



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
5 October 2017  
English  
Original: French

---

## Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sixty-eighth session

### Summary record of the 701st meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday, 2 October 2017, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Ms. McCarney..... (Canada)

## Contents

- Opening of the session, adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
- Statement by the High Commissioner
- Special segment on the comprehensive refugee response framework

---

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of the present record* to the Documents Management Section (DMS-DCM@un.org).

Any corrected records will be reissued for technical reasons after the end of the session.

GE.17-17401 (E) 161017 171017



\* 1 7 1 7 4 0 1 \*

Please recycle 



*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

### **Opening of the session, adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

(A/AC.96/LXVIII/1)

1. **The Chair** declared open the sixty-eighth session of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She welcomed all participants, in particular the representatives of Fiji, Lithuania and Paraguay, which had become new members of the Executive Committee. The 101 States now in membership of the Executive Committee provided it with the broad geographical representation that it needed, as the situations faced by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were more than ever of a global nature and required cohesive responses.

2. She had been deeply moved by the plight of the refugees she had met in her tenure in office during her field visits to Ethiopia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Over 65 million people in the world had been forced to flee persecution, conflict, generalized violence and human rights violations. The past year had been marked by large-scale emergencies against a backdrop of political, social and economic turmoil. That had increased the pressure on United Nations humanitarian organizations and their partners at a time when rays of hope were emerging, in particular with the adoption in 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the drawing up of the comprehensive refugee response framework.

3. In that context, efforts by the international community to foster prevention, provide protection and find solutions was more important than ever, and the Executive Committee in that respect played a catalytic role as an advisory body. The work of humanitarian workers who worked tirelessly to address the devastating consequences of conflicts was to be commended.

*The agenda was adopted.*

*Participants were invited to watch a short film entitled "Shared solutions", which provided an overview of the complex challenges facing UNHCR and its partners, and possible solutions.*

### **Statement by the High Commissioner**

4. **Mr. Grandi** (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) thanked the Chair for the commitment and leadership demonstrated during her mandate. Recalling that in New York, a year earlier, States had reaffirmed the fundamental values of solidarity and protection for people forced into exile, and that they had agreed to share responsibility for putting such values into practice, he said that it was more urgent than ever to implement a new model that placed the rights, interests and capabilities of refugees and host communities at the heart of a comprehensive response.

5. Current crises were worsening. In just five weeks, half a million Rohingyas had fled terrifying violence in Myanmar, over 50,000 refugees had fled South Sudan and 18,000 people had fled intense fighting in the Central African Republic. Tens of thousands of men, women and children were fleeing gang violence in Central America; in Yemen, nearly 3 million people had been internally displaced; in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, violence in the Kasai region had triggered an outflow of refugees to Angola and there had been a surge in the number of displaced persons, to over 3 million; and along the central Mediterranean route to Europe, which stretched from south of the Sahara to Italy, through Libya, refugees from Eritrea, Somalia and elsewhere continued to face serious exploitation and abuse; they were often physically and psychologically broken.

6. Long-standing crises remained deeply entrenched: in Somalia, despite the Government's efforts, fighting and direct attacks against villages and civilian infrastructure continued; in Afghanistan, the number of civilian casualties had reached its highest level in more than a decade; in Tindouf, Algeria, Sahrawi refugees were barely surviving on diminishing food rations, after waiting for a solution for 40 years. The list went on. There were also crisis situations in Burundi, Ukraine and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

7. The circumstances that had driven the adoption of the New York Declaration had not gone away. Indeed, refugees and displaced persons were the most visible symptom of fractured societies in which root causes combined to fuel conflict and persecution, and refugee flows were the inescapable consequence of a faltering of international cooperation, which was being replaced with piecemeal efforts. Protection was constantly being tested. At times refugees were being used, treated as commodities, traded among States. Increasingly, there was an erosion of refugees' rights; borders were closing; admissions were limited, responsibilities were deflected; asylum procedures were restricted; detention was imposed indefinitely and in appalling conditions; cases were handled through offshore processing; and there was increasing pressure for premature returns. Rising xenophobia was targeting refugees as well.

8. Despite the deterioration in the protection environment in many parts of the world, including industrialized countries, there had been a groundswell of solidarity, often rooted in civil society and reinforced through the strong leadership of mayors, business leaders and other public figures. The international character of refugee protection had taken on new forms through networks of cities, civil society organizations, private sector associations, sports entities and other types of collaboration stretching across borders. Most importantly, major refugee hosting countries continued to demonstrate extraordinary levels of generosity and commitment to refugee protection. Measures should be taken to shore up their efforts, strengthen protection, mitigate the impact of the presence of large numbers of refugees and genuinely share responsibilities. That was not only a matter of principles and values, but also of building regional and global stability. Refugee protection and security were complementary goals and must be achieved together.

9. The number of forcibly displaced people had continued to increase over the past five years, reaching 65.6 million by the end of 2016, and since the beginning of the year, more than 2 million people had fled their countries. Such persons must be protected as a matter of urgency against the risks they faced, in particular sexual and gender-based violence. He expressed his appreciation to the staff of UNHCR and its partners who tirelessly worked with courage and dedication to protect and assist all refugees.

10. While none of the displacement crises apparently presented an opportunity for imminent resolution, new dynamics were coming to the fore, for example, in the Syrian Arab Republic, where emerging signs of resilience must be encouraged, and in the north-east of Nigeria, where swift development investments agreed at the Oslo Conference in February 2017 should be made to help returnees and their communities rebuild their lives. To sustain protection in countries of asylum while fostering conditions in which elements of solutions could emerge, it was necessary to invest in education (only 6 out of 10 refugee children of primary school age were currently attending school, while the global average was 9 out of 10), livelihoods and skills development, which would prepare refugees for the time when they would be able to return home.

11. The time had come to prepare for the future. The comprehensive refugee response framework, contained in the annex to the New York Declaration, offered a new model for response, which would be crystallized in a global compact on refugees, a responsibility-sharing mechanism that should engage all States. Thus, host countries and communities would receive more predictable support; there would be more resettlement places and other legal pathways to third countries; and engagement in solving conflicts would increase so that voluntary repatriation would become a real and sustainable option. All elements must be worked on together, with equal determination, including at the regional level.

12. Costa Rica, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, the United Republic of Tanzania and Somalia were currently implementing the framework. Results were already visible on the ground, a law had been adopted in Djibouti giving refugees the right to work, 20,000 additional refugee children had been enrolled in school in Ethiopia and land had been allocated to refugees in Uganda.

13. Development action and financing were central to the new model, as they would build resilience and self-reliance and pave the way towards solutions for the medium and long terms. In order to promote the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees, UNHCR had entered into a number of partnerships, in particular with bilateral development agencies, the

African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). All the activities carried out with those organizations resonated with the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing. UNHCR and the World Bank had collaborated closely on programmes to be funded by \$2 billion allocated as grants and loans for low-income refugee-hosting countries in the context of the eighteenth replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA). On 29 September 2017, the Board of Governors of the World Bank had confirmed that the eight country programmes in the first submission, worth over \$1 billion, were eligible for financing. UNHCR also took part in the work to advance the reform of the United Nations development system, launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in the hope that it would facilitate political, humanitarian and development programming, drawing on the distinct yet complementary strengths of institutional mandates.

14. In 2016, of the 17.2 million refugees under the mandate of UNHCR, only half a million had been able to return home. Although that figure was twice the previous year's, returns took place in less than ideal circumstances, raising concerns about sustainability.

15. Responsibility towards refugees and internally displaced persons was collective. It could be addressed only through collaboration with development partners. That was particularly the case for refugee resettlement. While resettlement was an important solution, in 2017 under 100,000 resettlement places were expected to be available (43% fewer than in 2016), while nearly 1.2 million refugees needed resettling. He welcomed the fact that the European Commission had called on the member States of the European Union to offer 50,000 new resettlement places and reiterated his request for countries of asylum and transit along the central Mediterranean route to provide 40,000 additional places. Resettlement was a part of the interventions required to improve access to protection and solutions in countries of origin, transit and asylum.

16. In addition, progress was being made in reducing statelessness. In 2016, 60,000 people had acquired a nationality, and reforms had been approved in Brazil, Ecuador, Kenya, Madagascar, Thailand and the member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Despite such progress, protracted situations of statelessness remained unresolved, and the rise in forced displacement brought new risks of statelessness. There was a growing trend of arbitrary deprivation of nationality. The link between statelessness and displacement was particularly clear with regard to the Rohingya community in Myanmar. It was necessary not only to resolve the issue of their citizenship and rights, but also to establish the necessary conditions for inclusive development addressing the deep poverty affecting all communities in the state of Rakhine.

17. The New York Declaration, which was based on an approach involving the whole of society, called for a broad range of individuals and entities to become directly engaged in refugee situations. UNHCR had thus strengthened its engagement with the corporate sector, philanthropists, sports associations and foundations, which played an important role in influencing public policy. The Office also worked with the International Chamber of Commerce to explore areas of collaboration with its network of 6 million businesses. UNHCR was putting in place the building blocks to increase its annual private sector revenue to \$1 billion. Partnerships with United Nations agencies and NGOs would continue to be indispensable to all aspects of its work. In particular, UNHCR was working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which had become a related organization of the United Nations, for the management of mixed asylum/migration situations, in particular in Libya and in the central Mediterranean.

18. In 2016, UNHCR had allocated \$1.4 billion to over 900 partners. As local people and organizations were the first to respond to emergencies, the Office allocated 20 per cent of its programme expenditure to local and national partners; it would aim to raise that proportion to 25 per cent, in accordance with its commitment under the Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing. The global compact on refugees raised high hopes for 2018. Countries were encouraged to contribute to the discussions on the global compact, which offered an opportunity to improve the management of refugee crises in the world.

19. The adaptation and agility of UNHCR had made it possible for it to respond to serious situations of displacement over the years. Most recently, the scale and nature of the Syrian refugee crisis had spurred it to try new approaches, harnessing new technologies and revolutionizing the way it responded to the needs of refugees. However, to face the new challenges posed by rapid technological advances, globalization and climate change, UNHCR would have to innovate, but also transform itself, in accordance with the New York Declaration, and find the way to make the most of its expertise and experience. The preparations for the global compact on refugees provided an opportunity to explore and promote such transformation. In January 2017, UNHCR had issued its strategic directions for the period 2017-2021. They had to be implemented in line with the vision set out in the New York Declaration. To pursue that vision, he had commissioned an independent review of the UNHCR headquarters in order to ensure that it would be effective, dynamic and capable of adapting. Headquarters functions and systems were currently being realigned. A significant reform of the human resources systems was also under way. In addition, as access to better data was critical to providing effective responses, UNHCR was stepping up its capacity to provide high-quality data on refugees and host communities.

20. UNHCR wanted every refugee to have a unique digital identity. To accomplish that, it intended in the coming three years to work specifically with the World Bank to put in place a global data system on forced displacement. In addition, in accordance with its commitment under the Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing, UNHCR was investing in numerous cash-based interventions. In 2016, 2.5 million people had benefited from such financial support, which for the first time had exceeded in-kind assistance.

21. In order to ensure the integrity of all UNHCR activities, he had decided to launch a new strategy for managing risk, preventing fraud and corruption and improving programme delivery. That strategy had already been implemented in Kenya.

22. In 2016, UNHCR had received \$3.9 billion in voluntary contributions. But even with \$4.4 billion available to it, it had ended the year with a funding shortfall of 41 per cent. In 2017, the situation was less positive, despite increased needs. Having already received \$3.3 billion in voluntary contributions, UNHCR should have \$4.2 billion available, leaving nearly half of the needs unmet. Projections for 2018 were even more uncertain. He therefore appealed to all donors to increase their support through flexible funding and early contributions.

### **Special segment on the comprehensive refugee response framework**

*A video message from Mr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank, was shown.*

23. **Mr. Onek** (Uganda) said that Uganda had hosted refugees since the 1940s as part of its open-door policy, in accordance with international and regional instruments relating to refugees. Refugees were treated in the same manner and enjoyed the same rights as Ugandans. Over the years, Uganda had taken various measures to meet the development needs of refugees and host communities, including the self-reliance strategy, development assistance for refugee-hosting areas and the settlement transformation agenda. Uganda, which had included refugees in its national development plan, had implemented provisions of the comprehensive refugee response framework even before the framework had been drafted.

24. With regard to pillar one of the framework, on admission and rights, Uganda had always maintained an open-door policy for refugees and asylum seekers. It had incorporated the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa into domestic law with the adoption of the Refugee Act 2006; the Act provided that refugees had the same right as Ugandans to participate in the country's political life. Refugees could also elect their own leaders in refugee welfare councils. As for pillar two, emergency response and ongoing needs, Uganda, which had received more than 2,000 refugees per day since 2015, managed numerous emergencies smoothly and provided refugees with relief services. In line with pillar three, it also promoted self-reliance of refugees through various measures. The Refugee Act 2006 allowed refugees to work without a work permit. Regarding the expanded solutions mentioned under pillar four,

Uganda considered that the resettlement of refugees in third countries was an underused durable solution and that it should be applied by the international community, in accordance with the principle of burden sharing. Under pillar five, voluntary return of refugees, the entire international community must help countries of origin to achieve the stability required to allow the return of refugees.

25. Uganda would continue to assist countries that wished to learn from its refugee management model. Although it was one of the least developed countries, it would maintain its open-door policy for persons seeking asylum. It stood ready to contribute to implementation of the global compact on refugees and to support the activities of the comprehensive refugee response framework's secretariat once it became operational.

26. **Mr. Erginay** (Turkey) said that, one year after the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, there were 22 million refugees around the world. Countries facing mass influxes of migrants and refugees, including Turkey, continued to seek assistance from the international community to strengthen the resilience of refugees and host communities. Turkey fully supported the preparation of the global compact on refugees and the implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework.

27. Turkey was currently sheltering 3.3 million refugees, including more than 3 million Syrians, making it the largest host country in the world. In addition to its ongoing efforts to find a political solution to the Syrian conflict, Turkey continued to pursue an open-door policy and strived to ensure the active participation of refugees in the social and economic life of the country. Thus, less than 10 per cent of Syrians were accommodated in temporary protection centres. Syrians had been granted the right to work in Turkey in January 2016, and since then, over 22,600 work permits had been issued. In addition, the establishment in 2013 of the Directorate-General of Migration Management had helped to improve refugee migration flow management.

28. With regard to education, the enrolment rate of refugee children had doubled in one year, reaching 60 per cent in 2017. More than 13,000 Syrian teachers took part in the education of young people, and some 400 Syrian academics had found employment at Turkish universities. Syrians had access to Turkish health services free of charge; over the past six years, refugee patients had received health services approximately 26 million times, and more than 224,000 Syrian babies had been born in Turkey.

29. Turkey had spent nearly \$30 billion for the persons it hosted, and external contributions fell far short of meeting expectations and needs. Rich and industrialized countries should increase their humanitarian and development assistance to bring it in line with their GDP. Responsibility for addressing the needs of refugees should not fall solely on certain countries in certain regions of the world.

30. **Mr. Mohammadi Far** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country currently hosted approximately 1 million refugees, mostly from Afghanistan and Iraq, and that despite the low level of international contributions, it constantly strived to ensure their protection and provide them with services in the fields of education, health and employment.

31. With regard to education, more than 420,000 refugee students were currently enrolled in Iranian schools, representing a direct cost of over \$250 million (while education funding from international organizations was less than \$3 million) and 25,000 refugees were currently attending university. With regard to health care, all refugees were able to receive vaccinations free of charge, and all women were eligible for maternal health care and gynaecological services at no expense. The presence of refugees with diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis constituted a threat to public health. Regretfully, in 2017 the total amount that UNHCR had allocated for refugees' health had been less than \$1.5 million. Lastly, concerning employment, refugees and displaced persons had taken up more than 700,000 posts, while job creation and combating unemployment were one of the greatest challenges faced by the Iranian authorities.

32. Hosting refugees placed considerable economic, political and social pressures on the country. It was unable to accept new commitments or even to maintain the status quo. He called for more sharing of burdens and responsibilities. A fair and proportionate balance

must be struck between the commitments of host countries and others within the comprehensive refugee response framework. The developed countries should receive more refugees than others, taking into account their absorption capacity and higher level of development. All people were free to seek asylum wherever they wished and any provisions limiting that right should be removed. The issue of the resettlement of refugees should be taken more seriously, and, lastly, a mechanism was needed to provide for burden-sharing and responsibility-sharing in order to ensure transparency and justice.

33. **Ms. Guenther** (Germany) welcomed the implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework, which would benefit refugees and host communities alike and would serve as a new standard for responding to large movements of refugees and for preventing the protraction of crises. Germany had been one of the first countries to provide direct financial support to UNHCR and its staff for the roll-out of the comprehensive framework. It had for years provided large-scale, predictable funding to countries hosting large numbers of refugees.

34. At the highest level of the federal Government, a coordinating body and a task force composed of the state secretaries of the various government ministries had been established. In addition, coordination meetings had been held with the representatives of the 16 Länder. An important role had been played by civil society and individual German citizens who had contributed significantly to receiving and integrating refugees.

35. Regarding the strengthening of responsibility-sharing and measures to be included in the programme of action of the global compact on refugees, a mechanism had to be established linking a country's responsibility with its actual contribution in terms of hosting refugees and supporting host countries. It was necessary to take early and coordinated action to prevent protracted crises and to provide emergency funding.

36. **Mr. Abera** (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia currently protected nearly a million refugees, making it the host country with the second largest number of refugees in Africa. The refugees came from over 20 countries, including South Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia. Ethiopia had ratified the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol, as well as the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees Problems in Africa. The law on refugees (the Refugee Proclamation), adopted in 2004, had been amended to provide a legal basis for the implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework. The amended law stipulated that refugees had the right to work, to move freely, to have access to justice and education and to obtain identity documents.

37. Currently, refugee response management was based on three main pillars of action: an encampment policy; an out-of-camp policy; and a local integration policy. The Government was taking steps to reduce encampment and increase the use of the other two types of action over the next 10 years. The leaders' summit on refugees in September 2016 had been co-hosted by Ethiopia, and on that occasion the country had undertaken nine commitments to improve the protection of refugees, specifically in the areas of education, integration, employment, civil status, access to social services and life outside refugee camps. Those commitments were in line with the comprehensive refugee response framework, as they were aimed at enhancing the self-reliance of refugees and supporting host communities. Education was one of the authorities' priorities. The primary school enrolment rate was expected to reach the target of 70 per cent.

38. Lastly, several problems blocked the fulfilment of the nine commitments and the implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework. Specifically, the country lacked funds to respond to emergencies and had experienced a massive influx of migrants, a growing proportion of whom were youths.

39. **Ms. Nims** (Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women) said that Jordan was a country that welcomed refugees. Since 1948 it had received 2 million Palestine refugees and currently hosted 1.3 million Syrian refugees, 660,000 of whom were registered. In Jordan, there was one refugee for every 11 inhabitants, meaning that the proportion of refugees in the population was the second highest in the world, after Lebanon's. The influx of Syrian refugees had been both massive and intense, and it had been difficult to adapt the country's infrastructure and capacities to respond to it effectively

and in a timely manner. Jordan had undertaken to provide quality services both to Jordanians and to refugees, and the authorities had provided ad hoc solutions to the problems that had arisen, with help from civil society organizations, United Nations bodies and donors, through the Jordanian response plan. The Jordanian Compact, presented at the London Conference in 2016 and aimed at supporting the country's growth while maintaining its resilience and economic stability, marked a major turning point in the response to the Syrian refugee crisis. In that context, Jordan had undertaken to employ 200,000 Syrians. More than 62,000 work permits had already been granted, and 4 per cent of them had been issued to women. The sponsorship requirement had been abolished in August so that refugees could easily change jobs and would be less vulnerable to exploitation at work.

40. Civil society organizations provided assistance to refugees in refugee camps and outside the camps, providing them among other things with livelihood support, access to education and health care, legal assistance and a civil registration service, as well as psychological support. UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were contributing to such work. The Jordanian National Commission for Women was working with others on the national action plan on women, peace and security; in that context, it held consultations both with Jordanian and refugee women. One of the objectives of such work was to prevent extremism; another was to combat gender-based violence. Also, economic empowerment of women was encouraged through support for the establishment and operation of cooperatives, with the participation of Syrian women refugees. Regarding the economic aspect, the measures that had been taken were designed to benefit from the presence of refugees and to counter any adverse effects.

41. The international community must do more to share responsibilities. In 2015, 36 per cent of pledges in support of Jordan had been honoured, and the rate had been 60 per cent in 2016. It should be borne in mind that the comprehensive refugee response framework comprised four pillars; obviously, the pressure exerted on host countries must be alleviated and refugees' self-reliance bolstered, but the possibilities for solutions in third countries must be broadened as well, and conditions for the return of refugees in safety and dignity must be established in countries of origin. Jordan, which maintained an open-door policy, had to face sudden influxes of refugees, while third countries were slow to propose solutions. With regard to the return of refugees, not enough had been done to end the Syrian conflict and the occupation in Palestine. The comprehensive refugee response framework must be adapted to the context in which it was applied so as to facilitate the integration of refugees and economic stability. There was currently a need to institutionalize the processes and solutions that had been developed so as to have a clear national, coordinated approach applicable to all partners, and thus produce sustainable solutions. The implementation of a regional framework for refugees would also make it possible to break down barriers between local initiatives and to make refugees' voices heard.

42. **Mr. Denton** (International Chamber of Commerce) said that in 2017, Australia for UNHCR, the organization that he directed, had collected \$38 million from the private sector for UNHCR activities and had committed to contributing \$100 million over the next five years. The International Chamber of Commerce, of which he was the first vice-chair, represented some 6.8 million businesses in the world. It was the largest private sector representative group at the worldwide level. The Chamber had been established 100 years earlier to promote peace through trade. It wished to make its networks and expertise available to serve the comprehensive refugee response framework. To that end, it had established a private sector advisory council to work closely with UNHCR, and it had submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a memorandum of understanding with UNHCR in January 2017, when the Chamber had been given observer status in the United Nations General Assembly. The International Chamber of Commerce had a coherent and cohesive framework for engaging with the private sector in all the countries where UNHCR operated. It would bring private sector thinking to problem-solving so as to find durable solutions and integrate development with emergency humanitarian action. Its members could also contribute their advocacy skills. Indeed, local businesses often had a strong influence on their countries' Governments, which often sought their views and



advice. The Chamber was also a critical partner of the Group of 20 (G-20), through Business 20. Its members promised to bring the activities, issues and concerns of UNHCR into dialogues at that level.

43. **Mr. Grandi** (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) welcomed the fact that the statements that had been made were in line with the gist of his opening statement and that there was a common understanding about the work that needed to be done. One year after the adoption of the New York Declaration and the start of the work on the comprehensive refugee response framework, host countries had been the ones that had made the greatest strides. Emphasis had been placed on the inclusion of refugees. Inclusion must be understood as an approach aimed at seeking durable solutions. He was pleased to note that the process that had followed the New York Declaration had opened up new avenues for finding solutions. The panellists had presented their initiatives with modesty, but the solutions that had been adopted were complex and required an ability to make difficult choices and leadership that could not be taken for granted. He hoped that the new approach would become the global standard and lead to a global compact on refugees, which would be considered in New York, in 2018.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*