

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Second Informal Thematic Session:

“Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crisis, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution”

New York, 22-23 May 2017

United Nations Headquarters, ECOSOC chamber

PANEL 2: Human-made crises as drivers of migration Intervention (3 min.)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me the floor. This informal thematic session is of great importance to us. Drivers of migration are manifold and interrelated but human-made crises are of particular concern since they are the cause of forced displacement. Most of the current major crises such as the Syrian or the Yemen crises are in fact human-made and have forced millions of people to leave their homes and to depend on humanitarian assistance. In order to end and prevent protracted crises and therefore reduce humanitarian needs, an early engagement of development actors is necessary.

Those people fleeing individual persecution, violent conflict, generalized violence or massive human rights violations are, however, covered and protected by the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention, and therefore recognized as refugees, as opposed to migrants who are not protected by international law. Most of them are women and children, who are too often the main victims of conflict and consequently forced into displacement. In this sense I would like to stress our joint commitment made at the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants last year to share responsibility for refugees more equitably.

In order to reduce mass displacement, the international community needs to focus more on prevention of violent conflicts. Otherwise, people will continue to flee out of bare necessity. In this regard, better coordinated and joined-up humanitarian-development and peacebuilding efforts, conflict prevention and mediation are crucial. However, at the same time actors should continue to provide assistance according to their mandates, ensuring space for humanitarian assistance to be delivered to displaced persons and vulnerable host communities according to humanitarian principles.

Germany has been following a comprehensive approach to addressing the root causes of human-made crisis. Throughout the past years, Germany has invested considerable resources – personnel and finances – in conflict prevention, stabilization, preparedness for response and integration of its instruments.

In particular, we have strengthened, jointly with partners, including the UN, our so called “toolkit”. For instance, in order to better anticipate such crisis, we have enhanced early

warning capacities. In this context, we work closely with local actors, including human rights groups.

We have also strengthened our efforts with regard to preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts. For instance, in Mali Germany supports the Ministry of Reconciliation in its mediation efforts and consultation with citizens which aim at identifying priority projects for basic services. Furthermore, we also support the constitution drafting process in order to establish a solid legal framework ensuring broad participation of all parties to the conflict.

Lasting crisis prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding can only succeed if women and men play an equal role in them. No conflict can be permanently resolved if half the population is excluded from peace processes. Therefore the Federal Government adopted a comprehensive approach with the 2017–2020 Action Plan to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

During conflict, we are focusing on immediate post-conflict stabilization, DDR, security sector reform and rule of law projects. For instance, in Iraq, we are supporting UNDP FFIS/FFES to allow refugees and IDPs to return to their homes and the clearance of mines and IEDs. We also seek to promote social cohesion with the resolution of housing, land and property issues arising with the return of IDPs through already established community policing structures. We also support host communities, Syrian refugees and Iraqi IDPs in Northern Iraq in terms of access to education, income generation, health services and access to improved water infrastructure, while at the same time promoting prevention of violent conflict by promoting social cohesion among the different groups.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We welcome and fully support the UN Secretary-General's focus to put prevention at the core of his agenda and at the center of the work of the United Nations and thereby following the World Humanitarian Summit's core commitment #1 "prevent and end conflict".

And we would like to see the WHS joint commitment to "prevent and end conflict" of the international community to prevent mass displacements by preventing human-made crises also clearly spelled out in the GCM.

In addition, as main actors working on the GCM, we should encourage our colleagues working on the GCR to reflect this strong need for prevention and solution of man-made crises in the GCR. This should be linked to objective 4 of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity), which already addresses finding solutions for countries of origin affected by violent conflict.

Thank you.