



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

30 June 2016

Excellency,

Please find attached letter dated 30 June 2016 from Her Excellency Dina Kavar, Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations and His Excellency David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, in their capacity as co-facilitators of the high-level meeting of the plenary of the General Assembly to address large movements of refugees and migrants.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Jordan
to the United Nations



Buan-Mhisean na hÉireann chun na Náisiun Aontaithe
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations

New York, 30 June 2016

Excellency,

Further to our letter of 27 June circulating the zero draft of the Declaration to be issued by the High-Level Meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September, we have pleasure in forwarding, as promised, a draft of the Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees.

Our next informal meeting, which will be the first opportunity to consider both drafts, takes place tomorrow (Friday 1 July) at 10.00 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

HE Dina Kavar

Permanent Representative of the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations

HE David Donoghue

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the
United Nations

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

GLOBAL COMPACT ON RESPONSIBILITY SHARING FOR REFUGEES

We, the Member States of the United Nations, have agreed, and hereby adopt, a Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees:

Normative framework

1. We reaffirm, and recognize the enduring validity of, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, regional refugee instruments and other relevant standards. We favour effective implementation of such instruments and standards.
2. We note with satisfaction that 148 Member States are now parties to the Convention or Protocol. We encourage States not parties to consider acceding to these instruments and States parties with reservations to consider withdrawing these.
3. We reaffirm respect for the institution of asylum, including the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, and the need to ensure protection to all those who need it, in line with the rights and obligations under international law, international refugee law and international human rights law.
4. We reaffirm respect for all applicable instruments, laws and practices at regional and national level which provide protection to refugees.
5. We reaffirm that international refugee law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, provide the legal framework to strengthen the protection of refugees.

Responsibility-sharing

6. We underline the centrality of the principle of responsibility-sharing in ensuring effective refugee protection.
7. We recognize that international cooperation and solidarity in shouldering the burden are fundamental in assisting States faced with large-scale refugee displacement in hosting refugees, given the enormous challenges this often entails, and noting that the movement of people, including refugees, in an increasingly globalised world can be an important economic and social driver.
8. We recognize the responsibilities of countries of origin and nationality. We recognize also the global and regional contributions made by countries of first asylum. The impact which this has on host communities must be addressed and national capacities reinforced.

9. We commit to identifying and addressing as early as possible the drivers and triggers of displacement related to conflict and persecution in order to prevent the need to flee, or the need to move onward. We commit also to taking rapid action to prevent situations from becoming protracted.
10. We commit to working towards solutions from the outset of a refugee situation.
11. We will systematically include in our analyses of drivers the need to prevent and address statelessness, given the interconnections between displacement and statelessness.
12. We commit to an equitable sharing of responsibility for hosting and supporting refugees, while taking account of differing capacities and resources among States. We will consider ways in which an equitable sharing can be determined, either formally or informally, in specific situations of large-scale movement.

Comprehensive refugee response: elements

Admission and acceptance

Reception

13. Receiving states, in cooperation as appropriate with UNHCR and other partners and with the support of relevant non-receiving States, would:
 - Ensure as far as possible, at the outset of an influx of refugees and migrants, that measures are in place to ensure that refugees are appropriately identified. (Even those found not to be in need of protection as refugees may require protection and support on other grounds);
 - Provide for adequate, safe and dignified reception conditions, with a particular emphasis on child protection and prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence; and acknowledge, reinforce and support the critical contribution of communities and societies receiving them;
 - Register and document refugees and asylum-seekers on an individual basis as quickly as possible upon their arrival, including, where necessary, through cooperative arrangements that would allow States to receive assistance and expertise, if needed, including in the area of biometric technology;
 - Use registration to identify and make specific assistance and protection arrangements, where appropriate, for women with special protection concerns, unaccompanied and separated children, child- and single-headed households, as well as refugees with disabilities and the elderly;
 - Provide necessary documents relating to civil status (e.g., birth, marriage, divorce, death);
 - Put in place measures, with appropriate legal safeguards, to respond to legitimate concerns about security.

Meet essential needs

14. As necessary, non-receiving States, multilateral donors and private-sector partners would:
 - Provide predictable and consistent humanitarian financing, including through wider partnerships involving State, civil society, religious and private-sector partners;

- Ensure financial support for national institutions to meet increased needs, including by allocating development funds to programmes which simultaneously benefit refugees, the local host population and the host State;
- Ensure that the economic and social costs of hosting large numbers of refugees are factored into the justification for, and conditions of, finance lending schemes, including to middle-income countries where necessary, and consider establishing development funding windows for displacement situations;
- Invest in clean and efficient technology to lessen the potential for adverse environmental impacts on refugees;
- Increase support for cash-based delivery mechanisms and other innovative means for the efficient provision of humanitarian assistance.

15. Receiving States, and as appropriate in cooperation with UNHCR and relevant partners, would:

- Route the delivery of assistance, as much as possible, through appropriate national service providers (e.g., health, education, social services);
- Invest in the capacities of refugees and put in place, or mobilise, community-based systems and networks, including in particular for the protection of women and children, at the outset of the emergency phase through to the attainment of durable solutions;
- Invest in local and civil society partners so as to enhance their contribution to humanitarian responses.

Self-reliance

16. Receiving States, in cooperation with UNHCR and relevant partners, where appropriate, would:

- Provide legal stay in countries of asylum;
- Build self-reliance in countries of asylum by pledging to expand the legal, social and economic opportunities for refugees to access education, health care and services, livelihoods and labour markets, without discrimination among refugees and in a manner which also supports host communities;
- Consider ways of enabling refugees, including in particular women and adolescents, to use their skills and capacities, in recognition of the fact that empowered refugees are better able to contribute to their own and their communities' protection.

Support for host countries and communities

17. States, UNHCR and specialised agencies would:

- Ensure a rapid risk and impact assessment after the onset of a large refugee movement in order to identify the assistance required for national institutions and communities impacted by a refugee presence;
- Work to include the comprehensive refugee response in national development plans in order to strengthen the delivery of essential services and infrastructure to the benefit of host communities and refugees, including water and sanitation, education, health care, housing, livelihoods and strengthened security and justice systems (e.g., legal aid,

- community-based policing, child protection, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence);
- Identify common outcomes that both humanitarian and development actors can support, aiming to reduce dependency on international humanitarian aid over time in favour of more sustainable solutions.

Solutions

Voluntary repatriation

18. States of origin/nationality would:

- Respect the right to return and the obligation to receive back nationals within an appropriate framework of physical, legal and material safety in accordance with international standards, achievable for example through amnesties, effective human rights guarantees and measures to enable the restitution of property.

19. Relevant States, UN organizations and relevant partners would:

- Put in place comprehensive support for countries of origin/nationality, including through reconstruction and development funding, and with necessary legal safeguards to ensure the legal, physical and material security of refugees necessary for restoration of national protection and their reintegration;
- Support efforts to foster reconciliation and dialogue, particularly with refugee communities, and with the participation of women, and to ensure respect for the rule of law at the national level;
- Facilitate the participation of refugees in peace and reconciliation processes, and ensure that such agreements duly recognize the right to return;
- Where conditions allow, plan for and support measures to encourage voluntary repatriation, reintegration and reconciliation;
- Ensure that national development planning incorporates the specific needs of returnees and ensures sustainable reintegration.

Interim solutions

20. States, UNHCR and specialized agencies would:

- Invest in building human capital and transferable skills as an essential step toward enabling long-term solutions.

Legal admission pathways

21. States other than host countries would:

- Make available or enhance or facilitate admission pathways for refugees through such means as expanded resettlement medical evacuation and humanitarian admission programmes, and also opportunities for skilled migration, labour mobility, education, family reunion and other pathways;

- Apply more flexible criteria for resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes in mass displacement and protracted situations coupled with, as appropriate, temporary humanitarian evacuation programmes and other forms of admission.
22. UN Member States who have not yet established resettlement programmes are encouraged to consider doing so at the earliest opportunity. Those who have already done so are encouraged to consider significant increases in the size of their programmes.
23. Member States will work towards the provision of resettlement places and other legal pathways on a scale which would enable at least 10 per cent of the global refugee population to benefit annually.

Fostering a positive environment for refugees

24. States, international and national partners and the private sector would:
- Encourage all sectors of society to foster positive and respectful attitudes towards refugees, focusing on the positive economic, social and cultural contributions that refugees can make, in order to promote tolerance, pluralism and common values;
 - Take measures necessary to address xenophobia, racial discrimination and religious intolerance as both causes of conflict and barriers to solutions, noting that the concept of sanctuary and asylum is embedded in diverse religious and cultural traditions.