

Hovedinnlegg, GRF 14. Desember 2023

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

Let me start by paying tribute to humanitarian workers who are tirelessly working to relieve human suffering both in Gaza and elsewhere under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions. We are extremely concerned about the civilian suffering in Gaza. The civilian death toll is now reported to be higher than the average in all armed conflicts in the 20th century. We continue to call for the release of all hostages. And we continue to remind parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law at all times.

Norway considers the Global Refugee Forum an important vehicle for more equitable burden and responsibility sharing, supporting our common effort to implement the Global Compact on Refugees.

Although we have seen progress in some areas, we are concerned about the all-time high number of forcibly displaced persons. The challenge to provide protection and support for refugees and internally displaced persons, is overwhelming.

Protection of refugees and a comprehensive approach to refugee situations will continue to be a priority in Norway's humanitarian policy. Norway's broad engagement is reflected in our pledges.

Let me highlight some of our pledges and priorities:

- First of all, we will continue our significant core support to UNHCR, of which over 50 % remains unearmarked and flexible funding. Unearmarked and flexible funding provides UNHCR with much needed predictability to plan ahead and use resources where they are most needed.
- Second, we are proud to have taken on the role as co-leaders of the Multistakeholder Pledges on Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, Childrens Rights and Food Security. These three pledges all represent key elements in our development and humanitarian policy.
- Third, we will continue to resettle refugees and to cooperate with host countries and countries of origin. At the national level we will continue to promote and strengthen our integration policies in Norway. Inclusion is a necessity, not only for the individual refugee, but also for sustainable societies.
- We are joining the Refugee Participation Pledge and are proud to include a refugee adviser in our delegation, Mr. Ziad Taha; Participation and representation ensures refugees are met with the same expectations, and given the same opportunities, as the rest of society.
- Finally, we pledge additional support for protection against sexual and gender-based violence.

Chair,

We all have to increase our support for both refugees, their host communities and countries of origin. Host countries make a vital contribution.

Let me reaffirm Norway's continued support for finding durable solutions. We have created a dedicated budget line in our development budget to support stabilization efforts in host-communities and services to displaced persons, with a particular focus on the Middle East and Africa.

In closing, we sincerely hope this Global Refugee Forum will result in even stronger consolidated international efforts and results on the ground.

Because results are what matters to both refugees and their host communities.

Thank you.

