



# PHILIPPINES



*UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting, 6-10 October 2025*  
*Date 7 October 2025*  
GENERAL DEBATE

*(As delivered)*

Thank you Chair.

We thank the High Commissioner for his statements, and his very tactful and nimble responses this past few days, and we thank him for his tireless and dedicated service and leadership, through an era of unprecedented displacement and complexity.

Chair,

The Philippines shares the deep concern over the erosion of trust in multilateralism.

To be clear, it is not our agreed humanitarian precepts that are in crisis. We have our basics set – the conventions, GCR, international humanitarian law. What is in crisis is our collective will to uphold and comply with them. Protection must remain at the heart of our system, with innovation and solidarity as our tools.

The Philippines has sought to embody this conviction through concrete action. Nationally, we have strengthened access to health, education, and legal identity for refugees and stateless persons, including persons-at risk of statelessness, while advancing naturalization and birth registration as durable solutions.

We have a Complementary Pathways (Cath) Programme, Pathways Pilipinas, which provides tertiary education opportunities to refugees, including from the Rohingya community. Education is not only protection, it is empowerment. It is government-led with private sector sponsorship. We are also working with Canada in sharing best practices and finding ways to improve this. We are exploring legislation specific to refugees and statelessness protection.

We continue to deliver on our Global Refugee Forum pledges, and pursued asylum system modernization, inclusion in national services, and expanded pathways for third-country solutions.

As this year's co-chair of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness Advisory Committee, we affirm that statelessness must remain on the agenda. As the multilateral system evolves, clarity is needed on how this issue will be carried forward.

As the only country in Southeast Asia to have acceded to both the 1954 Statelessness Convention and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Philippines stands ready to advance this discussion at the regional level.

We look forward to the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in December for it will be a test of our resolve to renew solidarity, to measure progress, and to prove that even in difficult times, we can still restore futures.

The Philippines actively supports UNHCR's mandate. Yet we also underline: the UNHCR must be fit for purpose. Resources must serve the needs of the displaced, not absorbed disproportionately by institutional maintenance and by mechanisms, negotiations, and processes that are traditional yet redundant. Efficiency and accountability are essential for sustaining the trust of both donors and displaced persons alike. We support the proposed budget and look forward to its adoption.

Outside the UNHCR, we are taking actions within the humanitarian sphere that also hope to address displacement. We pushed for international humanitarian law compliance, when we recently hosted the Regional Asia Pacific Conference on IHL in Manila. As President of the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, we worked on clearance, compliance and universality.

We firmly believe that to truly address displacement, we must all also exert every effort to preserve peace and resolve conflict. It is for this reason that we seek a non-permanent seat in the Security Council for 2027-28.

Chair,

Even in the face of the erosion of multilateralism, the true measure of our humanitarian cooperation is in the actual lives we transform. To do this, we must strive for peace and ensure that international protection remains rooted in compliance with international law, and anchored in dignity, partnership, and hope.

Thank you.