



Madam Chair,

Excellencies, colleagues,

It is an honor to join you today.

On behalf of the United Arab Emirates, I would like to extend our gratitude for the work of UNHCR. We see it as not only addressing the immediate needs of refugees, but also setting the foundations for meaningful long-term development. As the UN seeks to bridge the humanitarian-development divide and maximize resources, UNHCR's programs and mandate become even more important.

On this note, I would like to make two points from our national perspective.



First, the UAE sees the Global Compact for Refugees as a positive development to set norms and aspirations for all countries.

Significantly, the Global Compact reinforces the importance of flexibility to manage the many different legal frameworks among Member States. This is the best approach to enable meaningful “burden- and responsibility-sharing,” to which the UAE is very much committed. As a country with an unprecedented population of expatriates, we know firsthand the value that people seeking opportunity and security abroad bring to both their host and home communities.

In this vein, we have welcomed and received over 130,000 Syrians since the start of the conflict, and last year committed to receive 15,000 persons as part of the global support package around the NY Declaration. The UAE has also granted citizens of countries



affected by wars and disasters the option to extend their visas by a year, in case their return may be not feasible.

Internationally, the UAE provides direct support to UNHCR through several funding streams, as well as bilateral support to refugee communities. This support includes aid for Syrians and others in Jordan, Iraq and Greece; the Rohingya in Bangladesh; South Sudanese refugees in Uganda; and of course Palestinians supported by UNRWA.

Second, the UAE sees tremendous promises in applying an inclusive approach to supporting the refugees especially with focus on women and other vulnerable groups. A focus on women empowerment within the refugee settings achieves a much higher impact for the whole community. The empowerment of women



and girls is a priority theme for the UAE Foreign Assistance Policy.

We also believe that introducing and counting renewable and sustainable energy sources is the best means to address energy poverty amongst the refugees' communities. This will enable the refugees to meet their energy needs for household use, public services and livelihood opportunities.

The UAE hopes to engage with all stakeholders in refining and implementing these ideas, and we remain committed to partnership with UNHCR. Your work and dedication make us hopeful for a better future for all.

Thank you.