Gordana Ivkovic - Grujic Remarks for UN Civil Society Consultation on Mass Movement of Refugees

New York, July 18th

- 1. In what wproduced for a comprehensive, global sharing of responsibility for refugees.
- *f* That is why a "new business model" for responding to mass displacement is critical and must be part of any Compact adopted **the** UNGA Summit in September.
- *f* IRC believes that there are four pillars to sharing responsibility for refugees:
 - o Greater use of resettlement and additional pathways for admissiónsfogees
 - o Better policies to support refugee setfliance in host countries
 - o More robust support to countries hosting refugees
 - o Better preparation formovement of refugees nward from countries of first asylum(like that we see into Europe and I which weises every day in my work)
- *f* Responsibility sharing will only be as good as the results it produces for refugees, host communities and refugee hosting states.
- *f* Recognizing the current efforts to share global responsibility for refugees are falling short, IRC will look at the Summit Documents with the following three questions in mind?
 - o What does the Compact propose that is new or different than the status quo?
 - o What systemic or policy changes does it propose that would prompt action and encourage implementationybdonor and host countries?
 - o How would the Compact, once adopted, be used as an instrument to bring change?
- *f* To this end, we believe a refugee Compact should commit Member States and UN agencies to develop a "Plan of Action" that would serve as a roadmæprforre robust responsibility sharing framework.

2. How could a Global Compact for Responsibi**Sily**aring for Refugees support solutions for refugees who are living in protracted situations?

- f By and large, the responsibility for helping refugees in protracted situations is shouldered by neighboring countries. These countries are usually poor themselves with an estimated 80% of refugees being hosted by developing countries
- *f* This means these countries and the communities hosting refugees need maximum support. This should come in a variety of **rfiss**.
- *f* The first aspect the Compact must address is this support to refugee hosting countries Adequate levels of assistance must be provided in a timely manner to meet immediate needs of arriving refugees. IRC would encourage the use of efficient and effective mechanisms that give refugees maximum choice like cash assistance.
- *f* However, recognizing that protracted refugee crises are the norm, immediate humanitarian assistance will not be enough to support these populations and the people hosting them.
- *f* A longe-term funding view must be taken, combining humanitarian and development assistance to ensure positive outcomes for refugees, assisting host communities and ensuring that states can continue on development path that is inclusive of both their citizens and efugees.
- f Humanitarian and development actorsincluding bilateral donors and UN agencies must significantly enhance their collaboration in a drive toward a common vision of assistance for both refugee and host community populations "collective outcome" around education, health, income, protection.
- *f* IRC welcomes the "Commitment to Action on Transcending Humanitarian Development Divides" that UN agencies signed on to and that the World Bank and IOM endorsed at the World Humanitarian Summit and hopes to see this commitment made **biouend** and measurable in the Summit documents.
- *f* Finally, new macro financing mechanisms are needed for refugee hosting countries to strengthen institutions, service provision and infrastructure so that they can manage the additional responsibility of refugees. IRC applauds the development of the newcifingan platform for refugeehosting countries at the Wood Bankand encourages other financial institutions to play their part as well.
- f The second aspect that muse ha major foos is encouraging better host country policies to allow selfreliance.
- *f* Hosting Statesnust provide unfettered asylum. Laws and policies these countries must uphold the rights and dignities afforded refugees and conditions must enable solutions to displacement even at the onset of a crisis.
- *f* Camps-which only host 40% of the world's refugees re still critical in providing emergency humanitarian assistance to mass population movements. This model was established assuming a shoterrm stay and to meet immed te needs. However, the average length of conflict is 37 years nearing displacement is a decades g phenomenon.
- f When the IRC calls f8 (.)-2 45i0034.7 (op6 (f88j /TT0 1 Tf m)1.5 (e)-6 (n)-I9 (is)9.6 (3)-4.9.3

- *f* It also includes enhancing refugee access to employment, knowing that it's the key way to improve refugee selfeliance.
- *f* I'll touch on resettlement later in the conversation, but want to note here that countries must also be prepared for secondary refugee movement as part of responsibility sharing.
- f I'll use Europe as an example. Earlier this year, the region closed borders with the attempt to contain refugees in Gree 確 manage movement to other European Un(函U) Member States via schemes like relocation.
- *f* The result however, has be different to what was publicly envisaged by the EU governing bodies. Relocation pledges have been incredibly slow to be realized: too be realized: too be relocated from Greece and Italy out of an original pledge of 160,000 last September. Of the thousands tranded in Greece, two bereak are women and children.
- *f* Therefore, with a lack of functioning legal channels for the movement of refugees both into and within the EU and poor living conditions, secondary movement out of southern Member States is inevitablend a reflection of the failure of current policy and lack of

around a half a **million** refugees to be resettled in Europe through UNHCR's traditional program per year, and we are also urging donor states to consider complementary admissions schemes beyond UNHCR's program in order to hit 10%.

- *f* Thisis ambitious, but doable if states conit themselves and bring new actors to the table to support. Examples of roles that private sector and society can play:
 - o private sponsorship models such as Canada's
 - o corporate engagement to help resettled refugees gain access to affordable housing and goodemployment
 - o corporate partnerships with governments to facilitate labor mobility for refugees
- *f* We would only caution that public/private partnerships and initiatives like private sponsorship must be built into a new regime where states commit to equitable responsibilitysharing, not responsibility hifting. Protecting or resettling refugees should not be something that societies do based on popular opinion.
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