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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

OPEN SESSION OF THE IHL COMMITTEE

Panel debate on

Refugees, migrants and their hosts – what next?

Follow up to the New York summit on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants

Wednesday, 26 October 2016

Salle Genève, CCV Annexe, CICG, 2.30 to 4.30 pm

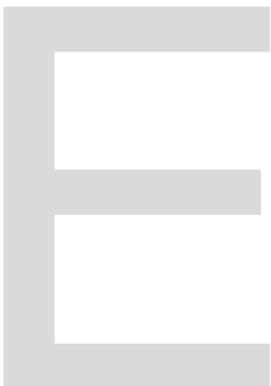
At the high-level UN Summit in New York on 19 September 2016, the 193 Member States of the United Nations committed to enhance protection for millions of people who have been forcibly displaced and are otherwise on the move around the world. The Summit for Refugees and Migrants adopted [the New York Declaration](#) and its two annexes. In the New York Declaration, States declare profound solidarity for people who are forced to uproot themselves; reaffirm their obligations to full respect of the human rights of refugees and migrants and pledge robust support to those countries affected by large movements of refugees and migrants.

The Declaration includes commitments common to refugees and migrants, including: combating exploitation, racism and xenophobia, saving lives en route, as well as ensuring that border procedures follow due process and are in line with international law, thus opening channels for safe and regular migration. Responses to new forms of displacement caused or compounded by environmental change are needed.

Focusing on the situation of refugees, some of the specific commitments include increasing support to the countries and communities hosting the largest number of refugees. There are related commitments to boosting early childhood and primary and secondary education for refugees, and creating jobs and income generation schemes for refugees and host communities. There is also an emphasis on expanding opportunities for resettlement or other forms of admission to third countries.

The New York Declaration also charts new grounds in strengthening international governance of migration, expressing the political will of working towards ending the practice of detaining children for the purposes of determining their migration status, strengthening the global governance of migration by bringing the International Organization for Migration into the UN system.

Furthermore, the Declaration provides for a Comprehensive Refugee Response (CRR) – a framework to be applied in response to large scale refugee influxes or protracted situations. This will be broader than a typical refugee response, bringing in a range of stakeholders from the outset including local and national authorities, humanitarian and development actors, the private sector and civil society.



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By adopting the New York Declaration, Member States are making bold commitments including: to start negotiations leading to an international conference and the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018; to develop guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations; and, to achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees by adopting a global compact on refugees in 2018.

The panel will aim to analysing some of the outcomes already occurred and commitments made at the New York Summit, and discuss the role of parliaments in ensuring adequate follow up.

Moderator: Mr. P. Taran, President, Global Migration Policy Associates

Panelists:

- Ms. P. Locatelli, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Italy
- Mr. Y. Jaber, Member of the National Assembly, Lebanon
- Ms. E. Hansen Senior Policy Adviser to the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection UNHCR
- Ms. M. Klein Solomon, Senior Policy Adviser to the Director General, IOM
- Mr. D. Hellé, Diplomatic advisor, Multilateral Organizations Unit, ICRC