



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 July 2016

Excellency,

Please find attached letter dated 12 July 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 black 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, 12 July 2016

Excellency,

We have pleasure in forwarding a revised version of the draft Declaration to be adopted at the High-Level Meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants which will take place on 19 September.

We are revising also the draft Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees and hope to provide this later in the week.

Recognising that there is little time for Member States to consider the revised draft Declaration before our next informal meeting on Thursday, we propose to begin that meeting at **11.00am**. Prior to that meeting, the co-facilitators will hold an informal dialogue with civil society organisations from 10.00-11.00am; Member States are also welcome to participate.

Please check the Journal for the venue on Thursday.

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

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

Permanent Representative of  
Ireland to the United Nations

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

**DRAFT OF OUTCOME DOCUMENT FOR 19 SEPTEMBER 2016 HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TO ADDRESS LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**

We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2016 to address the question of large movements of refugees and migrants, have adopted the following Declaration.

**1. Defining the challenge**

- 1.1 Since earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of new opportunities and horizons. Others move to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism or poverty. Still others do so in response to natural disasters, climate change or other environmental factors. Many move, indeed, for a combination of these reasons
- 1.2 We have considered today how best the international community should respond to the growing global phenomenon of large movements of refugees and migrants.
- 1.3 Refugees and migrants are distinct categories of persons whose treatment is governed by separate legal frameworks. They also face many common challenges, including in the context of large movements. The definition of “large movements” depends primarily on the geographical context, on a receiving State’s capacity to respond and on the impact of a movement which is sudden or prolonged; it would not, for example, cover regular flows of migrants from one country to another. “Large movements” may involve mixed flows of people, whether refugees or migrants, who move for different reasons but who use similar routes and irregular channels.
- 1.4 We are witnessing in today’s world an unprecedented level of human mobility. More people than ever before live in a country other than the one where they were born. Migrants are present in all countries in the world. In 2015 their number surpassed 244 million, growing at a rate faster than the world’s population. There are roughly 65 million displaced persons, including 25 million refugees and asylum-seekers and 40 million internally displaced persons.
- 1.5 The benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration are considerable and are often underestimated. Our world is a better place for the contribution made by migrants to development. In adopting a year ago the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we recognized clearly the role of migrants as agents of change and as enablers for development in countries of origin, transit and destination.
- 1.6 Large movements of refugees and migrants present a range of complex challenges and are at the heart of our deliberations today. Such movements of refugees and migrants have political, economic, social, developmental, humanitarian and human rights ramifications which cross all borders. These are global phenomena which call for global approaches and global solutions. No one State can manage such movements on its own. Neighbouring or transit countries also carry unfair burdens. A relatively small number of countries, usually developing countries who are in the immediate vicinity of a conflict zone, have borne the brunt for too long. Their capacities have been stretched to a breaking point, threatening their own social and economic cohesion as well as their development and security. In addition, protracted refugee crises are now commonplace, with long-term repercussions for those involved and also for their host countries and communities. These burdens must be shared with such countries on an equitable basis.
- 1.7 We declare our profound solidarity with, and support for, the millions of people in different parts of the world who, for reasons beyond their control, are forced to uproot themselves and their families from their homes and to seek refuge and safety elsewhere.
- 1.8 Refugees and migrants in large movements often face a desperate ordeal. Many take great risks to reach safety, embarking on perilous journeys – frequently by sea – which they may not survive. Many fall prey to

criminal groups. Even if they reach their destination, they face an uncertain reception and a precarious future.

- 1.9 The challenge to world leaders is moral and humanitarian. We are determined, first and foremost, to save lives. We will combat with all the means at our disposal the abuses and exploitation suffered by countless refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations. We acknowledge a shared global responsibility to manage large movements of refugees and migrants in a humane, sensitive and compassionate manner. A particular onus and burden fall on countries of origin or nationality, transit and destination; cooperation between all such countries has never been more important. Those involved in large movements must have the comprehensive policy support, practical assistance and legal protection which they need and to which they are entitled under international law; their human rights and fundamental freedoms must be fully respected; and they must be able to live their lives in safety and in dignity. We pledge this support to those affected today as well as to those who will be part of future large movements.
- 1.10 All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. International law prohibits discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. History has taught us, regrettably, many lessons about the destructive legacies of hatred. Yet in many parts of the world we are witnessing increasingly xenophobic and racist responses to refugees and migrants.
- 1.11 We strongly condemn such responses. Diversity enriches and strengthens every society. Demonising refugees or migrants offends profoundly against the values of dignity and equality for every human being to which we have committed ourselves. Gathered today at the United Nations, the birthplace and custodian of these universal values, we declare all manifestations of xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance directed at refugees or migrants to be utterly unacceptable. We will take a range of steps to counter such attitudes and behaviour, in particular hate speech and racial violence. We support, and will help to implement, the Secretary General's proposal for a UN-led global campaign to counter xenophobia, with Member State, private sector and civil society engagement. This campaign will emphasize direct personal contact between host communities and refugees and migrants and will highlight the positive contributions made by the latter as well as our common humanity.
- 1.12 We reaffirm the principles and values of the United Nations Charter. We reaffirm also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the core international human rights treaties. We reaffirm, and will fully protect, the human rights of all those who leave their countries, regardless of status. We recognize that all refugees and migrants, regardless of status, are rights holders. Our response is grounded in full respect for international human rights law and, as applicable, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.
- 1.13 In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we pledged that "no one will be left behind". We declared that we wished to see the new goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. We said also that we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first. And we made a number of commitments which relate to the specific needs of migrants or refugees. The Agenda makes clear, inter alia, that we will "facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies". The needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants are explicitly recognized. Its targets deal with issues of specific concern such as education, labour standards, human trafficking, exploitation of children, access to justice and the building of self-reliance and resilience.
- 1.14 Implementation of all relevant provisions of the Agenda will enable the contribution which migrants are making to sustainable development to be reinforced. At the same time, it will address many of the root causes of forced displacement, helping to create more favourable conditions in countries of origin. Meeting today a year after our adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and in direct follow-up to it, we pledge to realize the full potential of that Agenda for refugees and migrants.

- 1.15 We welcome the extremely valuable report from the Secretary-General, entitled “In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants”, which was published in May 2016 (pursuant to GA Decision A/70/L.34) in preparation for this High Level Meeting. We recall also the contributions made by the London Conference on Supporting Syria and the Region (February 2016), the High Level Meeting on Global Responsibility Sharing through Pathways for Admission of Syrian Refugees (March 2016) and the World Humanitarian Summit (May 2016).
- 1.16 We favour a new approach to addressing forced displacement and protracted crises which would not only deal with immediate humanitarian needs but would also reduce vulnerability and improve self-reliance and resilience by strengthening the nexus between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. There is a need to address gaps in humanitarian resources and to ensure that host countries and communities receive adequate multi-annual financing as well as support for capacity-building and strengthening resilience. We look forward to close cooperation in this regard among Member States, UN agencies and other actors and between the UN and international financial institutions such as the World Bank.
- 1.17 We welcome the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and will implement the measures to mitigate risks associated with disasters which are outlined in that Framework. We welcome also the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and will take the steps needed to implement that Agreement in full.
- 1.18 We welcome the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including the support of various kinds which it extends to refugees and migrants and its provisions relating to migrants’ remittances.
- 1.19 We note valuable regional initiatives, such as the Bali Process and the Brazil Plan of Action, which seek solutions to the challenges posed by large movements of refugees and migrants.
- 1.20 We recognize the very large number of people who are displaced within national borders, and the potential for such persons to seek protection and assistance in other countries as refugees or migrants. Noting the need for effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons, we believe that a review of the support currently available, building on the existing work done within the UN system on this subject and on the proposals in the Secretary General’s Report Agenda for Humanity, would be useful and timely. We note that the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provide a useful normative framework in this regard; we note also the value of the Kampala Convention as an important regional instrument.

## 2. Commitments

We have agreed today on a set of commitments covering migrants and refugees jointly and also on commitments for refugees and migrants as distinct categories. Some commitments, while mainly relevant to one category, may also be applicable to the other. Furthermore, while they are all framed in the context of the large movements we are considering today, many may be applicable also to regular migration. In addition, we have adopted a Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees.

### Commitments for migrants and refugees jointly

- 2.1 Underlining the importance of a comprehensive approach to the issues involved, we will spare no effort to ensure a humane, sensitive and dignified reception for all persons arriving in large movements, whether refugees or migrants.

- 2.2 We recognize, and will address, the special needs of people in vulnerable situations who are travelling within large movements of refugees and migrants, including women and children at risk; older persons; persons with disabilities; LGBTI persons; and victims of exploitation and abuse in the context of trafficking and smuggling.
- 2.3 Recognising that States have rights and responsibilities to manage and control their borders, we will implement border management procedures, including disembarkation procedures, which are in conformity with international human rights standards and, as applicable, international refugee law. We will ensure that public officials and law enforcement officers who work in border areas are trained to behave with respect towards all persons crossing, or seeking to cross, international borders.
- 2.4 We will take measures to prevent violations of the human rights of all persons in transit and after arrival. We will ensure that the immediate needs of persons who have been exposed to physical or psychological danger while in transit are addressed on their arrival, without discrimination and without regard to legal status or means of arrival.
- 2.5 We are determined to address irregular or unsafe movement, without prejudice to the right to seek asylum, and to combat the exploitation, abuse and discrimination suffered by many refugees and migrants.
- 2.6 We express our profound concern at the large number of people who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety. We will intensify international cooperation on the strengthening of search and rescue mechanisms. We will also work to improve the availability of accurate data on the whereabouts of people and vessels who are stranded at sea. And we will strengthen support for rescue efforts over land along dangerous or isolated routes.
- 2.7 We recognize the particular vulnerabilities of women and children during the journey from country of origin to country of arrival. This includes their potential exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse, violence and exploitation.
- 2.8 We will ensure that our responses to large movements of refugees and migrants promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and fully respect the human rights of women and girls. We will combat sexual and gender-based violence in every way possible. We will tackle the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to which migrant and refugee women and girls are subject. And at the same time, recognizing the significant leadership role being played by women in refugee and migrant communities, we will work to ensure their full and equal participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities.
- 2.9 We will protect the human rights of migrant and refugee children, particularly unaccompanied children and those separated from their families; and we will provide for their health, education, psychosocial development and birth registration.
- 2.10 Reaffirming that all individuals seeking to cross international borders are entitled to due process in the assessment of their legal status, entry and stay, we will consider alternatives to detention while these assessments are underway. Furthermore, we commit never to detain children for this purpose.
- 2.11 We will, with full respect for the rules of international law, vigorously combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling, including through targeted measures to identify victims of trafficking within large movements of refugees and migrants and to provide temporary and longer-term protection to victims of such crimes. With a view to disrupting the criminal networks involved, we will review our national legislation and criminal justice provisions to ensure conformity with international standards on migrant smuggling, human trafficking, maritime safety and border management. We will establish or upgrade, as appropriate, national and regional anti-human trafficking policies. We note initiatives such as the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants. Reaffirming the importance of the UN

Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two relevant Protocols thereto, we encourage ratification of, accession to and implementation of relevant international instruments on preventing and combatting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

- 2.12 We will ensure, on the basis of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, that adequate, sustainable and predictable financing is made available to enable countries to respond to the immediate humanitarian and developmental needs of the large numbers of refugees and migrants arriving in their territories.
- 2.13 We will take steps to combat discrimination in our societies against refugees and migrants and to strengthen their inclusion in all spheres of life. National policies will be developed to this end in conjunction with civil society, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations and other stakeholders. We also note the obligation on refugees and migrants to observe the laws of their host countries.
- 2.14 We will invest in improved data collection, including sex and age-disaggregated data as well as information on regular and irregular flows, the economic impacts of migration and refugee movements, and other issues.

### 3. Commitments for migrants

- 3.1 We commit to protecting the safety, dignity, and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of status, at all times. We will cooperate closely with each other to facilitate and ensure safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration, including return and readmission.
- 3.2 We acknowledge our responsibility to protect the interests of, and assist, our migrant communities abroad, including through consular cooperation. We underline the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship. We recall also that States must readmit their returning nationals who have no right to stay in other countries and ensure that they are duly received and they must ensure the readmission of their nationals without undue delay.
- 3.3 We will address the conditions that create, or exacerbate, large movements of migrants. We will analyse, and respond to, the factors which lead to, or contribute to, these movements. We will respect and safeguard, in the first instance, the right of people to remain in safety in their homes. We will take measures, inter alia, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose objectives include eradicating extreme poverty and inequality, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, creating conditions for balanced economic growth and employment, combatting environmental degradation and ensuring effective responses to natural disasters and climate change. In the latter respect, we will support efforts by Member States at risk to mitigate, and adapt to, the effects of climate change.
- 3.4 We recall the emphasis in the 2030 Agenda on the positive contribution made by migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development. We reiterate that emphasis today. Migrants make a profound contribution to economic and social development in their host societies and to global wealth creation. They help to respond to demographic trends, labour shortages and other challenges in host societies and they add fresh skills and dynamism to the latter's economies. We would like this contribution to be more widely recognized and, indeed, strengthened in the context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- 3.5 We will ensure that migration and reintegration after return are mainstreamed in global, regional and national sustainable development plans and humanitarian policies and programmes.
- 3.6 We welcome the work done by the Global Migration Group to develop principles and practical guidance on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations within large and/or mixed movements.

- 3.7 Reaffirming the importance of a strong normative framework to support migrants, we call upon States that have not done so to consider ratifying, or acceding to, the 1990 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. We call also on States that have not done so to consider acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions, as appropriate. We note, in addition, that migrants enjoy rights and protection under various branches of international law.
- 3.8 We wish to strengthen global governance for migration. We therefore warmly support and welcome the [agreement] to bring the International Organization for Migration, an organization with a global leading role in the field of migration, into a closer legal and working relationship with the United Nations. We look forward to the implementation of this [agreement] which will assist migrants, help Member States to address migration issues and promote better coherence between migration and related policy domains.
- 3.9 We will assist migrants in countries which are experiencing conflicts or natural disasters. We welcome in this regard the “Migrants in Countries in Crisis” initiative, whose valuable contribution has included the recent publication of detailed guidelines to protect migrants in this predicament. We welcome also the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change emanating from the Nansen Initiative.
- 3.10 We will develop guidelines, in accordance with the existing rules of international law, on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations who are not in need of international protection as refugees and who may need assistance. These could be developed using a State-led process with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.
- 3.11 We welcome the initiatives taken by some Member States in providing certain migrants who are not refugees with temporary protection against return.
- 3.12 We will build on existing bilateral, regional and global cooperation mechanisms for facilitating safe, regular and orderly migration. We will strengthen cooperation to this end among countries of origin, transit and destination, international organizations, regional economic organizations, local authorities, private sector recruiters and employers, labour unions, civil society and migrant and diaspora groups. We recognize that support is particularly important for local authorities who are the first receivers of migrants.
- 3.13 We recognise the progress made on international migration and development issues within the United Nations system, including the High-Level Dialogues on International Migration and Development. We will support enhanced global and regional dialogue and deepened collaboration on migration, particularly through exchanges of best practice and mutual learning and the development of national or regional initiatives. We note in this regard the valuable contribution of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.
- 3.14 We will foster more opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration, including employment creation, labour mobility at all skill levels, circular migration, family reunification and education-related opportunities. We will be sensitive to the needs of fragile states and countries and areas which are in crisis. We will pay particular attention to issues such as the ethical recruitment of migrants, the reduction of recruitment and other migration-related costs, the facilitation and productive use of remittance flows, enhanced transfers of skills and knowledge and the creation of employment opportunities for young people.
- 3.15 We strongly encourage cooperation between, on the one hand, countries of origin or nationality and, on the other, countries of destination and other relevant countries in ensuring that migrants who do not meet the criteria for staying in the latter can return to their country of origin or nationality in a safe, orderly and dignified manner. Any type of return, whether voluntary or otherwise, must be consistent with international human rights standards. It must also respect the rules of international law and must in addition be in



keeping with the best interests of children and with due process. We support enhanced reception and reintegration assistance for those who are returned.

- 3.16 We commit to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration. This Global Compact will set out a range of principles and understandings among UN Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions. It will make an important contribution to global governance on this set of issues, will deal with the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration and will be rooted in the 2030 Agenda. It will build on the commitments we are making today and will take account also of other proposals and recommendations, including from civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders.
- 3.17 The negotiation process, which will begin in the coming months, will culminate in an intergovernmental conference in 2018 at which the Global Compact will be adopted. This will be developed and negotiated with close reference to the Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees, which we are adopting today. Both Global Compacts have equal status and will be complementary to each other and also to this Declaration.
- 3.18 We invite the President of the General Assembly to make arrangements for determination of the modalities, timeline and other practicalities relating to the negotiation process. We note in this respect that the Third High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development is to be held at UN HQ in New York “by no later than 2019” and that a role could be envisaged for the HLD within the process. We expect that the International Organization for Migration would provide support for the negotiations. The Global Forum for Migration and Development and the Global Migration Group might also make contributions; and in addition we encourage regional consultations in support of the negotiations.
- 3.19 We note that the Special Representative of the Secretary General on International Migration will be providing a report on the issues within his remit before the end of the year.

#### 4. Commitments for refugees

- 4.1 Recognizing that conflict and instability are among the factors which give rise to large refugee movements, we will work to prevent or resolve conflict. We will tackle the root causes of conflict situations. Early response to human rights violations and abuses is critical and we note in this respect the Secretary General’s valuable “Human Rights Up Front” initiative. We will also promote good governance and the rule of law at the international, regional and national levels. Recognizing that violations of international humanitarian law are a further contributory factor, we renew our commitment to uphold humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law. We confirm also our respect for the norms which safeguard civilians in conflict.
- 4.2 We reaffirm the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime. We recognize the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody. We note with satisfaction that 148 States are now parties to one or both instruments. We encourage States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them. We recognize also that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees.
- 4.3 We reaffirm respect for the institution of asylum and for the right to seek asylum. We reaffirm also respect for the fundamental principle of non-refoulement.

- 4.4 We underline the centrality of responsibility-sharing and burden-sharing within international refugee protection. Echoed in the emphasis on international cooperation in the preamble to the 1951 Convention, this has been reaffirmed in successive General Assembly resolutions. We commit to an equitable sharing of responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, while taking account of the differing capacities and resources among Member States for shouldering the burdens involved. We will consider ways in which an equitable sharing can be determined, either formally or informally, in specific situations of large-scale movement and protracted refugee situations.
- 4.5 We believe that a comprehensive response should be developed, initiated and coordinated by UNHCR and involving other relevant UN agencies, for all situations involving large movements of refugees. This should involve a whole-of-society approach spanning the United Nations, other international organizations, national and local authorities, civil society partners, including faith-based organisations and academia, the private sector and the media. Elements for such a comprehensive response are included in the Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees which we are adopting today (annexed to this Declaration).
- 4.6 We will not implement restrictive refugee admission policies or arrangements which may curtail rights. We wish also to see administrative barriers eased with a view to accelerating refugee admission procedures to the extent possible.
- 4.7 We encourage the adoption of measures which would facilitate access to civil registration and documentation for refugees.
- 4.8 We recognize that statelessness is a root cause of forced displacement; in turn, forced displacement can lead to statelessness. We welcome UNHCR's campaign to end statelessness within a decade and we encourage States to consider actions they could take to reduce the incidence of statelessness. We encourage those States who have not yet acceded to the two conventions for the prevention and reduction of statelessness to consider doing so.
- 4.9 We recognise that refugee camps should be the exception and, to the extent possible, a temporary measure in response to an emergency. Further, we will actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable and timely return where possible. We underline the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements.
- 4.10 Welcoming the extraordinarily generous contribution made to date by countries which host large refugee populations, and the global public good which this constitutes, we will work to increase the support needed for these countries and call for pledges made at recent relevant conferences to be disbursed promptly. We commit to sharing in an equitable manner the enormous burden these countries have been carrying.
- 4.11 We will expand the number and range of legal pathways available for refugees to be admitted to, or to be relocated or resettled in, third countries. In addition to easing the plight of refugees, this has benefits for countries already hosting large refugee populations and it also assists receiving countries to meet, for example, labour market needs.
- 4.12 We encourage Member States who have not yet established resettlement programmes to consider doing so at the earliest opportunity; those who have already done so are encouraged to consider increases in the size of their programmes. We are setting as a target the provision of resettlement places and other legal pathways for admission on a scale which would enable the annual resettlement needs identified by UNHCR, or at least 10% of the total refugee population, to be met.
- 4.13 We will pursue this target through measures such as the expansion of existing humanitarian admission programmes; possible temporary evacuation programmes (including evacuation for medical reasons); flexible arrangements to assist family reunification; private sponsorship for individual refugees; and opportunities for refugees with particular skill sets, for labour mobility (including through private-sector

involvement) and for education (e.g. scholarships and student visas). We will increase substantially the opportunities for skills training and vocational education for refugees.

- 4.14 We commit to providing humanitarian assistance to refugees so as to ensure essential support in key life-saving sectors, e.g. food, water and sanitation, shelter.
- 4.15 We commit to providing quality primary and secondary education for all refugee children and to do so within a few months of the initial displacement. We recognize that access to education gives fundamental protection to children and youth in displacement contexts, particularly in situations of conflict and crisis.
- 4.16 We highlight also the role of tertiary education; we recognize that, in crisis situations, higher education protects a critical group of young men and women, helps to build resilience, fosters inclusion and non-discrimination and provides a foundation for the rebuilding of war-torn societies.
- 4.17 We will ensure that the health needs of refugee communities are met. We will also develop national strategies for the protection of refugees within the framework of national social safety nets. Welcoming the positive steps taken by individual Member States, we encourage host governments to open their labour markets to refugees. We will work to strengthen host communities' self-reliance and resilience, assisting them, for example, with employment creation and income generation schemes.
- 4.18 We will develop improved data collection systems to identify and monitor the needs of refugees and host communities.
- 4.19 To meet the challenge posed by large movements of refugees, close coordination will be required between a range of humanitarian and development actors. Host Governments and communities will require support from relevant UN agencies, local authorities, international financial institutions, regional development banks, bilateral donors, the private sector and civil society. We strongly encourage joined-up responses involving all such players which would strengthen the nexus between the humanitarian and development dimensions, facilitate cooperation across institutional mandates and, by helping to build self-reliance and resilience, lay a basis for sustainable solutions. In addition to meeting direct humanitarian and development needs, support will be needed to assist with environmental and infrastructural rehabilitation in areas affected by large movements of refugees.
- 4.20 We note with concern a significant gap between the needs of refugees and the available resources. We encourage support from a broader range of donors, and with flexible multi-year funding, in order to close this gap. UN agencies such as UNHCR and UNRWA must have sufficient funding to be able to carry out their mandates effectively and in a predictable manner. We welcome the increasing engagement of the World Bank and multilateral development banks and improvements in access to concessional development financing for affected communities. It is clear, furthermore, that private sector investment in support of refugee communities and host countries will be of critical importance over the coming years. Civil society will also be a key partner in every region of the world in responding to the needs of refugees.
- 4.21 Welcoming the high-level meeting on refugees which the United States will host on 20 September 2016, we look forward to the pledges of support which individual Member States are expected to make there.
- 4.22 We have agreed a Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees, the text of which is attached to this Declaration.

## 5 Follow-up and review of our commitments

- 5.1 We agree that arrangements are needed to ensure systematic follow-up and review of the range of commitments we are making today. Furthermore, these arrangements should be closely aligned with the wider reviews of progress on implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to which today's commitments are linked. Accordingly, we request the Secretary General to ensure, with input from the UN Secretariat, UNHCR, IOM, other agencies and others, that the progress made by Member States and the UN in implementing the commitments made at today's High Level Meeting will be the subject of an annual assessment provided to the High Level Political Forum, and accordingly to Member States, as part of the Secretary General's wider reporting to the HLPF on implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- 5.2 In addition, a role in monitoring and reviewing relevant aspects might be envisaged for the periodic High Level Dialogues on International Migration and Development, for the annual ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment and for the annual report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to the General Assembly.
- 5.3 A further High-Level Meeting within the next few years to assess progress on today's commitments may also be useful and will be considered in due course.