



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
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General Debate

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**Statement by Representative of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

At the outset, let me express my appreciation to the High Commissioner and his staff for their tireless efforts and dedication to reach the most vulnerable people, at this time of mass displacement.

Today, humanitarian needs are continuously growing, reaching a record high each year. Most of the needs are stemming from large-scale, protracted crises, which are lasting on an average of more than nine years. Various drivers such as conflict, violence, climate change, natural disaster, fragility, and poverty are combined to trigger mass displacement, which is on an unprecedented scale since World War II. If the root causes of displacement are not properly dealt with, the current strain on the global humanitarian system will persist, despite the continuous solidarity shown by the global community.

Mr. Chair,

It is therefore truly welcoming that the *1<sup>st</sup> Global Refugee Forum (GRF)* will be held in December. By building a brand new sustainable platform for implementing the *Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)* adopted last year, it will be our valuable opportunity to discuss and devise multiple durable solutions for displacement. As a member of the co-sponsor group for the Jobs and Livelihoods area, the Republic of Korea will work closely with all relevant stakeholders for a fruitful forum.

Mr. Chair,

While it is important to work for better strategic responses to address the root causes, it is still our imminent mission to meet the daily lifesaving needs of the affected people. In this regard, we share the concern of others on the chronic funding gaps of the UNHCR appeal, and would like to encourage UNHCR to keep up with its efforts to expand its donor base and secure more predictable and flexible funding.

With its private sector contributions to UNHCR being the second largest last year, the Republic of Korea will remain committed to supporting UNHCR in these aspects, including its plan for another multi-year contribution, with a total amount of five (5) million USD, for the *Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Uganda* from 2020 to 2022.

Mr. Chair,

We take note this year marks the significant milestone on our journey to solve this problem for good by 2024. As already noted by many delegates during this week, the #IBelong campaign has made certain progress since its launch in 2014. Republic of Korea, for its own part, has made efforts to address statelessness within the country in line with international endeavors, and will remain on this track. My delegation commends UNHCR's work in advocating and raising awareness on statelessness issues, which is about fundamental human rights and linked closely with our collective goals of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chair,

Our delegation also wishes to express its steadfast support for UNHCR's continued reform process. In general, we are satisfied with the progress thus far and the regular updates provided by UNHCR, and we encourage UNHCR to keep on the right track to be a more field-focused, agile, and transparent humanitarian organization.

During this course, UNHCR is called upon to pay attention to age, gender, and disability markers in their human resources, along with continuous efforts for a proper regional balance.

Mr. Chair,

Tackling *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)* is one of our top priorities. The most vulnerable groups including women and girls are the hardest hit and the furthest behind in the context of humanitarian crises. It is against this backdrop that our government launched the initiative called "*Action with Women and Peace*," to provide focused humanitarian assistance to the victims of SGBV and raise awareness on this issue. We would like to build a stronger partnership with UNHCR to further the cause.

By the same token, we also would like to commend the commitment of UNHCR's leadership in its plan for *Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)*. We strongly encourage UNHCR to continue its policy of zero-tolerance on this issue.

Mr. Chair,

Last but not least, facing the alarming trend of attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers on the ground, it is imperative for us to make every effort to ensure the safety of UNHCR staff and other partners.

Before closing, let me express my delegation's heartfelt gratitude and respect for those operating under extreme risks, at the forefront of humanitarian missions. The

Republic of Korea reaffirms its unwavering commitment to be a part of such collective responsibility.

I thank you. /End/