

## **CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

### **Sweden's General Debate Statement, Executive Committee 2025.**

High Commissioner, Chair, Excellencies,

#### **Sweden aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of European Likeminded countries.**

Thank you for highlighting the scale and complexity of forced displacement, indeed evident consequences of the inability to prevent or resolve conflicts.

Against this backdrop, UNHCR is facing unprecedented challenges – and you will inevitably have to do less with less. UNHCR will be smaller, but we trust you will remain strong. We commend your leadership in difficult prioritization exercises, ultimately affecting the people you serve the most, and also your valuable staff.

It's clear that flexible funding – especially un-earmarked– is vital. Sweden is a reliable partner, providing un-earmarked multi-year funding to UNHCR. We strongly encourage others to follow suit – and to join the Nordic, Dutch and Swiss GRF- pledge on quality humanitarian funding for refugee situations.

We commend UNHCR for accelerating its resource mobilization, including with the private sector and non-traditional donors.

High Commissioner,

Sweden is your partner in delivering impact where it matters the most: in protection, lifesaving principled humanitarian assistance, emergencies and solutions.

UNHCR plays an indispensable role in efforts to enable and strengthen collective action to reduce the risk of violence in all humanitarian action.

Your protection mandate is unique and essential, including providing protection to persons with urgent need thereof. Sweden continues its engagement for resettlement in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, giving priority to women, girls and LGBTQI+-refugees in the Region of the Great Lakes in Africa - Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda.

The detrimental shortfall in funding for gender-based violence has prompted Sweden to provide earmarked support to UNHCR's SGBV-response in Sudan and DRC. We have also provided other earmarked support for Syria and Ukraine.

We recognize UNHCR's key role in advancing solutions, be it in facilitating resettlement or voluntary return. We welcome your efforts to find practical and innovative approaches to respond to forced displacement, in a manner that ensures refugees and asylum-seekers rights in accordance with international law, while also addressing the legitimate concerns of refugee-receiving countries.

Our support remains for the Route Based Approach, addressing mixed movements of refugees and migrants. We also believe in the Sustainable Response Approach, noting that refugee inclusion and self-reliance is key. We commend host countries that have implemented inclusion policies thus far, and stress the importance of aligning refugee responses with national systems.

High Commissioner,

Last but not least, we commend UNHCR for the decade long reform efforts, on oversight and control, risk-management, cost- and delivery efficiency, human resources management, and your commitment to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

We recognize your active engagement in the UN80 and Humanitarian reset-discussions, and welcome that you have already advanced measures in line with these processes.

In closing, dear Filippo, Sweden has greatly appreciated your leadership under this past tough humanitarian decade. UNHCR's critical commitment to Humanitarian Action and Diplomacy must continue beyond 2025.

To this end, I am pleased to announce that Sweden has nominated Mr. Jesper Brodin, currently CEO for the Ingka/IKEA group, for the position of High Commissioner. With over 30 years of experience in global leadership, and a strong longstanding commitment to UN values and UNHCR's guiding principles, Mr. Brodin stands ready to lead the vital mission of UNHCR.

Thank you.