



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva*

**UNHCR**  
**69<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee**

General Debate

Madam Chair,

As the first high-level meeting after the completion of the formal consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees, this session of the Executive Committee provides us with an opportunity to take stock of what we have accomplished and start a conversation on the next steps.

The final text of the Global Compact reflects a delicate balance between the legitimate calls for equitable and predictable responsibility-sharing and the limits imposed by the voluntary nature of its arrangements.

Brazil engaged in the elaboration of the Global Compact constructively, showing willingness to advance towards the establishment of a robust responsibility-sharing framework.

We insisted on the need to consider national needs and priorities and to ensure that the provision of development cooperation is **additional** to regular assistance levels and not subjected to conditionalities.

We called attention to the role of third country solutions and highlighted the importance of the inclusion of refugees in national systems, especially health and education services, as well as of the promotion of livelihoods.

Brazil walks the talk. Some of the elements contained in the Global Compact are already a reality in our country.

Following a whole-of-government approach, Brazil has established an inter-ministerial committee, headed by the Presidency's Chief of Staff Office, to coordinate the response to the movements of Venezuelan nationals. Brazil is now hosting 75.000 Venezuelan asylum seekers and migrants.

The choice between the status of asylum seeker or temporary resident is a decision taken by the concerned persons themselves, based on the information provided at their arrival.

The reception center set out at the border is multisectoral, encompassing services of registration, documentation, food assistance, healthcare and vaccination and psychosocial support.

All asylum seekers and migrants enjoy free access to health and education national systems.

Persons in situation of vulnerability are hosted in 12 shelters located in the cities of Pacaraima and Boa Vista, which are managed in collaboration with UNHCR

and IOM. An additional shelter, with the capacity for one thousand people, will soon be opened.

UNHCR and IOM, along with the United Nations Populations Fund, have also been key partners in our voluntary relocation strategy.

In order to alleviate pressures on the border State of Roraima and to enhance self-reliance opportunities, Brazil is providing assistance to Venezuelans who wish to be relocated elsewhere in the country. Until the end of the year, a total of 5.000 Venezuelans will be relocated.

One of the positive consequences of the relocation strategy has been the strengthening of the **refugee hosting capacity of the country as a whole**.

That may facilitate, in the future, the expansion of the Brazilian resettlement program, taking advantage of the structures and networks that are currently being established.

Despite the challenges related to the movements of Venezuelans, Brazil is participating in initiatives under the Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism.

The Brazilian government is still committed to resettling refugees from Central America, particularly women and children. We are also developing a new normative framework that will allow for community sponsorship initiatives.

Brazil has supported the inclusion of a dedicated section to statelessness in the Global Compact.

That position was also grounded in actions that we are promoting internally. Based on our new Migration Law, we have established a national statelessness determination procedure. Recognized stateless persons will qualify for naturalization after a period of two years of residence.

Our national policies and practices are **entirely aligned** with the approaches espoused by the Global Compact.

The missing piece in the puzzle is to enhance international cooperation. As a developing country, we relate to the challenges faced by other developing nations struggling to protect and assist large numbers of refugees.

The greatest test to the Global Compact will be its implementation, particularly its capacity to actually catalyze greater responsibility-sharing.

It is important to note that the review function assigned to the Global Refugee Forums will allow us to adjust course, if needed, to ensure the effectiveness of the Compact. Brazil will remain engaged in the process towards the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019.

Thank you.