

**71st meeting of the Standing Committee
(6-8 March 2018)
Agenda item 6 (a)**

Oral update on the High Commissioner’s Dialogues on Protection Challenges

1. Overview of the 2017 Dialogue

The High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges, which took place from 12 to 13 December 2017, provided the international community with an opportunity to take stock of progress made “Towards a global compact on refugees” since the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1) in September 2016.¹ The Dialogue focused on possible elements of the compact’s programme of action, taking into account the practical application of the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF) and the outcomes of the five thematic discussions that were held in Geneva in the second half of 2017.

Some 600 representatives from States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector, together with experts and members of the UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council, participated in a series of constructive conversations on good practices, lessons learned and concrete suggestions for the programme of action. These conversations took place in plenary; at a special session to review the practical application of the CRRF; during six thematic sessions; and in three roundtable sessions. In addition, a side event was organized by NGOs to further review the practical application of the CRRF and a significant number of written contributions were received and posted on UNHCR’s website.²

The following conclusions were drawn from discussions at the Dialogue:

- (i) The global compact on refugees will support a range of context- and situation-specific responses to large refugee movements (both new and protracted situations). In particular, the programme of action will seek to reinforce the four objectives of the CRRF by establishing a more predictable framework for burden- and responsibility-sharing on which States can rely.
- (ii) Important progress has been made to enhance refugee and host community resilience, including through education, economic inclusion and livelihood opportunities. These efforts have been undertaken in the spirit of sharing responsibility, and it is vital that they receive sustained support from the international community, including development actors.
- (iii) It is also crucial that initiatives aimed at strengthening self-reliance and resilience be accompanied by stronger efforts on the part of the international community to find solutions for refugees. Practical approaches to facilitate the conditions for voluntary and sustainable return, as well as third country solutions, will be important objectives of the programme of action.
- (iv) More generally, and in line with the “multi-stakeholder” approach set out in the New York Declaration, the programme of action will facilitate contributions by all stakeholders according to their capacities and abilities, and seek to include new and emerging partnerships in refugee responses. UNHCR will seek to catalyse the potential contributions of others to support refugees and their hosts, including development actors, the private sector and NGOs.
- (v) The programme of action will be age-, gender- and diversity-sensitive, and ensure that these considerations are integral to the development of broader refugee responses. It will also encourage and support refugees to participate fully in the decisions that affect their lives.
- (vi) A number of proposals made during the thematic discussions – including the global platform, solidarity conferences, and asylum capacity support group – were further discussed and refined. It will be important for these initiatives to add value to existing arrangements.
- (vii) Close cooperation to ensure complementarity between the global compact on refugees and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration remains a priority.

2. Updates on previous High Commissioner’s Dialogues

UNHCR will provide a brief update on follow-up to the 2016 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on “Children on the move”, including the establishment of the Global Youth Advisory Council. UNHCR will also provide an update on the 2015 Dialogue on “Understanding and addressing the root causes of displacement” and how the conclusions of this Dialogue fed into considerations for the global compact on refugees.

¹ Available from www.unhcr.org/newyorkdeclaration. For further information on the process leading to the global compact on refugees, see www.unhcr.org/refugeecom pact.

² See www.unhcr.org/writtencontributions.