

## **National Statement of the Republic of Korea at the 76th Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee (2025)**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of MIKTA — the group of Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Türkiye, and Australia.

The Republic of Korea expresses its sincere appreciation to UNHCR and its staff for their dedication in responding to unprecedented challenges. We also commend host countries for their generosity in providing protection and assistance.

With the number of forcibly displaced persons reaching an all-time high, Korea recognizes that UNHCR continues to fulfill its responsibilities under severe financial constraints. Refugee protection — the core mandate of UNHCR — must remain at the center of its work.

As the High Commissioner emphasized, peace is the most critical element in addressing the root causes of displacement. Korea will continue to join international diplomatic efforts to foster stability and prevent further displacement.

At the same time, a sustainable response is also vital to address refugee issues in the mid and long-term. Korea has actively supported refugee return and reintegration in Uganda, Myanmar, as well as Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon. Korea has also implemented ODA projects that integrate humanitarian assistance with development perspectives, in line with the HDP nexus.

In addition, Korea has expanded durable solutions for refugees, including resettlement and higher education. Around 270 resettled refugees, mainly from Myanmar, are rebuilding their lives in Korea, while refugee students are pursuing studies at Korean universities. Although modest in scale, Korea will continue to support these programs.

In this regard, the Government of Korea is pleased to announce that, in addition to its unearmarked contribution at the beginning of this year, it has decided to provide an additional 32 million US dollars in earmarked contributions, including through KOICA, to support UNHCR's vital work this year. Significant portion of these projects are provided as multiyear funding, enhancing the predictability of UNHCR's budget. These contributions extend not only to Asia but also to Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Europe, reflecting Korea's commitment to global efforts.

Meanwhile, Korea welcomes the reform measures being undertaken by UNHCR to improve efficiency and become a more agile organization. We encourage UNHCR to further strengthen inter-agency coordination, and as localization is an important element of the reform process, accountability and monitoring of local actors should also be reinforced. Korea will continue to support these reforms, including within the framework of UN80 and the humanitarian reset.

Broadening and diversifying the donor base also remains essential. Cooperation with development actors, international financial institutions, and the private sector will be key to securing predictable resources. Innovative funding and creative approaches are also required to help close the funding gap.

Mr. Chair,

The Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in December will be an important opportunity to take stock of pledges and reaffirm our collective responsibility. Korea will actively participate in this process and continue implementing its commitments.

In these difficult times, solidarity is more important than ever. Korea stands together with UNHCR. In this spirit, my delegation looks forward to welcoming the High Commissioner to Korea next week, which will be another opportunity to strengthen our cooperation.

Thank you.