



World Health Organization

WHO Statement Formal Consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees
Geneva, 3 July 2018

AGENDA ITEM FINAL DRAFT

Thank you Assistant High Commissioner and Mr Co-chair,

WHO welcomes this final draft of the Global Compact on refugees and commends the efforts of UNHCR's Secretariat particularly distilling the comments referring to health.

Overall, we congratulate on how the document positively reflects the arrangements that facilitate a more equitable, sustained and predictable distribution of contributions among States and other relevant stakeholders. We would also like to praise Mr. Volker Turk and his team for their extremely skilful and inclusive work.

We welcome how the reference to health transpires throughout the document, such as under programme of action Paragraph 13 reference to access to health, and similarly in Paragraph 59 including medical services.



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The language is further reflected with specific reference to women and girls access to health including through recruitment and deployments of female health workers.

However we regret to notice the phrase “depending on the context” continues to be included.

We re-exhort caution against the way it is spelled out in Section 2.3, paragraph 73 “depending on the context, this could include...”. Currently it poses a risk in defining “context”.

We believe there would be merit, to consider if a “context “ can justify a health intervention, this language could lend to manipulation, leading to a wide portfolio of options not necessary in line with social and health principles as the right to Universal Health Coverage, equity and it could be conflicting with the concept of social solidarity of the healthy systems where “unprivileged people “ should be guaranteed access to a basic package of services.

We do take stock and fully embrace the reference in Paragraph 66 to efforts to deliver assistance through local and national services providers instead



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of establishing parallel systems for refugees from which the host communities do not benefit over time.

We would encourage the final draft to ensure the Universal Health Care principles transpire. UHC enables everyone to access the services that address the most important causes of disease, and ensures that the quality is good enough to improve the health of the people, regardless of their status, who receive them. Achieving UHC is one of the targets set when adopting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to UNHCR to its commitment, its hard work and its steadfastness in steering this important process. We recognize this is a once in lifetime opportunity to fully deliver on our common commitments.

Thank you very much.