



**Title:**

***The CRRF – potentially a game changer in large scale and protracted refugee situations***

**Sponsors and Organizers:**

**UNHCR, Germany**

**Time and Date: Thursday, 22 June 2017, 8:30-9:45**

**Room XXII, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

**Background and objectives**

The New York Declaration, unanimously adopted by all 193 Member States in September 2016 (Resolution 71/1), is a milestone for global solidarity and refugee protection at a time of unprecedented displacement. The Declaration calls upon UNHCR to develop and initiate a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in situations involving large movements of refugees, in close coordination with national and local authorities, and involving other UN agencies and a broad range of stakeholders. For that purpose the CRRF is currently being rolled-out in several countries (Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Honduras, Costa Rica and Mexico, more countries in other regions will follow).

The side-event aims at discussing the implications of the practical roll-out of the CRRF for humanitarian, development and political actors involved in refugee response. It will particularly reflect upon how the respective actors need to adapt their way of working in order to tap CRRF's full potential as a game changer for addressing and potentially preventing large refugee situations. It will particularly focus on the implementation of the framework in the pilot country Ethiopia. However, the implications of broader regional efforts to address the Somali refugee situation, notably through the recently adopted Nairobi Declaration at the IGAD Summit on Solutions for Somali Refugees, will also be reflected upon.

The discussions will particularly focus on what the application of the CRRF means in practical terms, what progress the CRRF roll-out has already achieved and how the lessons from the early implementation of the CRRF can feed into the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). With the CRRF being a key element in the implementation of the humanitarian-development-peace-nexus, ample space will be given to discuss how a better coordination between humanitarian and development organizations can be achieved and how the CRRF can contribute to applying and refining the new way of working.

### **Discussion points**

Against this backdrop, the side-event will focus on the following suggested questions and discussion points:

- How can the CRRF tap its full potential and encourage relevant stakeholders to adopt the new way of working in refugee situations;
- How can the CRRF help ensure more sustainable responses by linking humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts early on in a crisis, thus reducing and addressing humanitarian needs more effectively;
- What can States, International Organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders concretely do to contribute to the CRRF process;

### **Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations**

One of the key rationales of the CRRF is to bring together different actors in a multi-stakeholder approach in order to address large and protracted refugee situations more effectively. Therefore, the side-event is meant not only to present the CRRF to a broader public, but even more so to discuss how the different actors can concretely contribute to a more coordinated, comprehensive and effective refugee response. The proposed composition of the panel reflects the different components of the CRRF and will ensure that the perspectives of humanitarian and development actors as well as host governments are reflected in the discussions. By introducing a concrete example of CRRF application – namely Ethiopia – the discussions will ensure practical relevance. In addition, the side-event is meant as a forum of interactive exchange. After short introductory statements by the panelists, the discussion will be opened to the audience. Sharing of good practices as examples of the successful application of the new way of working will be particularly encouraged. The results of the discussions will feed into the CRRF lessons learnt process, which will in turn inform the preparations of the Global Compact for Refugees. For that purpose an outcome document will be drafted by a rapporteur.

### **Format**

**Moderator:**

- Mr. Daniel Endres, Director, CRRF Task Team, UNHCR

**Panel composition:**

- Mrs. Annett Guenther, Deputy Director General for Humanitarian Assistance, German Federal Foreign Office
- Representative of Ethiopia
- Mr. Jos Verbeek, Manager and Special Representative to the UN and the WTO, World Bank

**Background Material**

<http://www.unhcr.org/comprehensive-refugee-response-framework-crrf.html>

[Annex I of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#)

**Contact**

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