

**DRAFT OF OUTCOME DOCUMENT FOR 19 SEPTEMBER 2016 HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TO ADDRESS LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**

We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2016 to address the question of large movements of refugees and migrants, have adopted the following Political Declaration.

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Since earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of new economic opportunities and horizons. Others move to escape armed conflict, persecution, terrorism, poverty, food insecurity or human rights violations and abuses. Still others do so in response to the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters (some of which may be linked to climate change) or other environmental factors. Many move, indeed, for a combination of these reasons.

1.2 We have considered today how best the international community should respond to the growing global phenomenon of large movements of refugees and migrants **with full respect for human rights of those on the move.**

1.3 We are witnessing in today's world an unprecedented level of human mobility. More people than ever before live in a country other than the one where they were born. Migrants are present in all countries in the world. Most of them move without incident. In 2015 their number surpassed 244 million, growing at a rate faster than the world's population. However, there are roughly 65 million forcibly displaced persons, including over 21 million refugees, 3 million asylum-seekers and over 40 million internally displaced persons.

1.4 In adopting a year ago the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we recognized clearly the positive contribution made by migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Our world is a better place for that contribution. The benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration **involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants and refugees** are considerable and are often underestimated. Displacement and irregular migration, on the other hand, present complex challenges **in particular for migrants and refugees themselves.**

1.5 ~~Though their treatment is governed by separate legal frameworks,~~ refugees and migrants have the same universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. **While their treatment may be governed by separate, but often overlapping legal frameworks, refugees and migrants** ~~They~~ also face many common challenges and have similar vulnerabilities, including in the context of large movements. "Large movements" may be understood to reflect a number of considerations, including: the number of people arriving; the economic, social and geographical context; the capacity of a receiving State to respond; and the impact of a movement which is sudden or prolonged. The term would not, for example, cover regular flows of migrants from one country to another. "Large movements" may involve mixed flows of people, whether refugees or migrants, who move for different reasons but who may use similar routes.

1.6 Large movements of refugees and migrants have political, economic, social, developmental, humanitarian and human rights ramifications which cross all borders. These are global phenomena which call for global approaches and global solutions. No one State can manage such movements on its own. Neighbouring or transit countries, mostly developing countries, are disproportionately affected. Their capacities have been stretched to breaking point, threatening their own social and economic cohesion as well as their development and security. In addition, protracted refugee crises are now commonplace, with long-term repercussions for those involved and also for their host countries and communities. These **burdens responsibilities** must be shared with such countries on an equitable basis.

**Comment [CH1]:** This language is added to ensure that these responses are based on international human rights law and related standards. As indicated by the Secretary-General in his report *In Safety and Dignity* (para. 5) with the necessary political will, the international community will be able to ensure responses to large movements of people are grounded in shared values of responsibility-sharing, non-discrimination and respect for human rights.

**Comment [CH2]:** Drawing from para 29 of the 2030 agenda. While there is need to recognize the considerable benefits and opportunities of migration, this should be premised on the full respect for migrants' human rights.

**Comment [CH3]:** Suggest removing the word "burden" from the document as it contributes to public negative discourse on migration and also moves away from rights-based language of 'legal responsibilities'.

- 1.7 We declare our profound solidarity with, and support for, the millions of people in different parts of the world who, for reasons beyond their control, are forced to uproot themselves and their families from their homes.
- 1.8 Refugees and migrants in large movements often face a desperate ordeal. Many take great risks, embarking on perilous journeys which many may not survive. Some employ the services of criminal groups, including smugglers. Many ~~fall prey to such groups~~ suffer horrific abuses in the course of their journey or become victims of trafficking. Even if they reach their destination, they face an uncertain reception and a precarious future.
- 1.9 The challenge to world leaders is moral and humanitarian. We are determined, first and foremost, to save lives. We are also determined to find long-term and sustainable solutions. We will combat with all the means at our disposal the abuses and exploitation suffered by countless refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations.
- 1.10 We acknowledge a shared global responsibility to manage large movements of refugees and migrants in a humane, sensitive and compassionate manner, while acknowledging that there are varying capacities to respond to these movements. International cooperation, and in particular cooperation among countries of origin or nationality, transit and destination, has never been more important; win-win cooperation in this area has profound benefits for humanity. Refugees and migrants involved in large movements must have the comprehensive policy support, practical assistance and legal protection consistent with States' obligations under international law. ~~We also~~ In this respect we recall our obligation to respect their human rights and fundamental freedoms fully, and we stress their critical need to live their lives in safety and dignity. We pledge this support to those affected today as well as to those who will be part of future large movements.
- 1.11 We will address the root causes of involuntary displacement of people, including through increased efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as through greater coordination of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts, and promotion of the rule of law and protection of human rights.
- 1.12 All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law. International law prohibits discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, nationality, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. We have also witnessed how cultural diversity contributes to social cohesion. Yet in many parts of the world we are witnessing, with great concern, increasingly xenophobic and racist responses to refugees and migrants.
- 1.13 We strongly condemn xenophobia and racism. Diversity enriches every society and contributes to social cohesion. Demonising refugees or migrants offends ~~profoundly against~~ the values of dignity and equality for every human being to which we have committed ourselves. Gathered today at the United Nations, the birthplace and custodian of these universal values, we declare all manifestations of xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance to be utterly unacceptable. We will take a range of steps to counter such attitudes and behaviour, in particular hate speech and ~~racial-xenophobic~~ violence. We support, and will implement, the global campaign proposed by the Secretary General to counter xenophobia against refugees and migrants, and we will do so in cooperation with the United Nations, the private sector and civil society. This campaign will emphasize, inter alia, direct personal contact between host communities and refugees and migrants and will highlight the positive contributions made by the latter as well as our common humanity.
- 1.14 We reaffirm the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. We reaffirm also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the core international human rights treaties. We reaffirm, and will fully respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status; all are rights holders. Our response will demonstrate full respect for international law

**Comment [OHCHR4]:** Reference to 'falling prey to such groups' is unclear

**Comment [CH5]:** OHCHR recommends that this campaign should focus on individuals and their stories, as a way to build empathy and confront prejudice and discrimination against migrants.

and where, applicable, international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

**Comment [CH6]:** Suggest moving this paragraph up.

- 1.15 In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we pledged that “no one will be left behind”. We declared that we wished to see the new goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. We said also that we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first. We reaffirm today our commitments which relate to the specific needs of migrants or refugees. The Agenda makes clear, inter alia, that we will “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced person. The needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants are explicitly recognized.

**Comment [CH7]:** As per para. 29 of the 2030 Agenda

- 1.16 Implementation of all relevant provisions of the Agenda will enable the contribution which migrants are making to sustainable development to be reinforced. At the same time, it will address many of the root causes of forced displacement, helping to create more favourable conditions in countries of origin. Meeting today a year after our adoption of the 2030 Agenda, we are determined to realize the full potential of that Agenda for refugees and migrants.
- 1.17 We reaffirm the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its recommendations concerning measures to mitigate risks associated with disasters which are outlined in that Framework. States who have signed and ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change welcome that agreement and are committed to its implementation. We reaffirm the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including its provisions which are applicable to refugees and migrants.
- 1.18 We welcome the report from the Secretary-General, entitled “In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants”, which was published in May 2016 (pursuant to GA Decision A/70/L.34) in preparation for this High Level Meeting.
- 1.19 We recognize the very large number of people who are displaced within national borders, and the potential for such persons to seek protection and assistance in other countries as refugees or migrants. Noting the need for effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons, we invite the Secretary General to commission a review of the support currently available, building on the existing work done within the UN system on this subject.

## 2. Commitments

We have agreed today on a set of commitments which apply to both refugees and migrants and refugees and also on sets of commitments for refugees and migrants respectively. Some commitments, while mainly relevant to one category, may also be applicable to the other. Furthermore, while they are all framed in the context of the large movements we are considering today, many may be applicable also to regular migration. In addition, Annex I to this Declaration contains a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and outlines steps toward the achievement of a Global Compact relating to refugees in 2018 while Annex II sets out a ‘roadmap’ for the achievement of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018.

### Commitments which apply to both refugees and migrants

- 2.1 Underlining the importance of a comprehensive approach to the issues involved, we will ensure a humane, sensitive, dignified, gender-responsive and prompt reception for all persons arriving in our countries, and

particularly those in large movements, regardless of their migratory status. We will also ensure full respect for their human rights.

- 2.2 We recognize, and will address in accordance with our obligations under international law, the special needs of all people in vulnerable situations who are travelling within large movements of refugees and migrants, including women at risk; children (especially including those who are unaccompanied or separated from their families); members of ethnic minorities; victims of violence; older persons; persons with disabilities; persons who are discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity; indigenous persons; and victims of exploitation and abuse in the context of human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
- 2.3 Recognising that States have rights and responsibilities to manage and control their borders, we will implement both on arrival and return border management procedures, including disembarkation procedures and security and identification procedures, which are in conformity with ~~applicable~~ obligations under international law, including international human rights law and international refugee law. We will ensure that public officials and law enforcement officers who work in border areas are trained to uphold the human rights of all persons crossing, or seeking to cross, international borders. We acknowledge that States, while obliged under international law to examine the individual circumstances of all persons who arrive at borders including any request for asylum made at their borders, are entitled to take measures to prevent ~~illegal~~ ~~irregular~~ border crossings and to protect against terrorists entering their countries. We will strengthen international border management cooperation, including in relation to training and the exchange of best practices. We will intensify support in this area for host governments and help to build capacity as appropriate.
- 2.4 In large movements of refugees and migrants, we will make efforts to collect accurate information while ensuring data protection. We will ~~distinguish correctly between refugees and migrants, and~~ identify correctly their nationalities of refugees and migrants, as well as their motivations and reasons for movement in order to ensure that appropriate protection is extended.
- 2.5 We will continue to protect the human rights of all persons in transit and after arrival. We will ensure that the ~~immediate~~ needs of persons who have been exposed to physical or psychological abuse while in transit are addressed on their arrival, without discrimination and without regard to legal or migratory status or means of transportation.
- 2.6 We are determined to address irregular or unsafe movement, without prejudice to the right to seek asylum, and to combat the exploitation, abuse and discrimination suffered by many refugees and migrants.
- 2.7 We express our profound concern at the large number of people who have lost their lives in transit. We commit to intensifying international cooperation on the strengthening of search and rescue mechanisms. We will also work to improve the availability of accurate data on the whereabouts of people, including ~~and~~ vessels who are stranded at sea. And we will strengthen support for rescue efforts over land along dangerous or isolated routes. We will draw attention to the risks involved in the use of such routes in the first instance.
- 2.8 We recognize, and will take steps to address, the particular situations of vulnerabilities ~~of in which~~ women and children find themselves during the journey from country of origin to country of arrival. This includes their potential exposure to discrimination and exploitation, as well as to sexual, physical and psychological abuse, violence, human trafficking and modern-day slavery.
- 2.9 We will address the vulnerabilities to HIV and the specific healthcare needs experienced by migrants and mobile populations, as well as by refugees and crisis-affected populations, including mental healthcare. We will review policies related to restrictions of entry based on HIV status with a view to eliminating such restrictions and the return of people on the basis of their HIV status.

**Comment [OHCHR8]:** This is a crucial aspect of international human rights law; and is a fundamental component of the protection against collective expulsion.

**Comment [CH9]:** Please consider including the establishment of **firewalls** to ensure that the data collected is not shared with immigration enforcement authorities and compromise the right to privacy and data protection.

**Comment [CH10]:** Please also consider including reference to access to justice and to effective remedies for victims of human rights violations or abuses, whether inflicted by officials or private individuals, groups or institutions.

**Comment [CH11]:** Women are not inherently vulnerable

- 2.10 We will ensure that our responses to large movements of refugees and migrants promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and fully respect [and protect](#) the human rights of women and girls. We will combat gender-based violence in every way possible. We will provide access to sexual and reproductive healthcare [psychosocial support and education for women and girls](#). We will tackle the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to which refugee and migrant women and girls are subject. And at the same time, recognizing the significant contribution and leadership of women in refugee and migrant communities, we will work to ensure their full and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities. We will take into consideration the different needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of women, girls, boys, and men.
- 2.11 We will protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of refugee and migrant children, regardless of their status, and in accordance with the best interests of the child. ~~This will apply particularly to~~ [We will ensure that we refer the care of](#) ~~unaccompanied~~ children and those separated from their families; ~~we will refer their care~~ to the relevant national child protection authorities as a matter of course. We will comply with our obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We will provide for health, education, and psychosocial development and for their birth registration. We are determined to ensure that all children are in education within a few months of arrival, and we will prioritize budgetary provision to facilitate this. We will strive to provide refugee and migrant children with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities.
- 2.12 Reaffirming that all individuals seeking to cross international borders are entitled to due process in the assessment of their legal status, entry and stay, we will consider [human rights-compliant, non-custodial, community-based](#) alternatives to detention while these assessments are underway. We will review policies that criminalize cross-border movements. Furthermore, recognizing that detention is never in the interests of children, we commit to working toward the earliest possible ending of this practice.
- 2.13 Reaffirming the importance of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two relevant Protocols thereto, we encourage ratification of, accession to and implementation of relevant international instruments on preventing and combatting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.
- 2.14 We recognize that refugees and migrants in large movements are at greater risk of being trafficked and of being subjected to forced labour. We will, with full respect for the rules of international [human rights](#) law, vigorously combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling, including through targeted measures to identify victims of trafficking. We will provide protection and support for the victims of human trafficking, and will ensure that they are not penalised for crimes committed as a direct result of human trafficking. With a view to disrupting the criminal networks involved, we will review our national legislation to ensure conformity with our obligations under international law on migrant smuggling, human trafficking, maritime safety as well as with international standards for border management. We will implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking In Persons. We will establish or upgrade, as appropriate, national and regional anti-human trafficking policies. We note initiatives such as the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants, the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Work Plans against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere. We welcome reinforced technical cooperation, on a regional and bilateral basis, between countries of origin, transit and destination on the prevention of trafficking and smuggling of human beings.
- 2.15 We favour an approach to addressing forced displacement and protracted crises which would reduce vulnerability, improve self-reliance and resilience (such as in the education sphere and labour markets), facilitate a transition from relief to development and improve coordination with peacebuilding efforts. We will ensure, on the basis of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, that adequate, sustainable and predictable multi-annual financing is made available to enable host countries and communities to respond both to the immediate humanitarian needs and to the longer-term development needs of refugees, migrants and host communities. There is a need to address gaps in humanitarian funding, considering additional

**Comment [OHCHR12]:** Strongly suggest that all children require protection of their human rights on an equal basis, whether they are unaccompanied or with their families.

resources as appropriate. We look forward to close cooperation in this regard among Member States, UN agencies and other actors and between the UN and international financial institutions such as the World Bank. We envisage innovative financing responses, risk financing for affected communities, and a reduction of duplication and management costs and implementation of other efficiencies so as to ensure a more efficient and effective use of existing resources.

2.16 We commit to combatting discrimination in our societies against refugees and migrants and will undertake efforts aimed at their integration and inclusion. Relevant national policies will be developed to these ends in conjunction with civil society (including faith-based organizations), the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations and other stakeholders. We also note the obligation on refugees and migrants to observe the laws and regulations of their host countries.

2.17 We recognize the importance of improved data collection and will enhance international cooperation to this end. Such data should be disaggregated by sex, ~~and~~ age and migratory status, and include information on regular and irregular flows/movements, the economic impacts of migration and refugee movements, the rights and needs of refugees, migrants and host communities and other issues. We fully respect international data protection norms, national legislation on data protection, if applicable, and privacy standards.

### 3. Commitments for migrants

3.1 We are committed to protecting the safety, dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status. We will cooperate closely with each other to facilitate and ensure safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration in full respect for human rights, including return (whether voluntary or otherwise) and readmission. We recall at the same time that each State has a sovereign right to determine who to admit to its territory.

3.2 We reaffirm our responsibility to protect the interests of and assist our migrant communities abroad, including through consular protection, assistance and cooperation, in accordance with relevant international law. We reaffirm that anyone has the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country. We recall also that States must readmit their returning nationals who have no legal right to stay in other countries and ensure that they are duly received without undue delay in accordance with international human rights standards, following identification of their nationalities. Migrants should be informed about the various processes relating to their arrival and stay in countries of transit, destination and return.

3.3 We commit to addressing the conditions that create, or exacerbate, large movements of migrants. We will analyse and respond to the factors, including in countries of origin, which lead to, or contribute to, these movements. We will do everything possible to ensure that individuals and communities can remain in their homelands and live in dignity, peace and security. Migration should be a choice, not a necessity. We will take measures, inter alia, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose objectives include eradicating extreme poverty and inequality; revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development; promoting peaceful and inclusive societies based on international human rights and rule of law; creating conditions for balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and employment; combatting environmental degradation; and ensuring effective responses to natural disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change. In the latter respect, we will support efforts by Member States at risk to mitigate, and adapt to, the effects of climate change.

3.4 We also recognise that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. When their rights are protected, mMigrants make positive and profound contributions to economic and social development in their host societies and to global wealth creation. They can help to

**Comment [CH13]:** Please also consider including access to sufficient safe and accessible channels for migration, including for education and employment opportunities at all skills levels and for family reunification. The commitment to expand access to legal pathways for refugees has been included in the following section (para. 4.13). This section should mirror that commitment.

respond to demographic trends, labour shortages and other challenges in host societies, and they add fresh skills and dynamism to the latter's economies. We recognize the development benefits of migration to countries of origin, including through the involvement of diasporas in economic development and reconstruction. We will promote faster and cheaper transfer of remittances and the facilitation of interaction between diasporas and their countries of origin. We would like these contributions to be more widely recognized and, indeed, strengthened in the context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

- 3.5 We will ensure that migration, [the human rights of migrants](#) and reintegration after return are fully integrated in global, regional and national sustainable development plans and in humanitarian, peacebuilding and human rights policies and programmes.
- 3.6 Reaffirming the importance of a strong normative framework to support migrants, we call upon States that have not done so to consider ratifying, or acceding to, the 1990 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families [as well as the other core United Nations human rights treaties](#). We call also on States that have not done so to consider acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions, as appropriate. We note, in addition, that migrants enjoy rights and protection under various provisions of international law.
- 3.7 We commit to strengthening global governance for migration. We therefore warmly support and welcome the [agreement] to bring the International Organization for Migration, an organization with a global leading role in the field of migration, into a closer legal and working relationship with the United Nations. We look forward to the implementation of this [agreement] which will assist migrants, help Member States to address migration issues and promote better coherence between migration and related policy domains.
- 3.8 We will assist migrants in countries which are experiencing conflicts or natural disasters, working as applicable with the relevant national authorities. We note in this regard the "Migrants in Crisis" initiative and the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change.
- 3.9 We take note of the work done by the Global Migration Group [Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality](#) to develop principles and practical guidance on the [human rights](#) protection of [the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations within large and/or mixed movements](#).
- 3.10 We will consider [voluntary-practical](#) guidelines, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law, on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations ([especially-including](#) unaccompanied and separated children) who do not qualify for international [refugee](#) protection and who may need [protection and assistance](#). These guidelines could be developed using a State-led process with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders ~~and, built on the abovementioned principles and practical guidance being developed by the Global Migration Group,~~ with input from the Special Representative of the Secretary General on International Migration, [the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and other relevant human rights mechanisms](#), ~~and the agencies of -the Global Migration Group, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the~~ International Organization for Migration, [and civil society](#). These would complement national efforts to protect and assist migrants.
- 3.11 We welcome the willingness of some States to provide temporary protection against return to migrants who do not qualify for refugee status and who are unable to return home, [including](#) due to conditions in their countries.
- 3.12 We will build on existing bilateral, regional and global cooperation and partnership mechanisms, in accordance with international law, for facilitating migration in line with the 2030 Agenda. We will strengthen cooperation to this end among countries of origin, transit and destination (including through regional consultative processes), international organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, regional economic organizations, local government authorities, relevant private sector recruiters

**Comment [CH14]:** The High Commissioner has consistently called for all core UN human rights treaties to be ratified as they all apply to migrants

**Comment [CH15]:** As per the suggestion of the Secretary General in paragraph 106a of this report and to ensure consistency with the efforts noted in the previous paragraph.

and employers, labour unions, civil society and migrant and diaspora groups. We recognize the particular needs of local authorities who are the first receivers of migrants.

- 3.13 We recognise the progress made on international migration and development issues within the United Nations system, including the High-Level Dialogues on International Migration and Development. We will support enhanced global and regional dialogue and deepened collaboration on migration, particularly through exchanges of best practice and mutual learning and the development of national or regional initiatives. We note in this regard the valuable contribution of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and acknowledge the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogues on migration and development.
- 3.14 We will consider more opportunities for safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration [in full respect of human rights](#), including employment creation, labour mobility, circular migration, family reunification and education-related opportunities. We will pay particular attention to issues such as protection of the [human rights and](#) labour rights of migrants, recruitment and other migration-related costs, remittance flows, transfers of skills and knowledge and the creation of employment opportunities for young people.
- 3.15 We strongly encourage cooperation between, on the one hand, countries of origin or nationality and, on the other, countries of destination and other relevant countries in ensuring that migrants who do not have a legal right to stay in the latter can return to their country of origin or nationality in a safe, orderly and dignified manner. Such cooperation would include ensuring proper identification and provision of relevant travel documents. Any type of return, whether voluntary or otherwise, must be consistent with international human rights law and in compliance with the principle of non-refoulement [and the prohibition of collective expulsion](#). It must also respect the rules of international law and must in addition be in keeping with the best interests of the child and with due process. We support enhanced reception and reintegration assistance for those who are returned.
- 3.16 We note that the Special Representative of the Secretary General on International Migration, Peter Sutherland, will be providing a report on the issues within his remit before the end of the year.
- 3.17 We commit to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018.

#### 4. **Commitments for refugees**

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 4.5 We underline the centrality of 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.
- 4.6 We believe that a comprehensive response should be developed, initiated and coordinated by 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.
- 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.
- 4.8 We encourage the adoption of measures which would facilitate access to civil registration and documentation for refugees.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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-reponsability~~ burden-reponsability these countries have been carryingfacing.

- 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, 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 skill sets, for labour mobility (including through private-sector partnerships) and for education (e.g. scholarships and student visas).
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- 4.16 We will provide humanitarian assistance to refugees so as to ensure essential support in key life-saving sectors, e.g. shelter, food, water and sanitation. We will support host countries and communities in this regard.
- 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.
- 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 societies.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

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**Comment [CH16]:** Please consider moving this commitment to the section on refugees and migrants as this should apply to all people on the move without discrimination

solutions. In addition to meeting direct humanitarian and development needs, we will work to support environmental and infrastructural rehabilitation in areas affected by large movements of refugees.

- 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.
- 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.

## 5 **Follow-up and review of our commitments**

- 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, [OHCHR](#), other agencies [of the Global Migration Group](#) 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.
- 5.2 In addition, a role in reviewing relevant aspects should be envisaged for the periodic High Level Dialogues on International Migration and Development, [for the annual report of the Secretary General to the General Assembly on the promotion and protection of human rights, including ways and means to promote the human rights of migrants](#), and for the annual report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to the General Assembly.
- 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 71<sup>st</sup> 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.