### **NGO – UNHCR Pre-Excom Consultations**

### Geneva 27 September 2007

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### Re-visiting the doctrinal hierarchy of durable solutions for refugees

- Facilitation/Promotion of Voluntary Repatriation : the «first & best» solution for all?
- Facilitation/Promotion of Local Integration : has not been, is not and will not be available in many operations
- Using Resettlement: often the only solution in protracted situations, whether/how to use it?
- The risk of imposing solutions on refugees

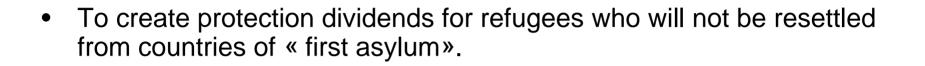
### Re-visiting and expanding the objectives of resettlement

UNHCR

ns High Commissioner for Refugees

- To quickly save/rescue individuals/families facing acute protection needs
- To address major protection problems such as preventing the military recruitment of refugees, sexual gender-based violence, secondary movements, prolonged detention...
- As an element of burden/responsibility-sharing





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- To build stronger asylum systems in particular integration/reception scheme in emerging resettlement countries.
- To activate this durable solution in absence, in parallel with another durable solution or «to unlock» another durable solution.

### Key Numbers



# 54, 182**2006** referrals29, 560**2006** departures

- Estimated Needs in **2007**: 77,100
- Estimated Needs in **2008**: 154,701

82,730

- UNHCR estimated capacity: 59,208
- RST countries' capacity:

Bridging the gap between the capacity of resettlement countries and UNHCR processing capacity

- Simplified/streamlined referrals
- Integrate durable solutions planning into registration activities
- Further develop the use of group methodology
- Involve partners in identification activities
- Mainstream and increase resources for resettlement activities

### Why do we need additional resettlement countries?

• The needs, as identified by UNHCR and its partners, will keep increasing.

High Commissioner for Refugee

- Our referrals will soon exceed the current capacity of existing resettlement States
- To ensure a larger burden-sharing and use in a more effective manner of the potential of reception, integration and solidarity in many countries

## Developing with NGO a common advocacy platform for resettlement

• Why? Need for partnership, the role of the civil society, volunteers, private sponsorship programmes...

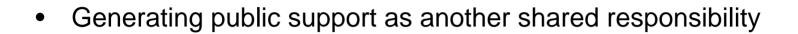
s High Commissioner for Refugees

• How? Use the ATC forum and the Canadian NGO focal point and other initiatives.

### Contents of the Platform...Food for Thought...

- Reaffirm the protection/durable solutions nature of resettlement, as opposed to a migration programme
- Advocate for a non-discriminatory approach resettlement and work towards a gradual withdrawal of all "supplementary criteria"
- Promote resettlement as a necessary component of any asylum system and a humanitarian act
- Advocate for predictability in resettlement programmes as a "shared responsibility"

...Continued...



• Promote the integration of resettlement in public social programmes

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- Advocate for sustainable public funding for the development of resettlement activities and develop partnership with private economic actors
- Promote partnership between central and local authorities and interaction with civil society stakeholders

## Addressing together recurrent negative attitudes towards RST

- Pull-factor
- Create security problems
- Contribute to secondary movements
- Lead to fraud/exploitation
- Cannot be used in parallel to other durable solutions, nor for residual caseloads

- Costly
- Split families
- Lead to unreasonable expectations from refugees

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- Will upset country of origin
- Contribute to "brain drain"
- The risk of "strategic abuse"

#### Beyond joint - advocacy

• Engaging in long-term partnerships to identify refugees in need of resettlement and document their case

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- Getting implementing partners to use protection referral forms in their work
- Avoid parallel referral systems

#### Progress made

- More partnership at field level
- North-South, South-North, South-South and West-East "twinnings arrangements"

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- Access to ICMC deployment scheme
- Access to resettlement training
- Access to regional resettlement strategic planning meetings, WG on resettlement

### Thank you for your efforts to promote the use of resettlement

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