

Statement by H.E. Amb. LeeTaeho
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on
the Occasion of the First Global Refugee Forum(GRF)
Geneva, December 17, 2019

Your Excellency Mr. Filippo Grandi(필리포 그란디),

UN High Commissioner for Refugees,

Your Excellency Mr. Minister Ignazio Cassis(이그나지오 카시스),

Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my great honor to represent the Republic of Korea in this
historic first Global Refugee Forum.

At the outset, I would like to commend the UNHCR and the
Government of Switzerland for their dedicated work in co-
hosting this Forum.

My appreciation also goes to the Co-convenor States for their
invaluable support in the lead-up to this Forum.

The first-ever Global Refugee Forum is a historic opportunity

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for all of us to generate momentum for the actual realization of the vision presented in the Global Compact on Refugees. Reiterating the Korean Government's unwavering support for the Compact, I would like to present the pledges and contributions of the Republic of Korea, to be implemented by the time of the next Forum in 2023.

First, the Republic of Korea will continue and indeed seek to expand its humanitarian assistance for refugees and displaced people to ensure greater burden-sharing and responsibility-sharing.

Korea has been expanding its humanitarian assistance. Its contribution in this year amounted to 74 million dollars, which is double the figure of approximately 30 million dollars in 2015.

While seeking to expand its humanitarian assistance, Korea will also provide its multi-year contribution of 5 million dollars to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework project in Uganda from 2020 to 2022 in addition to the same amount for the past 3 years.

Korea will also maintain its contribution of 5 million dollars for Afghanistan refugees in 2020 as well.

Second, the Korean Government pledges the provision of 12 million dollars from 2020 to 2023 to support projects aimed at addressing the needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.

As part of our “Action with Women and Peace” initiative, we have been working closely with international organizations, such as the UNFPA, UNICEF and the IOM. The Korean Government will host the international conference on "Action with Women and Peace" on an annual basis, which was first held in July 2019, as part of Korea's persistent effort to promote the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.

Third, Korea will formalize the mechanism for public-private cooperation on humanitarian assistance next year to further strengthen cooperation between the Government and civil society organizations.

Through this mechanism for cooperation, the Korean Government and civil society will jointly monitor the implementation of our pledges announced today.

Fourth, Korea will expand its support for refugees in such a way that contributes to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace

nexus.

The Korean Government will allocate more than 50 million dollars from 2019 to 2023 to the multilateral development cooperation projects which will support the resettlement of refugees and displaced persons and their social integration in host communities. Jobs and livelihoods will be the area of focus of those projects.

Fifth, the Korean Government will make continued efforts to strengthen Korea's refugee protection capacity by bolstering the related workforce and infrastructure.

Korea is the first Asian country that introduced stand-alone refugee legislation – it did so in 2012. We will seek to enhance our expertise on determining refugee status. Establishing a separate office under the Ministry of Justice that is dedicated to appeals is one example of our efforts in this regard.

Sixth, the Korean Government will continue to join the collective efforts of the international community to find solutions to protracted refugee situations.

In 2015, Korea became the second Asian country to launch a pilot resettlement program to provide support for refugees. In

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2017, we doubled the number of refugees benefiting from this program.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Korea, in a spirit of solidarity, is keen to play its full part to enable refugees to “not just survive, but thrive” as stressed by High Commissioner Grandi.

The Republic of Korea reaffirms its firm commitment to the Global Compact on Refugees and its strong will to ensure that all the pledges made today are faithfully implemented by the time we meet for the next Forum.

Thank you. /END/