

**UNHCR Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's programme
(ExCom)**

Seventy-fifth session

14-16 October 2024

General debate on global issues, including statelessness

UN Women Statement

Chair, High Commissioner, Excellencies, colleagues,

It is a privilege to address this esteemed body at the 75th Plenary Session of the Executive Committee. As we gather to address the complex challenges of displacement, conflict, and humanitarian crises, it is critical that we place the experiences and needs of displaced, and crisis affected women and girls at the heart of our collective responses.

I would like to highlight three key areas where UN Women believes we must intensify our collective efforts:

First, it is essential that refugee response plans recognize the specific needs of women and girls and actively ensure their participation in decision-making at all levels of response. Women must be empowered to shape the policies and programs that affect their lives. This is not just a matter of rights, but of effective and sustainable approaches. Research shows that when women are involved in peacebuilding and crisis responses, outcomes are more inclusive, durable, and equitable. UN Women is committed to working with partners to integrate gender equality into the heart of refugee response plans and operations through a strong focus on quality partnerships and funding for local women's organizations.

Second, women's economic empowerment is critical to fostering recovery, building resilience and sustainable solutions. Empowering women—whether through access to livelihoods, lifelong learning and vocational training, or financial inclusion—can be transformative for their families and communities. UN Women continues to work with local women's organizations, national and local governments to develop programs that build the economic resilience of displaced women, helping them regain control of their lives.

Third, we must explore innovative financing and partnerships to expand the impact of our work. Humanitarian needs are growing, and traditional resources are increasingly overstretched. We need to leverage innovative financing mechanisms,

and enhancing partnerships with the private sector, to ensure that refugees and host communities have access to the resources and opportunities they need.

On the important issue of addressing statelessness, please allow me to add that for many women and girls, statelessness begins with discriminatory nationality laws that deny them the right to live as full citizens. At UN Women, we continue to strengthen advocacy and collaboration to end gender discrimination in nationality laws in all countries where it remains; and to advance the rights and protection of refugee women and girls in all their diversity through our 'Equality in Law for Women and Girls by 2030' strategy.

At last year's Global Refugee Forum, we pledged to address statelessness proudly standing with our partners in the new Global Alliance to End Statelessness.

UN Women stands committed to work with all partners to advance women's rights, protection and leadership recognizing that empowering women and girls is essential to achieving our shared vision of a world where no one is left behind.

Thank you.