

Permanent Observer Mission
of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations



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Statement by the Delegation of the State of Palestine on the revised draft declaration to be issued by the 19 September High-Level Meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, 14 July 2016, New York:

I thank you, Co-Chairs and you teams for the efforts exerted in preparing the revised draft Declaration.

Palestine has reviewed the revised draft Declaration and would like to propose relevant amendments with a view to clarifying and enhancing certain elements, in particular with regard to the protracted plight of refugees.

As previously reaffirmed, my delegation would like once again to reemphasize the right of return as a central goal with a call on the international community to exert efforts to promote and ensure the conditions necessary to facilitate and ensure the safe and dignified return of refugees to their places of origin. This in turn would require, inter alia, a reinforced commitment by the international community to engage proactively in conflict resolution, on the basis of international law and UN resolutions, and tackling the root causes of forced and protracted displacement.

In this connection: in Para 4.9, while we welcome and appreciate replacing “appropriate” with “possible” we would like to maintain our proposal replacing the phrase “where possible” with “as possible” so the para would read: “Further, we will actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable and timely return as possible”.

My delegation welcomes and supports the elements regarding responsibility and burden sharing and sufficiently supporting the capacities of host countries and communities. We wish to see added emphasis in this connection on the need to provide predictable and sustained support and funding to UN agencies and other international humanitarian organizations and implementing partners commensurate with refugee needs and in line with global humanitarian and developmental obligations and commitments.

Co-chairs,

If the humanitarian agencies providing services and assistance to refugee communities are not properly and sufficiently funded, the consequences are manifold, not least unfulfilled basic human needs and gaps in protection for refugee families, which in turn undermine their well-being and dignity, create added burdens and demand services from host countries, and do often propel subsequent movement or displacement of refugees in search of a better life, as we witness in the current global realities.

I thank the Co-Chairs once again and we will submit our comments today in writing.