

General Observations

We appreciate distinguished facilitators for presenting the zero draft Outcome Document and the Global Compact on refugees; the following is some general observation on the documents:

They should be aligned with and fully recognize the principles and objectives enshrined in the UN Charter, in particular respect for sovereignty of member states, their territorial integrity and non-interference;

The legal framework of the outcome document should be based on the documents that are intergovernmentally negotiated;

We are of the view that the overall objective of the outcome document should be neither erosion of the 1951 convention on refugees nor creation of extraneous new commitments, in particular for those countries who have hosted generously for several decades large number of refugees;

This outcome document is expected to address the issue of large movements of migrants and refugees at a global level; Member States are not supposed to find solutions only for a specific region or specific group of migrants and refugees; In addition, responsibility and burden-sharing as an integral part of the outcome, should address needs of all refugees and migrants in the past, present and future;

The terms and concepts need to be defined more clearly and used with consistency throughout the text;

The outcome document is expected to be concise and remain focused on its subjects and as such avoid unrelated issues that make consensus out of reach;

IDPs are not within the scope of the event;

Return of refugees to their counties of origin should be the priority after conflicts or other causes that forced people to leave their homes end;

Governments of origin are expected to prepare appropriate situation for their people to return in a dignified manner and international community should support national governments to fulfill this obligation;

International community should cooperate with the host countries to resettle and relocate refugees; resettlement of at least 15% of the global refugee population annually seems to be a reasonable target;

Migration should be a choice not a need. Large movements of migrants are currently happening out of necessity not choice; intervention, terrorism, conflicts, sanctions, lack of economic opportunities, environmental problems (such as desertification, water crisis, climate change and sand storms) are among the main reasons that force more and more people to decide to migrate;

To prevent mass movement of refugees in future, we need to pay more attention to the root causes of these phenomena which include instability, conflict, intervention, occupation, terrorism and extremism;

International community should provide predictable and durable financial resources till the refugees return; covering at least 90% of the incurring charges and costs to countries hosting large number of refugees should be our target;