Sixth, in para 2.10, after “will” in line 2, we would like to add “prevent unnecessary immigration detention while considering] and to delete “consider”. Furthermore, we would not accept the deletion of the last sentence as proposed by Norway or Canada but would be open to compromise language concerning the documentation and protection of unaccompanied children. Migrant and refugee children should never be detained under any circumstances.
7. In addition, in para 2.11 in line 2, after “measures” we would delete “to” and add “such as strengthened screening protocols and increased training for border patrols designed to better” before “identify”. In addition we would ask for the deletion of “migrant” before and after the mentions of smuggling in this paragraph since we believe that both refugees and migrants should not be subject to smuggling.
8. Lastly, we call for the addition, in para 2.13 of “faith based organizations” since they actively participate in ensuring the well-being of migrants, refugees and IDPs, and not only one of these groups.

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

NB: Comments are specific to Section 3 of the draft outcome document

Thank you, Mr. co-facilitator and good morning,

We have both a number of specific additions as well as general comments regarding suggestions that have made by other delegations.

1. First, in para 3.3 we would like to emphasize that people have the right to enjoy the fundamental right to peace and security in their homelands. Many have called this the right not to migrate or to remain.

With this in mind, we would call to replace the following sentence in lines two and three, “we will respect and safeguard, in the first instance, the right of people to remain in safety in their homes” with “we will employ, in the first instance, every means to ensure that individuals and communities can remain in their homelands and enjoy the fundamental right to live in peace and security”.

This is language that has been used by Holy Father himself, though I will note that we are flexible. We also suggest the possibility of moving this language to section 2, where we address commitments for both refugees, migrants and IDPs. The point here is that the right to live in peace and security in one's homeland is a right *that applies to all*, and not only refugees.

2. Second, and also regarding para 3.3 and 3.4, we would offer our preliminary support the language suggested by Argentina emphasizing that migration should be a choice, rather than a necessity and that speaks to migration as a right.
3. Third, in paragraph 3.14 we would like to delete “circular migration”. Circular migration is a rather vague, and sometimes contested concept. Current circular migration programmes often have restrictions on family reunification, and often have limited or no access to social protection, social security, portability of

pensions, for example. If it is to remain, we should specify that these programs in respect for the “full rights” of migrants. In addition, we would also add after the first sentence in the paragraph, the sentence, “We will commit to the creation of regularization programs.” Evidence has proven that such regularization is one of the most effective tools in reducing vulnerability and related obstacles to safety, dignity, integration and social cohesion.

In this same paragraph we would also call for replacing the word “reduction” in line 4, with “elimination”.

4. Fourth, like other we would support language that ensures access to both health and quality education for children and believe that the suggestions made by the African group are a very good place to start.
5. Lastly, we remain concerned with a number of suggestions made related to unaccompanied children and also minors. We must be sure that their best interests are always our primary concern and that they are not returned to their countries of origin against their will. We see a danger here, specifically that delegations see these children as a burden rather than as victims that are in need not only of our protection but also our care and support. It is too easy for countries of reception to see these children as “someone else’s” problem, and we would ask, even if somewhat undiplomatically, to avoid such language at all cost. We believe an important balance must be struck here. We believe that much of the language suggested by the EU is helpful in this regard.

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(21 July 2016)

NB: Comments are specific to Section 4 of the draft outcome document

Thank you, Mr. co-facilitator and good morning,

We have both a large number of specific additions as well as one important comments regarding a specific suggestion made by another delegation.

***NB: For line by line comments to this section, please refer to the document “Holy See written proposals - all sections (20 and 21 July 2016)” which was also sent via e-mail by our delegation.**

Mr. co-facilitator,

Regarding the suggestion made by the EU in 4.17 related to health care, we would prefer a broader reference to health, and would not support the addition of preventing “unwanted pregnancy”. We would rather focus on the provision of maternal health and prenatal health care to ensure safe pregnancies. We would point out that the language suggested by the EU new language, and not consensual. We would also point out that it could be misinterpreted to include abortion, especially in a humanitarian setting, and should not be included in this text. That said, we welcome and language ensuring broad access to health-care, especially in the case of sexual violence.

Perhaps also the suggestion made by the UAE would also be helpful in crafting language based on consensus.

I thank you.