



**Statement of the Delegation of the Holy See at the
United Nations High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges:
“Towards a Global Compact on Refugees”**

Geneva, 13 December 2017

Mr. Moderator, Distinguished Panelists,

While States have the primary responsibility for reception and admission of refugees, the Holy See, by virtue of its mission and on the basis of its experience, wishes to remind the international community of the principles of humanity and solidarity which deeply underlie both social coexistence and international cooperation.

For these reasons, among others, and with a view to the upcoming negotiations of the two Global Compacts, the Holy See has offered to all the subjects involved in these two processes Twenty Action Points which provide concrete leads for implementation.

The Points advocate effective and proven measures which, together, constitute an integral response to the current challenges. In accordance with Pope Francis’s teaching, the points are grouped under four headings: to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate. Each is an active verb and a call to action. Starting from current good practices, their goal is to build an inclusive and sustainable common home for all.

“The aim of this and other contributions,” Pope Francis explains, “is to express the interest of the Catholic Church in the process leading to the adoption of the two U.N. Global Compacts.”¹

To this solid basis for action, additions can and should be made depending on the specific needs or circumstances, oriented always to the well-being and the dignity of the human person.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

¹ Pope Francis, Message for the World Day of Peace 2018, (13 November 2017).