

General Statement of Switzerland - 25.07.2016

At the outset we would like to express our gratitude to the co-facilitators for their diligent leadership in this process.

On the OUTCOME Statement document:

We welcome the request to the Secretary General to recommend ways of achieving greater efficiency, operational effectiveness and system-wide coherence. We also fully support the strengthening of the engagement of the United Nations with International Financial Institutions and the private sector. This is a step in the right direction.

The reality on the ground shows however that in addition to governments, international organizations and the private sectors, thousands of civil society organizations, trade unions, migrants and refugee organizations and the diaspora, are doing phenomenal work for migrants, refugees and displaced persons on a daily basis and often in difficult circumstances. We therefore suggest including in the first part of the Declaration a new paragraph on multi-stakeholder partnership and alliances as a fundamental principle in addressing large movements of refugees and migrants. Multi-stakeholder alliances in other areas such as the Health Sector through the Global Fund or the Global Alliance on Vaccines have shown promising results.

It is in our view a missed opportunity not to reference the work done in other fora, such as the World Humanitarian Summit or to draw from existing sources such as the Agenda for Humanity. Procedural reasons should not stand in the way of including relevant substance and possible commitments. One area for example, where the Agenda for Humanity has made significant suggestions is the cooperation between humanitarian and development actors.

We would also like to reiterate the importance of preventing forced displacement which is intrinsically linked to issues such as fragility, conflict prevention, peace building and human rights. We have welcomed the additional language included in the draft, notably by recognizing that violations of IHL may lead to displacement. The best solution to forced displacement is that it doesn't happen in the first place.

We welcome that the current draft has deleted some references to the word "burden" or related terms. We fully agree that a small number of mostly developing countries have been disproportionately affected by displacement situations and it is our intention that through this process leading us towards the UN Summit and beyond we will correct this imbalance. We would nonetheless urge the co-facilitators to fully refrain from using the word burden and instead maintain only references to "responsibility". People fleeing their homes and seeking protection and assistance should not be considered a burden

On the annex with Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

As stated during previous interventions, we would prefer that a global compact on refugees be adopted on September 19th