



**OIC Statement at the 68th Session of  
the Executive Committee of the UNHCR.  
Geneva, 2-6 October 2017**

Madam Chairperson,  
High Commissioner,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates

At the outset, I would like to extend the OIC's great appreciation for the tremendous work, the UNHCR is doing to provide assistance and protection to those who have been obliged to flee their homeland.

In his opening statement, the High Commissioner gave us a very comprehensive overview of the problematic of the Refugees in the world today and the challenges we are all facing in dealing with this issue.

The proliferation of crises that often result in massive refugee flows is a source of great concern for the international community. No continent is spared from this phenomenon.

Because of the multiplication of crises and their multifaceted dimension, we are all required to redouble our collective efforts of solidarity and to bring about innovative and comprehensive solutions.

As to the OIC countries, many of them are experiencing acute crises that generate large scale refugee flows which are pouring in other OIC countries. OIC countries are countries of origin and host countries. Many of the host countries, despite their scarce resources are displaying a great sense of solidarity.

The spirit of solidarity based on islamic values has always driven OIC action in providing assistance and asylum to those who are seeking protection.

During a Ministerial conference held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in 2012, the OIC countries committed themselves to uphold the principle of international solidarity, cooperation and burden sharing and to address the root causes of refugee situations.

This solidarity is being expressed regarding the protracted situation of the Palestinian refugees, the Afghan, the Somali and the Yemeni refugees.

In the same vein, the unprecedented crises in Irak and Syria have a huge impact on the neighbouring OIC countries through large scale refugee flows.

More recently, the OIC countries, as the entire international community, are very much concerned by the crisis unfolding in the Rakhine State in Myanmar. This crisis has generated thousands of forcibly displaced persons. The figures and the speed of the flows are alarming.

This crisis is the result of decades of denial of citizenship to the Rohingya Muslim community and the consequences of multiple restrictions, including freedom of movement and a policy of systematic discrimination.

The Myanmar authorities are urgently called upon to take the necessary measures to stop the violence.

On this same issue, the OIC Contact group on Muslim Rohingya of Myanmar, held a meeting in New York on the sidelines of the General Assembly, on 19 September 2017. The Contact group reiterated the OIC readiness to undertake a comprehensive cooperation with the government of Myanmar and its willingness to assist in improving the humanitarian and social conditions of the Rohingya community, while stressing the critical importance of finding a solution to their citizenship status.

We would like to commend here the government of Bangladesh for its open door policy and the assistance it is providing to the Rohingya refugees including from the civil society.

Madam Chairperson,

It is only by addressing the root causes of the refugee flows that durable solutions can be found and implemented through a comprehensive voluntary, safe and dignified return response of the millions of people who fled their countries.

We are glad to note that some OIC countries like Djibouti, Uganda, Somalia are pilot roll out countries for the implementation of the CRRF, and that its main features are already part of their national refugee response plans.

The OIC has continuously worked with the UNHCR in addressing the refugee crises in view to providing dignified and sustainable response to their sufferings.

As it was expressed by many countries, predictability, solidarity, respect for the human dignity, equitable burden sharing, humanitarian development nexus, are key in our common endeavor to alleviate the sufferings of refugees.

OIC is in line with the vision developed by the UN Secretary General on Prevention as an essential element to avert conflicts and possible humanitarian crises.

OIC appreciates also the fact that the NY Declaration on Refugees and Migrants strongly condemns xenophobia against refugees and migrants and advocates for a global campaign to counter it.

Indeed, negative political discourses grounded on people's fears and exploitation of the economic slowdowns and the promotion of restrictive measures against refugees and migrants contribute dangerously to create barriers among cultures and civilizations.

I thank you.