

72nd Session OfThe UNHCR EXCOM 4-8/10/2021

Thank you Mr.Vice Chairperson,

Mr. High Commissioner,

Jordan aligns itself with statements made on behalf of groups it belongs to.

Providing a safe haven for those seeking refuge and protection.....for those fleeing injustice and danger has always been a guiding principle applied in reality, time and again, throughout Jordan's history. We also take pride in dealing with refugees as human beings and not as mere numbers or statistics as we remain to be a model of refuge and protection, despite the tremendous pressures exacerbated by covid-19.

In particular, so much has been sacrificed to accommodate 1.3 million of our Syrian brethren for more than 10 years now, despite all the challenges this has created in each and every operating sector in the country. We continue to provide basic necessary services; schools are run on double shifts in order to provide education and accommodate for Syrian students, work permits that are issued for Syrians in Jordan despite severe problems in the Jordanian labour market, and they are included in our health care systems. From the beginning of the covid-19 pandemic, refugees have been included by the government of Jordan within the national response plan, able to access health care and medical treatment on the same principles applied to Jordanian citizens, and since January they have been receiving the covid-19 vaccine alongside their Jordanian brethren, (a third of eligible refugees living in camps have been vaccinated).

All of this was carried out while facing tremendous economic challenges with considerable unemployment rates, immense pressure severely impacting our health, water, education and electricity sectors. A 90% deficit in this year's Jordan response plan where 220 million \$ of the originally planned 2.4 billion \$ were funded.

The commitment of our friends and partners in the international community has been invaluable in addressing those challenges. But much remains to be done.

Mr. High Commissioner

we value the collaboration between our ministry of health and UNHCR, last month witnessed the announcement that refugee medical specialists, anaesthesiologists and general doctors have started working in hospitals and clinics across Jordan as United Nations volunteers. This only shows the lengths Jordan has gone to in setting up exemplary practices in refugee hosting. and the exemplary cooperation between our Ministry of Education and the UNHCR in making e-learning more accessible for refugee students is also well recognized.

We echo your call upon the international community to realize the importance for more solidarity and support in the world. Burden and responsibility sharing among countries worldwide remains to be a pillar that has to be reinforced. More so since the world is facing unprecedented challenges and crises that know no borders and compound further already complicated problems including climate change which risks magnifying all other challenges, refugees included. We need and must be able to develop new ways to respond as one world, one humanity, to crises and challenges we face.

Mr High Commissioner

Seeking solutions for protracted situations even in times of peril is an enormous task but not an impossible one to realize if there is a collective will towards addressing it.

While we note that the resettlement figures continued to be modest and the numbers of voluntary returns have been well below expectations, there is no doubt that more should be done to facilitate the refugees' voluntary return in greater numbers into their countries to help build a better future. And we need to be constantly reminded that the responsibility towards refugees is that of all of the international community to shoulder.

This year marked 30 years of Cooperation between Jordan and UNHCR, we look forward to strengthen and bolster our cooperation, and express our firm belief that the UNHCR will keep advocating for further support as well as burden and responsibility sharing in order to alleviate pressures on host countries despite funding gaps. Mobilizing various resources is indispensable in order to adequately fund the needed budgeted amounts and the needed services including for the refugees in Jordan.