

**Statement by the Republic of Armenia
Executive Committee of the UNHCR – 76th Session**

High Commissioner,
Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,

As we gather today to reflect on the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, I wish to express, on behalf of the Republic of Armenia, our deep appreciation to High Commissioner Filippo Grandi for his steadfast dedication and principled leadership.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Grandi has guided UNHCR with compassion and courage through some of the most complex humanitarian challenges of our time, responding to both prolonged crises and sudden emergencies, while advancing long-term solutions through the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Refugee Forum.

For Armenia, UNHCR's support during our recent challenges has been truly indispensable. While we deeply appreciate its efforts, we also recognize the serious financial difficulties that the agency continues to face, as outlined in the High Commissioner's report. It is regrettable to hear that UNHCR has had to substantially reduce overall income projections for 2025, especially in these turbulent times for refugees, internally displaced and stateless people.

In the case of Armenia, which currently hosts the highest number of refugees per capita, it is essential to maintain the full operational capacity of the UNHCR office in Yerevan. Furthermore, Armenia stands ready to continue to strengthen its cooperation with humanitarian organizations by ensuring all necessary conditions are in place for unimpeded fulfillment of their mandates.

Armenia has developed its plans for refugees with the full engagement of UNHCR, through joint investment in refugee protection and solutions, as well as in mobilizing resources.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

In 2023, within a matter of days the Republic of Armenia received over 115,000 forcibly displaced ethnic Armenians who fled from the region. This was an unprecedented movement of people, placing immense pressure on our national systems and resources. Armenia responded swiftly by opening its borders, offering immediate shelter, medical care, food, and protection to those in need. This response was conducted with limited resources, but with an unwavering commitment to international humanitarian principles.

Today, thousands of refugees who found refuge in Armenia remain in need of long-term support. Housing, healthcare, education, psychosocial services, and social inclusion remain urgent priorities. Taking all of this into account, the Government of Armenia has restructured its approach to refugee policy, shifting from an initial focus on emergency humanitarian assistance to the development and implementation of long-term, sustainable solutions.

In this regard, and in order to clearly outline the necessary steps and tasks ahead, the document entitled *Inclusive Livelihoods National Framework for Refugees and Host Communities* was developed in close collaboration with the UNHCR office.

Armenia believes in empowering displaced persons not only as beneficiaries of aid, but as agents of recovery and development. This is why we are working to expand access to inclusive livelihoods - skills training, microfinance, entrepreneurship support, and labor market integration. With support from UNHCR and development partners, we aim to create a model where displacement does not mean dependency, but rather enables a dignified and meaningful contribution to society.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

The presence of UNHCR on the ground has played a crucial role in addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of those who were forced to flee their homes. We express our deep appreciation for this support and reaffirm our commitment to working in close partnership with all international actors to ensure the protection, dignity, and well-being of displaced populations.

In conclusion, we call upon all Member States and stakeholders to remain united in our shared responsibility. The future of displaced people - whether in Armenia or anywhere else - depends not just on humanitarian compassion, but on political will, sustained financing, and bold collaboration.

Thank you.