



Restoring Dignity, Inspiring Change.

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Global Compact on Refugees
Second and Third Thematic Discussions
17 – 18 October 2017

Expanding Hope as well as Solutions

*Statement by the International Catholic Migration Commission
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Mr. President, colleagues and partners,

In this Global Compact process, we hear an urgent cry for help, solutions and solidarity—from refugees, from civil society and from States.

We heard the cry when two courageous South Sudanese refugee women at an ExComm side event ten days ago recounted the horrors of their flight and pleaded for swift solutions.

We hear it responding to refugees on the ground, through our own people and programmes, and those of our member Catholic Bishops' Conferences as well as civil society partners around the world. This cry is profoundly human and springs from lived experience and suffering; we cannot ignore it.

And we hear the cry loudly—and fairly!—from States hosting large numbers of refugees, desperately looking for concrete solutions both to current challenges and to the causes of such displacement. Rather than be afraid of the cry, let it move us—all of us—to solidarity, and to share in solutions.

No one is looking for any one State or even just a few States to deliver, or carry, all of the solutions, or a portion of the solutions that is either disproportionate to the States capacities or unsustainable. That is precisely the point of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the new Global Compact on Refugees; not just responsibility-sharing: solution-sharing¹!

We see and appreciate progress in the regional work and collaboration of CRRF countries in Central America and Africa, with substantial support shared from richer donor countries. But what is comprehensive, and what is global—unless the fuller range of solutions is also shared—and reflected in concrete commitments and mechanisms within the Global Compact?

Pope Francis and Caritas have just launched a global campaign called “Share the Journey”. Let us more fully share the journey of finding and achieving solutions through a Global Compact worth agreeing to.

Solutions like increased mechanisms for resettlement, humanitarian corridors, orderly departure and orderly reception, labour migration channels for refugees, community-based private sponsorship. Australia, Brazil, Canada,

¹ ICMC Secretary General Msgr. Robert Vitillo at a side event of the 66th meeting of UNHCR Standing Committee “Global Compacts and the UN General Assembly High-level meeting”, 21 June 2016, Palais des Nations in Geneva.

France, Italy are each doing some of this: why not step up formally as CRRF pilot countries so that innovation and solutions can be shared and replicated more broadly? Expanding hope, as well as solutions!

Even in contexts of large movements--or *especially* then, a people- and protection-centered approach does not mean sacrificing orderly border management or national security. Indeed, orderly reception –with built-in mechanisms of refugee protection—is a practical response to the cry for peace and stability from States and communities as well as refugees.

As civil society actors, we too take up our part in solution sharing: To match this urgency, this moment, just like we did with you a generation ago for Indochinese Refugees and family members.

To close, it is good to remember that we *have* come together in solidarity before, and created solutions we can agree on and share. This Global Compact for Refugees gives us an opportunity to do it again.

About ICMC

The International Catholic Migration Commission is a Catholic Church-inspired, international non- governmental organization which protects and serves uprooted people, including refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, victims of human trafficking, and migrants, regardless of faith, race, ethnicity or nationality.

Founded in 1951 by Pope Pius XII, ICMC facilitates a network of national Catholic Bishops Conferences and other Catholic-inspired institutions worldwide. Headquartered in Geneva, ICMC has staff and programs in more than 50 countries, affiliated offices in Brussels, Washington DC and Boston, and operational offices in Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey.

In Syria, ICMC provides lifesaving assistance to internally displaced Syrians, as well as vulnerable Iraqis. In Jordan, ICMC delivers humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities. In Greece, ICMC works with the UNHCR to provide help to incoming refugees and migrants and to support the Greek government in its asylum reform. With funding from the US State Department, ICMC runs the Resettlement Support Center for Turkey and the Middle East, processing the application of refugees referred by UNHCR for resettlement to the US. ICMC also works with UNHCR on a separate program to deploy resettlement experts worldwide. In 2016, ICMC deployed 210 experts to 63 UNHCR offices in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America.

ICMC Europe convenes a broad range of stakeholders to promote welcome and integration to refugees across the continent. In March 2016, ICMC Europe published “*Building a Resettlement Network of European Cities and Regions - Experiences of the SHARE Network 2012-2015*”, a detailed summary of best practices, policy recommendations, resources and tools developed by ICMC Europe and SHARE Network members. The SHARE Network includes 1,200 local and regional resettlement and integration actors in over 27 European countries, including municipalities, NGOs, public services, churches and private sector actors.

Since 2011, ICMC has served as international coordinator of civil society activities in the Global Forum on Migration and Development since 2011, and in similar functions towards the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013 and the UN High-level Summit on Refugees and Migrants in 2016. ICMC initiated and is co-convenor of the civil society Action Committee, which brings together 24 leading refugee protection and migrant rights NGOs from around the world for joint follow-up to the 2016 Summit’s *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*.