

## **The imperative for complementarity, coherence and consistency in the follow-up to the New York Declaration: a Civil Society Proposal**

Our three organizations, ICVA, ICMC and the NGO Committee on Migration-New York, are the conveners of the self-organized Civil Society Action Committee (AC) that brought together 11 of the leading refugee protection NGOs with 11 of the most active migrant rights NGOs to work with states and agencies towards a strong set of concrete commitments at the 19 September Summit. We are offering this input today in our own names, with several of us and other AC members also offering input to you this morning and in New York ten days ago.

On 19 September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly hosted a High-Level Summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants. On that day, **193 Member States signed the New York Declaration**, a common plan for addressing large scale movements of refugees and migrants.

It is indeed imperative that this remains a **common plan, shared by all, sound and consistent** in its objectives, approaches and operationalization.

In the New York Declaration, Member States **committed** to developing and then adopting, in 2018, two “global compacts”: one on **safe, orderly and regular migration**, the other to achieve more equitable responsibility-sharing in hosting and supporting the world’s refugees.

On multiple occasions before and since September, civil society organizations active in the Summit process and UN agencies including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have highlighted the importance of ensuring **complementarity, coherence and consistency**, between the two Global Compacts. UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi and IOM Director General William Lacy Swing have discussed the topic bilaterally and mentioned that this would be tackled at the working level.

On 19 September 2016, Member States also welcomed the **global campaign proposed by the Secretary-General to counter xenophobia** and committed to implement it in cooperation with the United Nations and all relevant stakeholders. Civil Society cannot emphasize enough the **need to ensure that both compacts – and the processes that develop the two compacts – talk to each other, reinforce each and do not contradict or undermine each other**. They should also be **articulated in coordination with the global campaign to counter xenophobia**. Doing so means:

- **Ensuring there is coherence and consistency on the contents, particularly identifying key cross-cutting elements** (e.g., integration/durable solutions; children on the move; people in vulnerable situations;) which should be addressed in all three processes;
- **Ensuring that the processes to develop the two compacts are connected and converge where it makes sense;**
- **Ensuring that a truly comprehensive and participative approach** is adopted, with all stakeholders.

As always, civil society organizations are committed to contributing essential perspectives from lived experience and practical response, including long and strong partnership with states and international organizations. As in the lead-up to the 19 September Summit, the **Action Committee** will continue to work with refugee-; migration- human rights- and anti-xenophobia-focused NGOs to:

- **Join forces, share information and analyses** on the development of the different pieces of the NY Declaration and their common threads, as well as key meetings, briefings and hearings.
- **Collectively organize key civil society advocacy pieces** on themes, situations and/or actors that cut across different pieces of the NY Declaration and its Annexes.
- **Work on ensuring coherence** of substance and parallel processes towards the development of both Compacts and the campaign to counter xenophobia.

Thank you.