



PHILIPPINES



*UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting, 6-10 October 2025
Palais des Nations, Geneva*

Agenda Item 4. Consideration of Reports of the Standing Committee (a) International protection

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Chair,

The Philippines thanks the High Commissioner for the Note on International Protection. The legal foundations of protection remain strong, but the true test lies in our collective will to uphold them.

We take note of the mention of the Bangsamoro law on internal displacement—the first rights-based legislation of its kind in Southeast Asia—and of our local ordinances adopted across municipalities to advance accountability and dignity for displaced persons. The Philippines is reviewing the delivery of our Global Refugee Forum pledges, including asylum system modernization, inclusion in national services, and our complementary pathways programme - Pathways Pilipinas - which provides tertiary education opportunities to refugee students, including from the Rohingya community.

At the global level, as co-chair of the Advisory Board of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness and a Solution Seeker state, we will continue to push for concrete solutions. Statelessness should remain a priority in the multilateral and UNHCR agenda, as it is one of the core mandates of the organization.

Chair,

As a donor, the Philippines stresses that resources entrusted to UNHCR must translate into tangible results for refugees and stateless persons. They must not be absorbed disproportionately by administrative costs. While the multilateral system is in a flux, perceptions that a majority of resources are spent on staffing rather than on direct programs risk further eroding confidence. Efficiency and accountability are not optional—they are essential to sustaining trust.

We also recognize that humanitarian contributions are often measured in financial terms. Yet it must also be acknowledged that refugee-hosting countries bear the heaviest responsibility—ensuring protection, safety, and dignity every day. This deserves quantification, recognition, and support.

For the Philippines, protection of forcibly displaced persons is not charity, but a legal and moral obligation, rooted in dignity and shared responsibility. We remain committed to working with UNHCR and all partners to ensure that this obligation is met in full.

Thank you.