



**I T A L Y**

**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. AMBASSADOR GIAN LORENZO CORNADO  
AT THE 69<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME  
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Thank you Chair,

Allow me at the outset to express my sincerest thanks to High Commissioner Grandi for his enlightening statement and to Ms Georgieva for her insightful overview of the World Bank's role in today's crisis-affected society.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU Delegation on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and wishes to make some further remarks in its national capacity.

According to the data made available by UNHCR, at the end of 2017 the total population of concern to the Agency stood at 71.4 million people, out of whom up to 39,1 million were IDPs. Besides, an overall staggering figure of 68.5 million people worldwide are reported to have been forcibly displaced. The humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the civil war in South Sudan and the flight of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar into Bangladesh were the leading causes of forcible displacement.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework are there to remind us that the notion of responsibility and burden-sharing is the central moral tenet of today's approach to human mobility: this year a Global Compact on Refugees will be presented to the UN General

Assembly to provide a historic opportunity to uphold the principle of shared responsibility for large refugee movements, not only from the financial point of view but also in terms of concrete actions and commitments for resettlements. More than ever protection is central to humanitarian action and response and we need to maintain the momentum building on the CRRF experience.

In a global context characterized by increasingly protracted crises and rising humanitarian needs (UNHCR's budget for 2018 stood, at 30 June, at USD 8,275.3 million and updated budgetary requirements for 2019 amount to USD 8,591.1 million), we need to multiply our efforts for the benefit of refugees and other people of concern. Beyond governments, the humanitarian community must be able to rely on each and every partner, including the private sector, to deliver its key skills and capabilities. The time has come for innovative investments in humanitarian action which should lead to long-term social improvements. This is part of the legacy of the World Humanitarian Summit and reflects the core responsibilities set out in the Agenda for Humanity we subscribed two years ago, without forgetting the Grand Bargain which many of us endorsed with an aim to find solutions to address the humanitarian financing gap.

With 51,4 million USD total contributions in 2017 and already about 40 million USD in 2018, the Italian Government has renewed its commitment to support UNHCR's humanitarian activities in major crisis areas, in line with the long-standing tradition of cooperation that has always characterized its relationship with the Agency.

Mr. High Commissioner, allow me to express our sincerest thanks and gratitude to your dedicated and courageous staff on duty around the world, often risking their lives to ensure the provision of assistance to those in need. In light of the numerous security incidents reported in 2017 (+36% compared to 2016) and of those reported since the beginning of the year, we cannot but encourage UNHCR to continue focusing on their 'culture of security', which we deem of the utmost

importance in trying to prevent serious incidents and ensure a smooth delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Last but not least, our congratulations go to this year's winner of the Nansen Refugee Award, Dr. Evan Atar Adaha, for his outstanding accomplishments saving lives and providing medical services to hundreds of thousands of people in the context of one of the world's major refugee crises.

Thank you for your attention Chair.