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Check Against Delivery

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
GENEVA

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Statement by Representative of the Republic of Korea

Thank you, Madam Chair

First of all, let me start by paying tribute to the High Commissioner and his staff for their continued commitment and unwavering dedication to reach the world's most vulnerable people, keeping up our faith in shared humanity.

With the alarming increase of security incidents against UNHCR staff on the frontlines, it is important that we continue to ensure the safety of the staff of UNHCR and other humanitarian partners on the ground.

Madam Chair,

Today's global situation presents enormous challenges before us with a series of new and recurring human crisis as well as protracted ones, in which the ordeal of refugees tends to last over generations. Once again, it is time for us to renew our commitment and step up our joint efforts.

Unlike the previous years, the international community has recently completed the ambitious and momentous joint effort of concluding the Global Compact on Refugees. Based on this broad and durable consensus, the Compact will, upon its adoption at the UN General Assembly next month, provide a solid common ground for a more comprehensive and coordinated strategy in the future.

Madam Chair,

Taking this opportunity, our delegation wishes to express our strong support for UNHCR's continued and timely internal reform efforts led by the High Commissioner, which will allow UNHCR to become more accountable, effective and efficient in the future. We believe that UNHCR is in the right direction in finding a fine balance to respond to the humanitarian imperatives and to keep its organization agile.

With respect to the diversity of workforce, we deeply appreciate UNHCR for remaining committed to maintaining its diversity in terms of the region of origin and gender. Our delegation encourages UNHCR to improve it by having more staffs from the under-represented regions.

Madam Chair,

Faced with daunting financial challenges derived from its chronic funding gaps, UNHCR is called upon to find ways to expand its donor base by diversifying channels of funding, particularly in building broader humanitarian partnership.

In this regard, we take note of its remarkable achievement over the last decade in reaching the private sector, which has expanded tenfold by marking 400 million USD last year. As one of the top three countries of UNHCR's private sector contributions, Korea will engage actively and constructively in support of its long term goal of one billion USD target by 2025.

More importantly, the Government of the Republic of Korea has been working assiduously to assume more responsibility in helping address humanitarian crises.

To do so, we have not only expanded our financial contribution to support the global refugee response, but also joined collective efforts of responsibility and burden-sharing by the international community. Having first started in 2015-17, the Republic of Korea has recently launched its second 'Pilot Resettlement Program (2018-19)', doubling its annual quota. We hope our efforts would serve as a timely gesture of solidarity with countries hosting large numbers of refugees.

Last but not least, our delegation calls upon UNHCR to remain steadfast to its core protection mandate of upholding the principle of *non-refoulement* and place the human rights of the refugees and asylum seekers at the center of its activities.

Equally important is to address the needs of refugees with special protection needs, particularly for women at risk and victims of sexual and gender-based violence in times of increasing large-scale and mixed movements.

Madam Chair,

Before closing, let me express our heartfelt condolences to the people of Indonesia for the loss of lives and terrible destruction caused by the recent strong earthquake and tsunami. Our deep sympathy and solidarity goes to the victims and their families in the affected region.

I thank you. /End/