

**UNHCR Executive Committee 9 – 13 October 2023, (74th meeting)**

**Agenda Item 4 a Note on International Protection (12 October)**

**Statement by Norway**

**Check against delivery**

Thank you for the Note on International Protection and the very interesting briefing yesterday.

The number of war and conflicts is becoming ever more overwhelming and the numbers of forcibly displaced persons are staggering.

We thank host countries for their generosity in receiving forcibly displaced persons. Norway provides unearmarked funding for UNHCR in order to help alleviate the burden and continues with resettlement of refugees. We hope more countries will follow suit.

To work on the nexus between peace, humanitarian and development actors, is more important than ever. We applaud the partnership between UNHCR and the World Bank and development agencies, and also with the World Food Program. It is also important with good collaboration with IOM with regard to mixed migration flows.

We agree that it is necessary to find new ways of working in an ever more complex displacement and migration context and support the “Whole of route”- approach.

Chair,

The Norwegian Government launched a new action plan for 2023-26 on Gender and Sexual Diversity, and the need to secure their rights – such as freedom from hate crime – and improvement of their quality of life. The action plan states that sexual and gender minorities must be included in humanitarian effort funded by Norway through for instance international humanitarian organisations. It is vital that all persons regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity have their human rights respected and that they are not discriminated against.

Norway advocates for the equal treatment, non-discrimination and access to tailored protection and support for LGBTIQ+ persons under the mandate of UNHCR

Norway is concerned about Sexual and gender-based violence. We commend the efforts UNHCR has made, including the work on prevention of violence against women through the “Engaging men in accountable practices” initiative in various countries. We believe it is vital to include men in this work. It is also important to bear in mind that boys and men can be victims of SGBV.

Chair,

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Gillian Triggs. Your hard work and longstanding efforts in the complex field of protection of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons has been highly valued and appreciated.

I thank you