



PHILIPPINES

72ND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAM

Agenda Item 4(a): International Protection

04-08 October 2021

Madam/Mr. Vice-Chairperson.

The Philippines thanks the Assistant High Commissioner for the presentation. We agree that there should be continuity of national policies and programs for persons of concern even at the time of public health emergencies. We are encouraged that the Note on International Protection cited the Philippines for its inclusion of displaced and stateless persons in the pandemic response, including in the provision of basic services.

The Philippines also wishes to bring more attention to the intersection between climate change and international protection. There should be stronger acknowledgement that climate change is one of the root causes of displacement, and we need more projects on this accordingly. We believe that the UNHCR is one of the avenues where we should highlight the climate crisis, and where we should advocate for climate justice, resilience, and building back better. We encourage the UNHCR to continue its programs that address climate-related displacement. We encourage leveraging existing partnerships with the Platform for Disaster Displacement.

Finally, the Philippines urges the international community to preserve existing solutions, including complementary pathways. The UNHCR may consider piloting more technical and capacity building programs that will enhance States' capability to address internal challenges, which can be a more sustainable solution than stop-gap measures. We note the success of pilot projects that have since been scaled up. We agree with the UNHCR that there can be no incompatibility between State commitments related to persons of concerns, and national responses to health emergencies.

I thank you, Madam/Mr. Vice Chairperson.