



NEW ZEALAND
69th session, Executive Committee of the High
Commissioner's Programme
Geneva, 1 - 5 October 2018
Delivered by Hine-Wai Loose

Thank you.

1. Let me begin by expressing our sincere appreciation for all of UNHCR's work. The challenges being confronted by those providing for the basic needs and protection to refugees cannot be overstated. We commend the expertise, commitment and courage that UNHCR staff demonstrate in carrying out the organisation's mandate.
2. We wish to express our gratitude to those States around the world hosting refugees. For New Zealand the principle of non-refoulement is a cornerstone of human rights and international law. We recognise that hosting States are in the front line of safeguarding this principle and that much more needs to be done to support them.
3. In this connection, this year New Zealand strongly supported the process for developing the Global Compact on Refugees. As is the case with any document that is the result of multilateral consideration, it represents a compromise. Not all issues are reflected in the Global Compact as we would have hoped. However, we recognise that the Global Compact represents an important opportunity to alleviate the burden on hosting States and we need to give it a chance to achieve results.
4. For our part, last month the New Zealand Government announced that beginning in 2020, the New Zealand resettlement refugee quota will be increased from 1000 to 1500 places. The increased quota is strongly supported by different groups within the New Zealand public, who want to do their part in responding to the humanitarian crises around the world.
5. New Zealand has long recognised the pressure on hosting States affected by both protracted and more recent refugee situations. This is one of the reasons why our core contribution of six million New Zealand dollars to UNHCR remains entirely un-earmarked.
6. In our own region, the Asia-Pacific region, we continue to closely follow and provide support for Bangladesh's hosting of the Rohingya people. This year New Zealand contributed \$2 million New Zealand dollars to UNHCR for its operations in Bangladesh. New Zealand also provided \$2 million dollars to the United Nations Population Fund to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls impacted by the Rohingya crisis, as well as providing care and support for those who have experienced sexual violence.

7. An issue raised by the High Commissioner in his opening statement and one that has hit the headlines this year has been the sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian organizations of the very people that they are mandated to protect. We fully support UNHCR's efforts to accelerate this area of its work. The message must be that there is zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, but the real concern is with organizations providing zero reports of such cases. In this regard, we welcome UNHCR's transparency and reporting on this matter.

8. "Integrity" is a word that is in frequent use at this moment. The integrity of UNHCR's processes to identify those in need of protection is crucial to New Zealand's resettlement refugee quota. We greatly appreciate UNHCR's frankness with resettlement countries when such processes have been challenged.

9. No doubt the year ahead will be challenging. Today's conflicts and resulting refugee crises are not being easily resolved. Nevertheless, we remain steadfast in our commitment to working with all partners to protect and provide for the needs of refugees.

Thank you.