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68th Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee

Statement during the General Debate

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Madame Chair,

UNDP is honored to address this Executive Committee.

Displacement-induced impoverishment, demographic pressures on host countries and communities, stretching of local basic services delivery, lack of sustainable development opportunities for internally displaced, weak access to the rule of law, all indicate we need to work across humanitarian and development mandates to support member states in providing solutions to the forced displacement challenges. This is in line with the UN reform process launched by the Secretary-General which we fully support.

As High Commissioner Grandi has said in his opening statement, existing and new partnerships will be indispensable. UNHCR and UNDP cooperation for the Syrian Refugees situation is already solid. But we want to go further. A joint process to strengthen our bilateral collaboration has been launched to more effectively and synergistically respond to the displacement crises.

Our commitment is clear. UNDP's Strategic Plan, currently under consideration by Member States, raises "building of resilience to shocks and crises" to one of UNDP's three overarching priorities, and places UN inter-agency cooperation at the core of all our activities.

The Global Compact on Refugees and the CRRF provide the framework for a closer cooperation. UNDP highly appreciates UNHCR's leadership in the CRRF. Our contribution is shaped by the CRRF country roll out. We are facilitating dialogue and collaboration with UN Resident Coordinators and UNDP country offices, and exploring programmatic linkages to enhance displacement solutions, whether on strengthening core government functions and rule of law at national and local level for the benefit of refugees and host communities alike; understanding and addressing root causes of conflict and displacement; or promoting the sustainable development of returnees.

As importantly, we are looking into opportunities to assist members states to localize displacement in the Sustainable Development Goals roadmaps and Development Assistance Frameworks so as to leave no one behind.

Let me provide some examples:

In the North of Central America, we are supporting a **regional approach** to the complex situation of forced displacement due to unconventional violence. Pervasive violence had prompted a UN multi-agency Joint Initiative, backed by the UNDG LAC and led by UNDP and UNICEF, to foster a regional response that tackles the root causes of violence and that mitigates its consequences. The CRRF will now be a key component of this response and will surely bring dynamism to the implementation of the New Way of Working in the region. Under the leadership of host countries

and with the support of UNDP and UNHCR, UN Resident Coordinators are also working towards anchoring the CRRF process in national development plans. Furthermore, in **Honduras**, our organizations are working together in an innovative arrangement to deepen understanding on the drivers of displacement.

In **Djibouti**, joint work is making this country the first to adopt a new UNDAF that includes the CRRF and attention to refugees. In **Ethiopia**, UNDP is supporting the Government's pledges to improve community security, protection and access to justice for refugee and host communities in Gambella. In **Tanzania**, UNDP is supporting the implementation of the National Local Integration Strategy in support of Naturalized Tanzanians (former Burundian refugees) and surrounding host communities in Tabora and Katavi regions.

There are more examples of joint work in other CRRF roll out countries: **Belize, Mexico, Somalia, Uganda**, all shaped by the specific contexts, informed by national and local priorities. Linkages and programmatic integration are also being explored in **Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama**.

Our experience to date show that sometimes other frameworks, platforms and initiatives are already underway which share objectives with the CRRF initiative. It is therefore key to ensure that the CRRF complements and reinforces these processes. We are ready to continue contributing to ensure this happens as is already the case in Somalia and Central America.

Madame Chair,

Forced displacement requires solutions of both a protection and development nature. Last year's New York Declaration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognize this reality.

UNDP is fully committed to continue working with UNHCR in delivering together joint innovative approaches that respond to the international communities' new way of thinking and that could inform the future Global Compact on Refugees.

Many thanks.
