

Human Rights Council – 37th Session

Panel Discussion on protecting the rights of the child in humanitarian situations 5 March 2018

Australian Statement

Australia commends the focus on ensuring the international community be more accountable for children in humanitarian situations.

Children in humanitarian situations are particularly vulnerable to violations of their rights, including their right to education.

Education contributes to longer-term resilience and maintaining a sense of normality for children affected by protracted crises. This is why Australia joined with our MIKTA partners – Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea and Turkey – for the *Education in Emergencies Challenge*, leveraging the innovative capacities of global citizens, universities, NGOs and the private sector to help children receive the education they need to thrive, no matter their circumstances.

We note children comprise nearly half of the world's displaced people and more than half of all refugees. Australia welcomes momentum towards improving international cooperation on migration and displacement.

The experiences of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia, present a useful framework for regional cooperation on refugee movements and migration that can help inform state cooperation to protect children fleeing humanitarian emergencies.

Australia looks forward to continued engagement in the development of the Global Compacts on Refugees and on Migration, including advocating recognition of the individual needs of vulnerable people, including children.

We would welcome the panel's views on opportunities and challenges to ensuring the voices of children and youth are recognised in the development of the Global Compacts.

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