

High-level Officials Meeting

14-15 December 2021

Statement of the Federal Republic of Germany

Thank you Chair,

High Commissioner,

Co-Convenors,

Excellencies, dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the statement by the European Union and would like to complement in its national capacity.

First: It's time to take stock. Two years after the first Global Refugee Forum there is no doubt: **we have made progress.**

Bilateral development assistance to tackle refugee situations is increasing. There is improved access for refugee children and youths to education. Regional support platforms have evolved as important mechanisms for coordinated responses and access to solutions and third-country options have expanded.

At the same time, there is also no doubt: **much more needs to be done.**

We need to broaden the support base, financially and with regard to resettlement possibilities.

We have to increase our support to host communities, in particular those in low-income countries. The solidarity of these communities is the bedrock of the international protection system. We also have to recognize the contributions that refugees make to host communities.

We also have to seek more durable solutions and we have to better operationalize the Humanitarian- Development-Peace Nexus.

Second: Germany remains committed to do its part on the road to the Global Refugee Forum 2023:

We continue to pursue the implementation of existing pledges and are in the process of identifying new ones.

We also seek to improve the integration of refugees in Germany and their meaningful participation.

In this sense, we are proud to follow Canada's example and to have Nyima Jadama, advising us from her refugee perspective, as a part of our delegation. We are grateful for her input and stressing the importance of education for refugees. Access to education is key!

The German Academic Refugee Initiative Albert Einstein (DAFI), co-founded by UNHCR has provided nearly 20.000 scholarships for young refugees in their host countries.

And I have the pleasure to introduce the Hilde-Domin programme as a new pledge supporting the right to education for displaced persons.

We will also remain steadfast in our support to UNHCR and refugees. In 2021 we made a record contribution of more than 400 mio Euro to UNHCR and have made an **initial** pledge of more than 120 mio Euro at UNHCR's Pledging Conference for 2022 some days ago.

In addition, we are in the process of fully restoring our resettlement efforts that have been hampered by the COVID pandemic.

We will also remain a resolute voice for burden-and responsibility sharing at the regional and global level and will continue to pursue a reform of the EU Common Asylum System to this end.

In conclusion: Let us share and use the lessons we learned to reach our joint objectives.
We still have a long way ahead of us. Let's walk it together.