

**Elements of the High Commissioner's statement  
To the seventy-second session  
of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme**

*(Geneva, 4 October, 2021)*

In his opening statement to the seventy-second session of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner will outline how the many challenges facing the world, especially the COVID 19 pandemic, the climate emergency, and persistent conflict affect refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, and stateless persons.

The High Commissioner will highlight UNHCR's response to these often-interlinked crises, the challenges the agency has faced in responding to multiple emergencies and complex and protracted displacement crises, as well as the accomplishments achieved by UNHCR staff on the ground, alongside our sister United Nations agencies, partner non-governmental organizations and with and in support of people of concern and Member States. The High Commissioner will also highlight the work that has been undertaken in support of seeking durable solutions to resolve the plight of the displaced, often in fragile conditions.

Yet despite the many positive steps taken in the past period, there is much that remains to be done. Access to asylum must be enabled, with human rights and dignity of all upheld, including in the context of mixed movements. The solidarity of states must match that of their citizens, who have continued to demonstrate strong support refugees and the displaced. And with that solidarity must come greater resources to host countries and communities. Ultimately, however, there is an urgent need for collective action to solve today's global problems.

The High Commissioner will reiterate UNHCR's unwavering commitment to its mandate and especially to the people it serves. In so doing, he will renew UNHCR's five Strategic Directions, first launched in 2017, for another five years. UNHCR will continue to Protect, Respond, Empower, Include and Solve in line with its mandate, while also enabling a greater impact by establishing a closer correlation between these Strategic Directions and UNHCR's strategic planning approach, in line with the global results framework. The High Commissioner will outline a number of areas where focused action will be undertaken to respond to today's challenges and better support refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless persons and the communities that continue to generously host them.

*24 September 2021*