

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND OTHER COMMITMENTS

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE

- RIGHT OF REPLY- (Working Session 11)

In my national capacity I would like to thank Ambassador Yarbussynova and her team for the excellent cooperation they have with the competent Greek authorities and especially for their constant support to my country.

In addition I would like to thank Mr Muhammadi for sharing with us his experiences in my country and to underline that Greece is taking into consideration his suggestions and his constructive criticism.

Greece, as one of the main entry points for most refugees and migrants reaching Europe, is very well aware of the challenges involved. We have put tremendous efforts and financial resources in saving thousands of lives including in search and rescue operations at sea and to receive them in a humane way with the mobilization also of the local population. Greece despite the economic situation has as a main priority to continue fulfilling its obligations regarding hotspots and reception capacity with international assistance, especially that of UNCHR, which has a leading role in providing protection and assistance to refugees and migrants in close cooperation with the Greek authorities.

Hot spots are fully operational and the reception capacity could reach more than 70.000 places. However, as Mr. Muhammadi mentioned, the refugee crisis surpasses the capacities of individual countries and has to be dealt with collectivity and in a coordinated manner.

Only by dealing with the root causes and by following a holistic approach, could both the refugee crisis and combating trafficking in human beings, be addressed efficiently and countries will be able to promote a multilateral cooperation, enhance early identification procedures and establish effective referral mechanisms.

I will conclude with the words of the Greek National Rapporteur who underlines that “no country is immune, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination”.