



PHILIPPINES

2ND GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

Plenary interventions on burden- and responsibility-sharing

Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland
13-15 December 2023
Speaking time: **3 minutes**

Ambassador,
High Commissioner,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

The Philippines thanks the co-hosts and co-conveners for their leadership in bringing together the global community at this important occasion.

During the 1st Global Refugee Forum, the Philippines made 12 pledges that spanned various aspects of protection and solutions - a clear expression of our determination in realizing the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees.

As we reflect on our progress, we are proud to share that we have either fulfilled or continue to implement our pledges. We learned that a whole-of-society approach is a strong enabler in our compliance of our promises. The coordination between national and local governments, the UNHCR and other organizations, and CSOs and community groups –

guided by a clear political mandate from our leadership and motivated by our humanitarian tradition – remains to be the effective foundation of the realization of the goals we set in the GCR.

We take to heart our modest role in hosting a relatively small number of refugees, stateless persons, and asylum seekers. Throughout the past century, we hosted considerably greater numbers, as nine waves of refugees have sought shelter on our shores, starting from the 2nd World War, the Vietnam War, and other recent armed conflicts. The delicate global landscape, where armed conflicts and natural hazards can rapidly trigger displacement, should be a reminder to all, including *middle countries* such as ours, of the value of solidarity and empathy.

High Commissioner,

Today, the Philippines brings to this 2nd Global Refugee Forum, a total of 24 pledges. For this new set of pledges, we intend to seamlessly continue our work by building on existing foundations. We will continue to be a champion of ending statelessness, including through the new Global Alliance. We will endeavor to provide education to more Rohingya students. We will enhance access to social services and enhance socio-economic inclusion. We will refine our policies and laws, improve our governance, and develop high-quality disaggregated data. We will give special consideration to groups in vulnerable situations such as women and children, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous Peoples.

We heard the call to be more ambitious and we aimed to do just that. On top of our pledges, we also announced a 50% increase in our voluntary contribution to the UNHCR, whose work also supports the GCR.

A true test for the global community is when the excitement of this Forum wanes, and the difficult task of pledge implementation starts. As each pledge and each crisis situation increasingly demand more from us, we should not forget the most fundamental of our considerations: the rights, inclusion, safety, and welfare of all displaced persons.

I thank you.