

Draft Speech for Minister Brophy for HLOM: Global Forum on Refugees

Thank you Chair,

I would like to thank the co-hosts, the Swiss Confederation and UNHCR, for convening this important meeting.

When the Global Refugee Forum took place in 2019, the world was experiencing levels of displacement not seen since the Second World War.

Two years on, the crisis has worsened, with forced displacement in Syria, in Afghanistan, in Ethiopia, and elsewhere. High Commissioner Grandi's remarks at last week's UNHCR Pledging Conference left us in no doubt as to the seriousness of the global situation.

I am proud of the role Ireland played in the process leading to the Global Compact on Refugees.

In 2019, together we resolved to implement that Compact as a sign of our collective determination to address the needs of refugees worldwide. We cannot renege on that collective commitment.

Chair, I would like to share an update of Ireland's progress against our pledges.

Ireland exceeded its pledge to provide UNCHR with core funding of €9 million per year, with €10.5million disbursed this year. We will provide a further €10.5 million to UNHCR in 2022.

Ireland has also fulfilled its pledge to address the root causes of displacement through support for global peacebuilding initiatives, including the commitment of at least €4.5 million to the Peacebuilding Fund over the period 2020-2022.

Following the Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund Replenishment Conference in January, Ireland pledged a total of €10 million for the period 2020-2024.

Our core funding pledge to the International Organisation for Migration has been fulfilled also, with €1 million per year provided and maintained.

Ireland has fulfilled and exceeded its pledge to increase support for education in emergencies and protracted crises. Since 2019, Ireland has contributed €6.85 million to the Education Cannot Wait fund to meet the educational needs of children and young people affected by crises, including refugee and displaced children. Ireland will commit an additional €3 million for 2022.

Lastly, and although not due for reporting until 2023, Ireland's commitment to re-settle refugees, including through its Community Sponsorship Ireland Scheme, is well underway. 691 people have been welcomed into Irish communities since 2020, and selection missions resumed in September 2021.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank those countries who shoulder the greatest impact of refugee movements, such as Jordan, Turkey, Pakistan and Uganda. Just a few weeks ago, I was fortunate enough to visit Uganda. I was struck by the wide-ranging actions aimed at supporting refugees - from central government to local authorities; from communities; from the refugees themselves; and of course the UN family, including UNHCR.

We must live up to our pledges and assume our responsibilities if we are serious about mitigating the risks faced by refugees. We must do everything within our means to remove the terrible choices that they are forced to make every day.

Thank you.