

---

---

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 Political Declaration.

- 1.1 Since earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of new economic opportunities and horizons. Others move to escape armed conflict, persecution, terrorism, poverty, food insecurity or human rights violations and abuses. Still others do so in response to the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters (some of which may be linked to 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 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. Most of them move without incident. In 2015 their number surpassed 244 million, growing at a rate faster than the world's population. However, there are roughly 65 million forcibly displaced persons, including over 21 million refugees, 3 million asylum-seekers and over 40 million internally displaced persons.
- 1.4 In adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we have agreed to address the needs of all, leaving no one behind. Separate legal frameworks, refugees and migrants have had -3 (d) 18





2.2 We recognize, and will address in accordance with our obligations under international law, the special needs

sensitive health policies that incorporate a public health approach and provide Universal Health Coverage and equitable access to quality and affordable health services for all refugees and migrants regardless of their status , without discrimination or stigmatization. We will ensure that health services are culturally, linguistically and epidemiologically appropriate and we will promote coherence among policies and among relevant sectors that affect migrants' health status and access to health services. We commit to providing adequate monitoring and funding for these activities

- 2.10 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 gender-based violence in every way possible. We will provide access to sexual and reproductive healthcare. We will tackle the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to which refugee and migrant women and girls are subject. And at the same time, recognizing the significant contribution and leadership of women in refugee and migrant communities, we will work to ensure their full and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities. We will take into consideration the different needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of women, girls, boys, and men.
- 2.11 We will protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of refugee and migrant children, regardless of their status, and in accordance with the best interests of the child. This will apply particularly to unaccompanied children and those separated from their families; we will refer their care to the relevant national child protection authorities as a matter of course. We will comply with our obligations under the

frr fac m





- 3.12 We will build on existing bilateral, regional and global cooperation and partnership mechanisms, [including the Migration Governance Framework adopted by IOM's Member States](#), in accordance with international law, for facilitating migration in line with the 2030 Agenda. We will strengthen cooperation to this end among countries of origin, transit and destination (including through regional consultative processes [on migration](#)), [IOM and other relevant](#) international organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, regional economic organizations, local government authorities, relevant private sector recruiters

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 that international refugee law, (including regional refugee instruments), international human rights law and international humanitarian law provide the legal framework to strengthen the protection of refugees. We will ensure, in this context, protection for all who need it.
- 4.4 We reaffirm respect for the institution of asylum and the right to seek asylum. We reaffirm also respect for, and adherence to, the fundamental principle of non-refoulement.
- 4.5 We underline the centrality of responsibility

adapted to the relevant context. We underline the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements. We will work to strengthen security in refugee camps and surrounding local communities.

- 4.11 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 for these countries and we 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.
- 4.12 We commit to working towards solutions from the outset of a refugee situation. We will actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable and timely return in safety and dignity. Such return encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. We encourage States and other relevant actors to provide support through, inter alia, the allocation of funds.
- 4.13

