



Statement by H.E. Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, and Head of Delegation of Nepal during the Second Global Refugee Forum 2023.

Action, Unity and Impact

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Mr. High Commissioner,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates.

We are pleased to participate in this second edition of the Global Refugee Forum, which is an important platform to review and redouble the efforts made in the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. This is also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the collective responsibility to protect refugees and renew our efforts to fully the GCR.

Nepal has been hosting over 20,000 refugees from 13 nationalities on humanitarian grounds despite difficult domestic economic situation and limited resources; and despite not being party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol.

Nepal in partnership with UNHCR and other relevant agencies has been given refugees a good access to healthcare facilities and education in the public sector. The Government of Nepal implemented COVID-19 preparedness and response plan incorporating the refugee population.

Mr. High Commissioner,

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the UNHCR's assistance in the resettlement of over 113000 Bhutanese refugees under third country settlement program conducted between 2007 to 2016.

We express our utmost gratitude to the UNHCR and core group of countries including the United States of America, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, United Kingdom and Netherlands for the support.

Nepal appreciates the High Commissioner, the UNHCR team for responding to the humanitarian situations.

We reiterate our call for enhanced international cooperation and solidarity to address the plight of people on the move.

Mr chair,

We call upon the international community to act timely and comprehensively for protecting refugees' right to return to their homeland in dignity and ensuring their effective rehabilitation under all circumstances.

Thank you.