

**Statement (as delivered)**  
**by Ambassador Taeho LEE, PR of the Republic of Korea**  
**General Debate**  
**at the 73rd UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCOM)**  
**(12 October 2022)**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me express my appreciation for your leadership in presiding over this ExCom session. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation during the session. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate High Commissioner Grandi on the extension of his term and thank him and his team for their efforts and dedication in this challenging moment. My delegation fully aligns itself with the group statement delivered by Turkiye on behalf of the MIKTA countries. In addition, I would like to add a few more points in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

Again, we are witnessing an unprecedented scale of humanitarian situation this year. The number of forcibly displaced persons has surpassed 100 million for the first time since World War II, including those fleeing from Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. Sadly, the term "unprecedented" is becoming a cliché. The situation is not easy. Yet, we must make a turnaround. My delegation believes that this can be made possible when we refresh our political will and strengthen joint efforts in the right direction.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize three points that we need to be geared towards in order to bring about change.

First, we need to secure a more stable funding. While the funding gap is one of the chronic issues in UNHCR, we need to take all doable measures to expand the funding base. Particularly, the role of the private sector is important for diversified and flexible funding. The private sector plays an important role not only in resources mobilization but also for mobilizing political support for more flexible contribution of the donor countries.

Second, we need focus more on durable solutions to address the root causes of displacement, given that we are faced with a number of complex root causes. UNHCR must strengthen cooperation with other partners and experts in development by (1) forming a nexus between humanitarian assistance and development, and (2) enhancing the resilience of the population of concern (PoC).

Therefore, my delegation welcomes the upcoming High Commissioner's Dialogue that will take place in early December under the theme of development cooperation to advance protection, inclusion, and solutions for displaced and stateless people. Development is the key to more fundamental solutions by which the UNHCR's return, reintegration and resettlement process can be facilitated.

Third, effective and efficient delivery matters for the outcome in a situation of limited resources. That is why the internal reform of UNHCR is important. I hope UNHCR is making progress towards the direction based on decentralization and regionalization, digitalization and transparency, and integrity and ethics. Over the course of the reform, UNHCR staff must be placed at the center. In this regard, we hope that the Conclusion on Mental Health and Psycho-social Support will bring about the positive impacts on the safety and wellbeing of the workforce on the ground. UNHCR is also encouraged to ensure that the staff should be more diverse and balanced in light of age, gender, disability, and region.

Mr. Chair,

It is a worrying trend that there are growing pushbacks at the borders, which almost amount to a denial of the right to seek asylum. The key principles of the 1951 Refugee Convention must be kept and the equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing under the Global Compact on Refugees, GCR, should be acknowledged. My delegation expects that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Refugee Forum, GRF, in December next year will serve as a opportune momentum to refresh our political will and reaffirm our commitments.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that the Republic of Korea will remain committed to working closely with the UNHCR in the endeavors ahead.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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