

**Elements of the High Commissioner's statement  
to the seventy-sixth plenary session  
of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme**

**6 to 10 October 2025**

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In his opening statement to the seventy-sixth plenary session of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner will reflect on the current crisis of multilateralism, placing it in the broader context of the political and social change that has marked the last decade – change that has often been characterized by a loss of trust in institutions and by the erosion of norms and values once held as foundational to international relations and to cooperation among States.

In a world riven by war, violence, and persecution, the High Commissioner will highlight the unprecedented scale and complexity of forced displacement, which remains one of the most immediate and visible symptoms of the inability to prevent or resolve conflicts. He will underscore the real challenges that such displacement poses, whether in emergencies or protracted situations – where, in the absence of peace, refugee-hosting countries are left to manage displaced populations, often with little support – or in contexts where mixed movements of refugees and migrants put national asylum systems under enormous strain.

The High Commissioner will acknowledge – and challenge – the resulting narrative that portrays the institution of asylum itself as being in crisis, a narrative that has led to calls to fundamentally reform, if not entirely dismantle, existing international legal instruments. Drawing on UNHCR's expertise, as well as on recent best practice, the High Commissioner will instead present a vision where, within the current asylum framework, practical and innovative approaches can be implemented to respond to forced displacement in a manner that both ensures that refugees and asylum-seekers receive the protection to which they are entitled, but which also addresses the legitimate concerns of refugee-receiving countries and communities.

The High Commissioner will reiterate the importance of tackling the root causes of displacement, noting that efforts to work towards peace and solutions are never in vain, as recent unexpected opportunities to resolve long-standing conflicts have shown. He will highlight the critical roles that UNHCR plays in advancing solutions – whether its operational role, such as in facilitating voluntary return, its catalytic role in mobilizing new partners and resources, or its role in humanitarian diplomacy, through principled engagement with all parties, including in politically charged and insecure contexts.

The High Commissioner will again recognize the generosity of low- and middle-income countries, where most displaced people continue to be hosted, and call for greater financial support from donor governments and partners at a time when the humanitarian sector faces an unprecedented financial crisis. In this context of scarce resources, he will highlight efforts made by many host countries to strengthen the sustainability of responses to forced displacement by investing in refugee self-reliance, through the adoption of policies of inclusion – many of which are increasingly at risk of back-sliding due to insufficient support.

Having served for nearly ten years as High Commissioner for Refugees and about to complete his tenure, he will reflect on the unprecedented funding reductions faced by the organization and the drastic consequences on the protection and well-being of refugees, on the communities that host them, and on UNHCR itself. The High Commissioner will also speak to the organizational review and reduction exercise which UNHCR has been compelled to carry out, as well as to UNHCR's efforts to contribute to both the OCHA-led Humanitarian Reset and the Humanitarian Compact, as presented in the Secretary-General's report on the UN80 Initiative.

Finally, the High Commissioner will underscore the importance of the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review meeting to be held in December 2025, encouraging States and all stakeholders to reaffirm and scale up their cooperation and commitment to humanitarian action, which are profoundly needed in these challenging times.