



STATEMENT

The Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts welcomes the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees as a way forward in protecting the rights of all children concerned

The Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts commends States for adopting today the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

We welcome the text of the GCR being guided by international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. With children counting for over half of the world's refugee population, the adoption of a global compact on refugees is of great importance.

The GCR promotes concrete steps that, if effectively implemented, will strengthen the protection of refugee children and increase their access to quality education and healthcare and other vital public services they desperately need. Importantly, the GCR will establish a framework where States can considerably improve cross-border cooperation and regional partnerships to provide a continuum of protection, care and services for refugee children.

The GCR outlines a series of practical measures for improved cooperation on key issues affecting refugee children, including: increasing international collaboration and responsibility sharing to ensure the best interests of the child; saving lives; establishing appropriate care, including alternatives to detention for children; combatting discrimination; ending all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation and abuse, and harmful practices; promoting complementary pathways for children and families to access international protection while keeping families together, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls as well as facilitating the meaningful participation of all people concerned, including refugees and children and youth.

International solidarity and cooperation are essential for achieving what the GCR sets out to do. Therefore, the Initiative calls upon all Member States to pledge robust and well-functioning arrangements for responsibility sharing for the protection and support of refugee children. We look forward to supporting States to put in place the governance proposed in the GCR and establish a continuum of care and protection needed by all children, regardless of their migration status.

If adequately implemented and applied hand in hand with the recently-adopted Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees will bring real and necessary improvements to the lives of millions of children on the move, their families and their communities.

About the Initiative: The Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts is a multi-stakeholder partnership bringing together 30 civil society, trade union, UN and philanthropic organisations around a shared agenda - to ensure that children's rights are at the heart of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration, and to create a continuum of care, protection and support for refugee and migrant children.