

Agenda Item 2 (c)

Update on Resettlement -- Speaking Notes for Standing Committee 69th meeting Delivered by Kate O'Malley Deputy Director (Resettlement), Division of International Protection

Introduction

Chair, Deputy High Commissioner, distinguished delegates and partners

I welcome this opportunity to provide you an update on Resettlement. I will limit my remarks to two key areas:

- 1. Key resettlement achievements and opportunities in 2016**
- 2. Our resettlement needs and priority areas of work in 2017 and 2018**

The background paper for this item - **EC/68/SC/CRP.14** - provides a more detailed report on these areas.

1. Key resettlement achievements of 2016

- **2016 was a significant year for resettlement thanks to an alignment of different factors.**
- Increased solidarity and partnership was reflected in heightened political interest in resettlement which translated into increased resettlement space.
- In response, UNHCR through supplementary funds provided by donors was able to up-scale resettlement capacity, culminating in numerical milestones for both UNHCR and its partners.
 - **In terms of numbers**, we reached a **20-year high with 162,500 refugees** referred by UNHCR which includes some of the most protracted refugee situations: Syrian, Congolese, Somali and Iraqi refugees.
 - **In terms of impact**, over **125,600 refugees referred by UNHCR were able to depart to build a new life** in the highest number of resettlement countries yet – **37 states**.

- At the same time, it is important to highlight that this moment of growth has **also opened up several important longer term opportunities.**
- These include most notably;
 - **The opportunity to revitalize and strengthen the quality of our processes** through expanding training of our staff, as well as, strengthening our integrity mechanisms through anti-fraud and oversight support.
 - Together with resettlement states, **we had the opportunity to integrate new streamlined processing and referral modalities**, which gave impetus to starting the Resettlement Innovation Project to more systematically harness these developments.
 - **The high level events** of 30 March and September Summits gave us the opportunity to further galvanize the positive momentum in state interest resulting in concrete state commitments to resettlement and access to third country solutions more broadly.
 - In this regard, one of the most significant outcomes of 2016 was the **New York Declaration, and the annexed Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)**, where states committed to work towards increasing resettlement places and other legal pathways for admission of refugees on a scale that would match the annual resettlement needs identified by UNHCR.

2. Our resettlement needs and priority areas of work in 2017 and 2018

So, where does this leave us today and the year to come?

- So far in 2017, global resettlement has faced numerous challenges.
- Resettlement needs continue to be high – estimated at 1.2 Million in 2018, while our targets for 2017 have been significantly reduced due to fluctuations and other operational considerations in state quotas.

- Our strategy is to further sharpen our focus toward refugees at heightened risk, including children, detainees, persons with medical needs, and LGBTI persons. Where possible, we will continue to prioritise our address of large-scale protracted situations, particularly Syrians, Congolese, Iraqis and Somalis.
- Looking to 2017 and beyond, resettlement will undoubtedly continue to be an important core tool for protection and solutions, as well as one of the most tangible ways to share global responsibility towards refugees.
- Our key priorities will include:
 - **Supporting the fulfillment of state commitments in the New York Declaration** and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) which includes anchoring the strategic use of resettlement in CRRF pilot countries;
 - **Ensuring coherent, strategic and quality resettlement responses** to new and protracted situations;
 - **A focus on innovative processing** through a review of our end to end process while leveraging innovation to ensure that our interventions are the most efficient and effective for refugees.
 - **Building on progress made in integrity** through advancing the expansion of biometrics and developing modes for the secure sharing of biometric data with governments.
 - **Expanding and strengthening resettlement through new partnerships and new approaches.** We will focus our efforts on **supporting emerging resettlement countries** to build their programmes and **collaborating with new partners** in particular with private sector partners to increase support for resettlement.
 - I would like to add that we have used this year's **Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement** to bring this theme of “New Partners – New Approaches” to life. The consultations attended this year by a more diverse

group of more than 300 participants from state, civil society and the private sector, provided an important opportunity to stimulate discussion and share ideas around the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework pilots, starting resettlement programmes, mobilizing private and community support for resettlement as well as honing in on practical examples of complementary pathways.

- Finally, we will continue **advocating and strengthening complementary pathways** to create additional opportunities for solutions including through efforts around Private sector sponsorship, humanitarian visas, family reunification as well consolidating frameworks for complementary pathways.

To conclude, resettlement more so than ever is a partnership activity and while the challenges are large, we believe that collectively, we hold the capacity and expertise to provide protection and solutions for refugees worldwide. I would like to commend our partners, states, NGOs and our new partners and advocates for their contribution to resettlement.

I will finish here to leave time to take your questions.