

FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS MIROSLAV JENCA
AT THE UN SUMMIT FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS –
ROUND TABLE ONE “ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF
LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES”
[Conference Room 2 – 10:00-13:00]

New York, 19 September 2016

Wars and disasters have displaced an unprecedented number of people across the world. Needless to say, displacement also has political roots, with implications for peace and security.

I am therefore happy to see several important and relevant elements that address root causes in the Declaration

that leaders have adopted today.

Importantly, leaders recognized that as long as we do not address the causes that force people to flee their homes, we

We note with great satisfaction that Leaders have also integrated one lesson from the UN's long-standing work on peace and security into the declaration: prevention has to be a guiding principle for our efforts.

Prevention means *early action*; addressing with foresight the political differences that lead to or perpetuate violent conflict.

When we fail to act early, the suffering multiplies; our humanitarian resources fall short; and the continued displacement exacerbates the political tensions that need to be overcome.

Prevention also means *inclusiveness*; leaving no one aside or behind.

When peace agreements, development programmes and humanitarian assistance are not inclusive, they sow the seeds

of further instability and violence.

Finally, prevention means *sustainability*; having a long-term vision for how peace is made and sustained.

Accordingly, addressing root causes also includes strengthening democracy; building stronger, more resilient, accountable State institutions; ensuring adequate checks and balances; promoting the rule of law; and working to establish effective democratic control over the armed forces.

To meet these challenges, we need to reinvest in specialized capacities, in particular, civilian tools such as mediation expertise, electoral assistance, capacities to prevent

It is now incumbent upon us, collectively, to translate the

reality, to quickly move from rhetoric to practice.

To conclude, allow me to raise an important concern that undermines our efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts as well as to effectively respond to large-scale displacement: *polarization*.

No matter how well prepared and equipped we are, the increasing polarization in the international system and in regional contexts undermines any effective response.

Large movements, and the conflicts that trigger them, are