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High Commissioner's Programme**

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Summary record*, Wednesday, 29 June 22, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Batistić Kos (Croatia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Regional activities and global programmes

a. Emergency preparedness and response (EC/73/SC/CRP.11)

b. Security of UNHCR's workforce and operations (EC/73/SC/CRP.12)

1. **Ms. Shimosawa** (Director of the Division of Emergency, Security and Supply, UNHCR) said that forced displacement worldwide had passed the 100 million mark and was at the highest level since records had begun. At the same time, the complexity of humanitarian crises was growing year by year, exacerbated by deteriorating access, security constraints, climate-related challenges, and the lingering effects of the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The conflict in Ukraine was driving up commodity prices around the world, causing food shortages and increased vulnerability among those already at risk. Lower- and middle-income countries as well as fragile and conflict-affected countries were likely to bear the heaviest burden.

2. Preparedness was fundamental to ensuring that UNHCR was a predictable leader and a reliable partner in emergencies. UNHCR was currently finalizing a new policy on emergency preparedness and response, which would reaffirm key protection principles, prioritize the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and ensure that persons of concern were at the centre of activities. The new policy embraced the decentralization and regionalization process by empowering country operations. It was, for instance, aligned with UNHCR's enterprise risk management system so that country operations could undertake emergency risk analysis and proactively monitor identified risks. In line with the commitment to localization, the policy highlighted the importance of diversifying partnerships, with an emphasis on inclusive and collaborative protection and assistance activities. There was also a focus on UNHCR's engagement in emergencies resulting from natural hazards and climate change. The Operational Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability 2022–2025 further elaborated on the efforts taken to integrate environmental considerations into emergency preparedness mechanisms.

3. Global supply chain disruptions and the volatile operating conditions of simultaneous emergencies had made it ever more challenging to deploy preparedness and response efforts in a timely and efficient manner. To respond to the growing number of emergencies, UNHCR had recently increased its global stockpile management capacity so that it could assist up to one million people anytime and anywhere. Going forward, it planned to establish a new service delivery model for its supply chain which would rethink the way the supply function was managed. The new enterprise resource planning system was also expected to enhance supply chain performance and accountability as well as to promote simplifications and informed decision-making. Fostering diverse human capital skilled in global supply chain management and tailoring the supply workforce to the complexity of operations were other key priorities. It was clear that supply deliveries required a focus on climate action. Thus, UNHCR would undertake major initiatives to improve the sustainability of the end-to-end supply chain and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2025.

4. UNHCR strived to foster a robust culture of security, a key part of which was ensuring a high performing, agile, responsive and diverse workforce. The organization had therefore put in place a number of staff training programmes. They included a women's security awareness training and training for newly recruited security personnel on risks they could face based on gender or sexual orientation. The content of the training would soon be expanded to include disabilities and other risk factors that were not usually considered in the security risk management process. Lastly, UNHCR continued to support efforts to make the United Nations Security Management System more robust, including developing additional tools for the field.

5. **Ms. Mallaun** (European Union group statement) commended UNHCR for its contribution to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee system-wide scale-up activations for Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Ukraine in 2021 and 2022. The organization had "stayed and delivered" as needed, building on partnerships with governments, local actors and persons of concern.

6. The ambitions of UNHCR to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity were praiseworthy. However, more information should be provided about the ways in which UNHCR was cooperating with other United Nations agencies that were undertaking similar projects. She encouraged joint capacity-building efforts to increase efficiency, pool resources and build synergies across agencies. More details were also needed regarding the consultation process and timeline for

the revision of the policy on emergency preparedness and response. Likewise, UNHCR should clarify how it intended to measure the effectiveness of the Emergency Handbook and whether periodic updates were envisaged, based on feedback from operational staff.

7. UNHCR's robust system of emergency declarations was a crucial step towards implementing rapid humanitarian responses. It was encouraging that activities aimed at preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse had been prioritized in response efforts. The European Union reiterated its zero-tolerance policy on the issue and encouraged UNHCR to pursue a survivor-centred approach. She welcomed measures taken to provide mental health and psychosocial support for victims in a systemic manner and strongly encouraged UNHCR to continue pursuing a solid duty of care towards its workforce.

8. UNHCR should be commended for gradually increasing its emergency deployments, despite the volatile global context, through renewed rosters, a surge team and the expansion of emergency standby partnerships. However, it would be helpful for Member States to receive regular updates regarding those deployments. She welcomed the spirit of partnership embodied in the work to coordinate emergency responses through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Emergency Directors Group and with the support of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

9. She acknowledged UNHCR's efforts to provide effective service delivery in emergencies, including in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. The European Union and its Member States had contributed to that endeavour, for instance by establishing logistics hubs in Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

10. She welcomed UNHCR's commitment to minimizing its environmental footprint. UNHCR should share good practices with other aid organizations and learn from their experiences.

11. **Mr. Driessen** (Netherlands), aligning himself with the statement by the European Union, said that it was crucial for UNHCR to become a reliable partner in climate-related preparedness and response, given that climate emergencies were driving forced displacement. Noting that data and data-sharing were highly important for effective emergency preparedness and response, UNHCR should actively engage with data initiatives such as the Humanitarian Data Exchange. UNHCR was commended for prioritizing activities to protect people from sexual exploitation and abuse and for promoting the provision of mental health and psychosocial support within the emergency response. Such measures should never be an afterthought, but instead an integral component of the response itself. He welcomed the progress made by UNHCR towards strengthening global security management, particularly the plans to strengthen a culture of security, which should be fully implemented. Personal safety and protection must be based on a victim-centred approach. Further efforts were needed to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct among staff and to provide protection for whistle-blowers. Creating a true culture of security required more proactive risk management by UNHCR.

12. **Mr. Winder** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) welcomed the efforts made by UNHCR to respond and adapt dynamically to multiple crises at a time where the number of crises was growing and costs were increasing. He commended the organization for its engagement with the early warning actions, readiness processes and subgroups of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. There was a need for continued partnerships and sharing of analysis across the United Nations system, as well as with governments and non-governmental organizations. His Government welcomed the measures taken to prioritize contingency planning, but wished to understand how capacity for that activity was being protected, considering that staff were already very stretched. Activity to increase the number of emergency surge deployments was very encouraging. He supported the emphasis on gender and geographical diversity in the selection process, and would welcome more data about the changes UNHCR was making. The efforts made to achieve value for money on supplies and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with those supplies were also very promising. UNHCR should provide details of the impact of those efforts.

13. He called on UNHCR to clarify its overall vision for preparedness relative to the size of its operations. It should also indicate how it was drawing on available early warning information to prepare better for crises and how it was working with civil society networks for contingency planning and response.

14. **Mr. Ishida** (Japan) said that systematic efforts were needed to ensure that the UNHCR response system could be successfully deployed during emergencies. In particular, it was important to allocate sufficient resources and carry out risk analysis. He appreciated the measures taken by

UNHCR to promote decentralization with a view to delivering more flexible and timely emergency responses. The work of the Regional Centre for Emergency Preparedness (eCentre) in Bangkok was highly important for strengthening human resources capacity. Crises could be mitigated with the help of prediction and early warning systems that measured risks and trends. UNHCR should continue sharing information about its efforts in the field.

15. Regional bureaux played a crucial role in ensuring the safety of field staff, many of whom worked in locations where the threat levels were substantial or high. UNHCR was urged to continue ensuring the safety of its staff by conducting regular reviews of its procedures, conducting safety training and offering mental health and psychosocial support.

16. **Mr. Smith** (United States of America) said that it was clear that UNHCR had continued to “stay and deliver” amidst increasingly dangerous operating environments worldwide. Not only had UNHCR made meaningful improvements in planning, preparing, and securing relief efforts, but it had done so despite the restrictive environment posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

17. He commended UNHCR for its work in response to the war in Ukraine, providing critical resources where they were needed most. UNHCR’s important institutional reforms were also worth noting, including the measures taken to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and provide psychosocial support.

18. He was deeply concerned about the compounding effects of global food insecurity on political stability, worsened by the war against Ukraine and devastating climate patterns. There was a real prospect of additional forced migration events as a result of the situation. UNHCR should promote further analysis, action and advocacy, particularly in response to the surging protection needs of already highly vulnerable populations, and provide guidance on ways to mitigate and confront the above challenges.

19. It was appropriate to recognize the lengths to which UNHCR had gone to maximize the protection of its staff, many of whom were exposed to dangers on a daily basis. He applauded, in particular, the progress made towards increasing hiring rates among women and addressing vulnerabilities with regard to gender and sexual orientation, among other factors. Among the measures he wished to commend was the provision of training in psychological first aid.

20. UNHCR’s presence in a variety of inter-agency working groups, including civil-military coordination forums, remained critical to properly assess risk and streamline procedures. UNHCR should continue to refine and share its contingency plans for crisis scenarios, allowing for closer cooperation during ongoing and future challenges.

21. **Mr. Mayr** (Germany) noted with appreciation the efforts made to mainstream environmental protection into the activities of UNHCR. His Government considered anticipatory action an important part of mitigating the impact of humanitarian crises, and called on UNHCR to scale up such action where viable. All anticipatory action must follow a well-coordinated process with respect to each actor’s mandate. United Nations agencies should jointly identify and address possible protection gaps. UNHCR had a responsibility and duty of care to its staff, many of whom were subjected to risks and hardships. His Government had therefore provided funding for mental health and psychosocial support.

22. **Mr. Banzet** (Canada) commended UNHCR for successfully facilitating an increased number of emergency deployments in 2021 and continuing to respond in 2022 in spite of challenges. It was praiseworthy that UNHCR had adapted, for instance, by conducting emergency training online and widening its supplier base.

23. His Government was concerned about the risks to global food security and acknowledged that higher food prices could trigger social unrest, political instability and increased protection risks. UNHCR should provide further information about the risk mitigation measures in place to combat food insecurity for populations of concern.

24. He welcomed UNHCR’s efforts to prioritize strong preparedness planning, including risk analysis and contingency planning, as well as fostering collaboration with partners and networks. It was encouraging to see close coordination of emergency responses at the global level. UNHCR should be commended for working alongside entities such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Emergency Directors Group to address risks, including those caused by environmental hazards.

25. He commended UNHCR for its commitment to strengthening the culture of security within the Office and ensuring a duty of care to all personnel. The inclusion of a gender-based approach to security risk management was important to ensure that processes were inclusive. All processes should respond to the specific needs of individuals, considering factors such as age and gender. He was pleased to note that five out of six externally recruited security personnel in 2021 were female. UNHCR should continue to provide training and technical assistance to support its humanitarian field managers and foster Office-wide engagement in strengthening the culture of security. He urged continued and deepened inter-agency coordination and information-sharing to further strengthen the security environment.

26. **Ms. Shimozawa** (Director of the Division of Emergency, Security and Supply, UNHCR), responding to the representative of the European Union, said that, every year, UNHCR organized an emergency training learning programme attended by its partners, including other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. It was an opportunity to engage in vigorous interactions, receive training in recent trends and discuss how to scale up capacities. Similarly, UNHCR provided the inter-agency Standby Partnership Network with financial support so that it could organize emergency training for standby partners. Individual consultations were also carried out.

27. The new policy on emergency preparedness and response was close to being finalized. The consultation process had been vast and wide, focusing exclusively on the internal processes of UNHCR. The Office had received over 1,000 comments, held focus group discussions with staff working in the field or at regional bureaux and organized thematic sessions at headquarters. UNHCR was doing its best to capture current challenges and consider lessons learned, including those from the Ukraine crisis, in the new policy.

28. UNHCR had carried out surveys, focus group discussions and individual consultations on the Emergency Handbook. Colleagues in the field had made clear that the Handbook remained a very important tool. A community of practice would soon be established so that users could provide regular feedback.

29. UNHCR was taking environmental and climate change action in the area of preparedness, as well as in the supply chain. The new policy on emergency preparedness and response would clarify how UNHCR could become a more predictable partner in crises resulting from natural hazards and climate change. The organization had recently held a side event where it had shared its strategy on making the supply chain greener and more sustainable. Relevant stakeholders had also been invited to present their own good practices.

30. The Regional Centre for Emergency Preparedness (eCentre) to which the representative of Japan had alluded was an example of a best practice. The centre provided support to local governments and non-governmental organizations and set out practical ways to promote localization, including through emergency preparedness training.

31. UNHCR was already part of the Humanitarian Data Exchange, as requested by the Netherlands. It was also actively engaged in the Humanitarian Exchange Language project, contributing regularly to data-set reports.

32. As for the questions from the United Kingdom, UNHCR had maintained capacity for contingency planning by mainstreaming the process in the work of field-based colleagues. For instance, it had integrated preparedness into the enterprise management tool and made contingency planning a part of the results-based management system, COMPASS. Emergency response teams were put together using a multidivisional and multi-stakeholder selection process that ensured balance in terms of gender, geography and language.

33. In response to the representative of Canada, she said that UNHCR had recently held a side event on the ways in which the current crises were impacting food insecurity. It was important to remember that food insecurity was not only about a shortage of food, but about all the protection risks that arose as a result. UNHCR was supporting regional bureaux and country operations in that regard so that they could anticipate problems and mitigate risks.

34. **Mr. Dell'Amico** (Head of the Field Security Service in the Division of Emergency, Security and Supply, UNHCR) assured participants that he had noted the key messages of the meeting.

c. Solutions (EC/73/SC/CRP.13)

35. **Ms. Tan** (Director of the Division of International Protection, UNHCR) said that seeking solutions to displacement crises remained a priority for the High Commissioner, as well as a core responsibility. Durable solutions required national leadership, ownership, and political will. Ongoing efforts to fulfil commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 had helped to ensure progress towards effective and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing, including through the regional support platforms. While progress was promising, much more needed to be done, and UNHCR looked forward to working with States and other partners to that end in the lead-up to the Global Refugee Forum in 2023. Regarding returns, UNHCR remained steadfast in its commitment to working with States to enable more refugees to repatriate voluntarily in safety and dignity. She welcomed pledges towards supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity made at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 and hoped to see redoubled efforts to meet those commitments. Looking ahead, UNHCR had commissioned an external evaluation of its repatriation and reintegration activities covering the period 2015–2021 and looked forward to sharing the results with Executive Committee members and to strategically strengthening its work in that area based on the findings and recommendations.

36. UNHCR promoted a progressive approach to durable solutions through inclusion, greater enjoyment of rights and self-reliance, enabling refugees to live with dignity and contribute productively to the communities and States that hosted them. Recognizing that potential, many host governments were committed to turning displacement into opportunity. It was paramount that political will and support be sustained. To support inclusion and integration in countries of asylum and of origin, UNHCR collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders, including peace and development actors, and also worked closely with multilateral and regional development banks to leverage development investments for protection solutions.

37. Turning to resettlement and complementary pathways, she said that capacity in 2021 continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Resettlement quotas provided by States remained well below estimated needs. Given the major ongoing displacement of Afghan, Rohingya and Venezuelan refugees, UNHCR would direct advocacy efforts to resettlement from those three refugee situations. UNHCR strongly encouraged States to focus on the priority areas identified in the projected global resettlement needs for 2023 in order to maximize coordination, cooperation and potential strategic impacts. Education and labour mobility pathways, which were among third-country solutions that had seen increased interest and support, had great potential for growth to provide opportunities for talented refugees to develop and contribute to host communities. In closing, she thanked States for their continued support on solutions and recalled that sustainable solutions to refugee situations could not be achieved without international cooperation.

38. **Ms. Munro** (Canada) said that her Government understood the importance of responsibility-sharing and international solidarity in achieving the third objective of the Global Compact on Refugees: expanding access for refugees to third-country solutions. Canada therefore continued to deliver a robust refugee resettlement programme and to explore innovative complementary pathways for refugee admission, including initiatives facilitating refugee labour mobility. Canada looked forward to facilitating collaboration on the promotion and development of refugee labour mobility worldwide as Chair of the Global Task Force on Refugee Labour Mobility. Canada also continued to offer support to States and regions interested in exploring community sponsorship pathways to resettlement through the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative and remained active in supporting the increase in asylum system capacity in the Americas.

39. **Ms. Mbirimba** (African Group statement) said that the African Group was deeply concerned that, according to recent estimates, the number of displaced persons worldwide exceeded 100 million. Amid the emergence of increasing numbers of emergency situations in various regions, sound preparation, including risk assessments and plans for emergency intervention, was key. She thanked UNHCR for its revised Policy on Emergency Preparation and Response and the expansion of its emergency standby partnership base. Although factors such as destroyed infrastructure and the fragility of peace processes continued to negatively affect returns, she welcomed the increase in the number of refugees who had returned to their countries of origin in 2021 compared with 2020. She also welcomed efforts deployed by UNHCR in Africa to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees to various countries of origin in Africa and the Middle East. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 and the global economic recession, promising new options for lasting solutions existed, including the facilitation of education and labour mobility, the strengthening of human capital in affected communities and development investment in the inclusion of refugees in national

systems. The group encouraged the implementation of the Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative and cooperation between UNHCR and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on improving data quality, which would allow for a clearer picture of the possibilities open to refugees. Turning to internal displacement, the group was deeply concerned by the increase in internally displaced persons, particularly as sub-Saharan Africa was the most affected area, but welcomed UNHCR's commitment to a global response to the issue in cooperation with States and development banks. The group remained appreciative of support provided to States by UNHCR to develop appropriate legal frameworks and policies to protect displaced persons in the context of natural disasters and climate change and also of the joint initiative between UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on strengthening cooperation on internal displacement. Nonetheless, the group called on the international community to redouble its efforts to share responsibility and find lasting solutions to reduce the number of internally displaced persons.

40. **Ms. Lehoux** (Switzerland) said that her Government was concerned by the low absolute number of returns, notwithstanding the increase in 2021 compared with 2020. Switzerland remained steadfast in its resettlement commitments made during the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 and the High-Level Officials Meeting in 2021, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the mass exodus of persons fleeing the war in Ukraine. Switzerland continued to support UNHCR in its consideration of reforming the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement and its efforts to achieve the goals defined in the Three-Year Strategy (2019–2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways. Switzerland supported the deployment of an expert to Rwanda to support resettlement operations, and welcomed the recent appointment of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, which was a key development in the implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. She asked UNHCR to provide more information on its plans to collaborate with the Special Adviser.

41. **Mr. Hage Chahine Assumpção** (Brazil) said that the response taken by his Government to the humanitarian crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had combined recognized protection measures, such as ensuring all Venezuelans entering Brazil were identified, registered, vaccinated, and offered legal and social assistance, with an innovative and successful solution, which was the interiorization programme. The programme helped refugees to better integrate socially, economically and culturally and alleviated pressure on host communities on the Brazil–Venezuelan border by allowing refugees to voluntarily relocate to settlements throughout Brazil. Although keenly aware of the challenge of providing basic services for refugees and citizens alike, his Government remained committed to its international obligations.

42. **Ms. Namono** (Uganda), aligning herself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group, said that the task of finding solutions to displacement was the responsibility not only of the High Commissioner, in line with his mandate, but also that of States, particularly those causing displacement of persons to other States in their region. Durable solutions would alleviate the pressure felt by host countries and donors and could only be found by addressing the causes of displacement. Uganda remained committed to finding solutions through bilateral and multilateral regional cooperation. The restoration of peace was a priority, but so was development and humanitarian aid. Violence and wars in countries of origin had, in many cases, destroyed important basic infrastructure, leaving voluntary repatriation unlikely. Non-politicized support for countries of origin to restore social infrastructure and services was therefore important to consider. Ensuring displaced persons had safe routes home, free from racism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination, was also important to consider. In closing, she expressed thanks to UNHCR and Uganda's donor countries and partners for their continued support and emphasized the importance of global collaboration in finding lasting solutions.

43. **Mr. Winder** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that his Government welcomed UNHCR's ongoing collaboration with humanitarian, development and private sector partners, as well as States, in advancing efforts to identify durable solutions to displacement. His Government particularly welcomed progress through the regional support platforms. Refugee resettlement played a key role in the global response to humanitarian crises and his Government remained committed to continuing to offer safe and legal routes to the United Kingdom for vulnerable refugees in need of protection through dedicated schemes and a fair and firm asylum system. His Government's focus would remain on helping persons directly from regions of conflict and instability. He welcomed the update on resettlement activities but asked for the 2019 resettlement figures to be provided to allow for a fuller understanding of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on resettlement numbers and the trajectory for returning to pre-pandemic

levels. He welcomed UNHCR's ongoing efforts to establish complementary pathways for persons of concern, particularly those focused on education, which was a priority for his Government.

44. **Mr. Mehdi** (Pakistan) said that Pakistan had shouldered the responsibility of providing protection to over 3 million people from Afghanistan and many Rohingya. Pakistan had demonstrated generosity, hospitality and compassion, as evident in its inclusive policies on health, education and livelihoods, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and had mainstreamed the protection and respect of human rights of refugees. His Government was deeply concerned by the growing number of displaced persons worldwide and the weakening of international solidarity for achieving durable solutions on voluntary repatriation and resettlement. He called on UNHCR to redouble its efforts on advocacy for resettlement and complementary pathways, including education and employment pathways for Afghan refugees, and urged those States that were able to increase settlement and complementary pathways. As new situations emerged around the world, the international community must not forget the ongoing Afghan refugee situation. Renewed international commitment through regular, predictable and adequate financing was important, as was preventing the economic, financial and institutional breakdown that could trigger mass exoduses from Afghanistan. He renewed his Government's call for faithful adherence to the principle of global burden- and responsibility-sharing and the pursuit of durable solutions for Afghan refugees.

45. **Mr. Dávalos** (Ecuador) said that UNHCR's support to States through innovative, multidimensional and inclusive responses to issues relating to human mobility was essential. Work on that issue must be based on the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility and must be aligned with the relevant instruments and mechanisms, including the Global Compact on Refugees and, in the case of his region, the Quito Process. Strengthening asylum systems was essential for providing access to territories and procedures for persons requiring international protection. To that end, it was important to continue digitalizing asylum systems and implementing differentiated procedures, especially for women and children. Regarding integration, he urged UNHCR to strengthen its cooperation with donors on development to expand the availability of integration programmes and services, not just as responses to emergency situations but as a more long-term strategy to improve the quality of life of refugees and their host communities.

46. A focus on equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing was essential for Ecuador, which was the country with the highest number of persons with refugee status in Latin America. Ecuador had provided asylum seekers, primarily from Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with universal free access to basic services, including health and education. Alongside that provision, Ecuador had drafted a socioeconomic inclusion strategy to create jobs and promote livelihoods and initiatives to combat discrimination and xenophobia. Ecuador would continue its humanitarian tradition and fulfil its responsibility to host persons asking for international protection. He urged all States to redouble their efforts and foster greater global commitment to achieving true shared responsibility.

47. **Mr. Ishida** (Japan) said that his country, as a member of the Core Group for the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), would be providing support for the strengthening of basic services for the protection of refugees in Afghanistan and in host communities in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. Japan appreciated the progress of the priority areas of return and reintegration (PARR) approach to creating an environment conducive to the voluntary, safe and dignified return of Afghan refugees. As for refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic, his Government had established a programme to receive and provide 150 young people with educational opportunities and develop human resources for the country's future reconstruction; 113 students had been received since 2016 as a result of good coordination and cooperation between the UNHCR Tokyo office and Japanese universities and the significant interest that it had generated. As a resettlement country, Japan had been accepting refugees from host countries in the Asian region since 2020.

48. On the question of durable solutions, Japan called for burden-sharing by the international community and a whole-of-society approach involving public and private actors, guided by the Global Compact on Refugees, and would continue to promote a nexus approach to supporting host countries, such as Uganda and Zambia.

49. Japan welcomed the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and looked forward to UNHCR playing a key role in promoting the initiative. It was crucial to tackle the root causes of humanitarian crises and implement humanitarian responses with an eye to prevention, medium to long-term development and lasting peace. Japan also welcomed UNHCR's adherence to the 2019 Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendation on

the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and looked forward to progressing the debate on the nexus for durable solutions to displacement for all refugees, including the internally displaced.

50. **Mr. Rose** (Australia) said that his delegation, in the light of the ever-rising levels of global displacement, acknowledged the challenges facing host countries and communities and the need for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing. Australia, which regarded resettlement as a tangible responsibility-sharing mechanism and a valuable tool for tackling long-term displacement situations, strongly supported international efforts to encourage States to accept refugees through resettlement programmes and complementary pathways and welcomed the development of new third-country solutions that built on the three-year strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways (2019–2021). As a founding member of the global refugee labour mobility task force, his Government had launched a “skilled refugee labour agreement” pilot programme to provide beneficiaries with an additional pathway to living and working in his country by removing barriers to employer-sponsored skilled migration pathways and making it easier for employers to hire skilled refugees. His Government was also working to improve access to its community support programme as an additional pathway for refugees who were ready for employment, including by reducing the upfront costs for applicants, and it was about to launch a community refugee integration and settlement pilot to enable more Australians to help resettled refugees to adapt to their life in the country.

51. As refugee situations around the world increased in scope, scale and complexity, Australia remained committed to contributing to efforts to find sustainable political solutions and looked forward to continuing its long-standing partnership with UNHCR in further developing its resettlement pathways.

52. **Ms. Rosenvinge** (Norway) said that the challenges in seeking solutions to forced displacement situations were immense, as it was easier to start a conflict than to end it or secure the peace and stability needed to prevent people from having to flee in the first place and/or enable them to return in dignity. Her Government was providing largely unearmarked funding to support the work of UNHCR and others for refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons and host countries globally, and it welcomed the Office’s cooperation with the World Bank and regional development banks.

53. Most forcibly displaced persons primarily sought refuge in neighbouring countries which were often developing and middle-income countries, as was the case for various situations in Africa as well as Afghanistan, Myanmar, with the Rohingya, and the Syrian Arab Republic for example. Norway was grateful to them for welcoming the refugees and, now that the same paradigm had emerged in Europe, it extended its gratitude also to the countries bordering Ukraine.

54. Recognizing the importance of more equitable burden-sharing, guided by the Global Compact on Refugees, her country, in the case of the Ukraine situation, was providing assistance through the European Union’s Civil Protection Mechanism and Ukraine solidarity platform. Further, in a spirit of responsibility-sharing, it had offered to accept refugees from neighbouring countries for resettlement and was currently responding to a request for assistance from the Republic of Moldova, although displaced Ukrainians preferred to stay closer to home. Norway was a resettlement country by tradition, with a current quota of 3,000 places; in spite of delays, the work of interviewing candidates and receiving arrivals had continued remotely and within the existing protocols throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Norway strongly encouraged other countries to participate in resettlement and/or complementary pathway programmes, as the needs were ever-increasing.

55. Her delegation looked forward to the preparations for the next Global Refugee Forum; there was much to be done.

56. **Mr. Olfato** (Philippines) expressed his country’s support for UNHCR in its work of finding durable solutions and developing programmes to protect the humanity and dignity of displaced persons while addressing the wide-ranging root causes of their displacement, such as climate change – a recognized driver that States had a responsibility to address by scaling up their climate actions and efforts to ensure climate justice. Durable solutions called for the political will to resolve the conflicts giving rise to prolonged, increasingly complex, humanitarian situations that perpetuated human suffering.

57. His delegation supported the implementation of capacity-building initiatives with technical assistance, to enable States to address domestic challenges with durable solutions as opposed to stopgap measures. He noted, in addition to the emphasis on voluntary repatriation, integration and

resettlement, UNCHR's acknowledgement of the importance of expanding complementary pathway opportunities for persons of concern. To provide a durable solution for Rohingya refugees, the Philippines had just approved the legal framework for a complementary pathway programme that would enable eligible beneficiaries to enter the country legally, avail themselves of tertiary education and training and achieve self-reliance.

58. **Ms. Papka** (Nigeria) began by expressing her delegation's strong condemnation of the disregard for human life and dignity shown in the unacceptably inhumane treatment of African migrants and refugees seeking international protection at the border between Nador (Morocco) and Melilla (Spain) on 24 June 2022 and the horrific loss of life that had ensued, calling for the incident to be thoroughly investigated and those found culpable sanctioned accordingly. Her delegation welcomed the joint statement on the matter by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR, which it encouraged to remain engaged to ensure that necessary investigation was conducted. She called on UNHCR and Member States to take decisive steps to secure respect for the sanctity of life and ensure the protection of the human rights and dignity of all, African nationals included.

59. Nigeria commended UNHCR for the tireless commitment of its staff in the field to assisting persons of concern, particularly those facing the combined threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and violence; for its efforts to work with Member States to find durable solutions to those persons' plight; and its efforts, in collaboration with IOM and the United Nations human rights mechanisms, to ensure adequate burden and responsibility-sharing to enable the States hosting large numbers of persons of concern to provide protection, such as from traffickers, smugglers and all forms of violence, abuse and extortion.

60. While UNHCR programming had to be inclusive of all persons of concern, there was no unanimous agreement among Member States on the mainstreaming of gender and diversity into the organization's policies, programmes and advocacy across all its operations without a clear and unambiguous interpretation.

61. Nigeria remained committed to further implementing the four pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 by developing its road map for the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. The country was also facilitating the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon under a tripartite agreement with Cameroon and UNHCR. A similar agreement was currently being finalized with the Government of Niger. On the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, her Government was building housing units nationwide as part of a "resettlement cities" project. It fell under the plan to advance durable solutions inclusive of all persons of concern that advocated a development approach to localization, capacity-building for local actors and exit strategies for humanitarian operations. Further, Lagos had recently been officially recognized as a refugee-friendly city in a declaration signed with the collaboration of UNHCR, that underscored the inclusion of persons of concern in Government policies. Their self-reliance in the national economy was assured by loan facilities granted through the central bank and skills acquisition training to support their livelihood activities; and steps were being taken to include them in the national social safety net with a view to underpinning their access to basic services, including education, and their enrolment in the national health system.

62. Meanwhile, Nigeria had continued to play an active and constructive role in regional and subregional efforts to address the root causes of displacement through the Economic Community of West African States and the Lake Chad Basin Commission, and it remained committed to holding a third regional protection dialogue on the Lake Chad Basin on the theme of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

63. As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic had limited the ability of Member States to act in a more proactive manner, her Government looked to the continued generosity of fellow Member States and UNHCR's partners to ensure additional unearmarked funding to enhance the Organization's valuable work; Nigeria greatly valued its cooperation with UNHCR and stood ready to support that work.

64. **Ms. Christensen** (Denmark), expressed her country's continued commitment to the work of UNHCR staff on the ground in providing crucial life-saving assistance and durable solutions for the more than 100 million forcibly displaced persons in the world. She welcomed the Office's efforts to enhance its emergency preparedness and response capacity while striving to render its operations more effective and impactful. UNHCR's commitment to an age, gender and diversity-responsive approach across all its activities was also welcomed as a means of ensuring an inclusive response

that left no one behind. The organization should continue to strengthen those efforts through a sustained focus on prevention of – and responses to – sexual and gender-based violence. Further, it was pleasing to note UNHCR’s strong commitment to reducing environmental degradation in displacement settings and enhancing the preparedness and resilience of displaced persons and host communities, including through more predictable response planning. The organization, in cooperation with partners, should continue to enhance its engagement in that regard. Denmark was fully committed to the Global Compact on Refugees and the principles of burden and responsibility-sharing, as reflected in her Government’s record high humanitarian budget and aim to increase its support to fragile States struggling to cope with regional migratory flows to 3.5 billion Danish kroner by 2025.

65. Her delegation was pleased to note the progress made on finding durable solutions in 2021. The protracted nature of many displacement situations underlined the importance of investing in the self-reliance of refugees and their inclusion in national systems in order to enhance their protection and their contribution to host communities. A nexus approach was key to a truly comprehensive response, and her delegation welcomed UNHCR’s efforts to strengthen its partnerships with development actors, including multilateral banks and international financial institutions. Denmark remained committed to fulfilling the pledges made at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum and to the delivery of innovative, inclusive and holistic refugee responses. The fundamental challenges in the displacement situation globally remained unresolved and the current situation unsustainable, however, and new ways were needed to tackle irregular immigration and counter the business models of human smugglers. The incentive structures that led people to embark on dangerous journeys must be addressed, which, in her Government’s view, called for a new, fair and humane, asylum system under international law.

66. Her delegation welcomed the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and believed that UNHCR, with its long-standing experience in providing support for internally displaced persons, had a critical role to play in ensuring a robust collective response. Denmark was grateful to all UNHCR staff for their work and appreciated the Organization’s continued focus on their safety and well-being.

67. **Mr. Smith** (United States of America) noted that durable solutions remained out of reach for the vast majority of displaced persons. He said that more must be done to continue to provide them with protection and improve their quality of life as their displacement extended into the medium and long term. UNHCR’s focus on inclusion and complementary pathways was critical in that regard.

68. The United States appreciated the organization’s efforts to unlock durable solutions for forcibly displaced and stateless persons. The cessation of prima facie status for Ivorian refugees on 30 June 2022 and the updated comprehensive solutions strategy for Ivorian refugees in West and Central Africa, among others, could increase the opportunities to meet the individual needs of the refugees across multiple solutions. UNHCR and Member States should redouble their efforts accordingly.

69. His Government, for its part, was focused on rebuilding its Refugee Admissions Programme and, in addition to resettling tens of thousands of refugees from around the world, had welcomed more than 74,000 Afghans since August 2021. The United States was committed to receiving 100,000 displaced Ukrainians and would support the voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety and dignity wherever it could. However, it had to adapt its programming, policies and diplomacy to the reality that very few refugees had access to durable solutions. Returns were not possible when lives and freedoms were threatened. After 11 years of conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, for example, the conditions there were still not conducive to the safe and dignified voluntary return of the millions of Syrian refugees in the region or the internally displaced.

70. One example of an innovative and impactful approach to providing longer-term protection and ensuring inclusion in the face of limited durable solutions, was Colombia’s temporary protected status scheme for Venezuelan refugees. The World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank, backed by the United States, had leveraged the Global Concessional Financing Facility to support Colombia in implementing that approach. Development financing mechanisms, such as the GCF and the International Development Association (IDA) IDA19 Window for Host Communities and Refugees, played an increasingly important role in encouraging and supporting refugee inclusion and durable solutions. UNHCR should be commended for its close collaboration with multilateral development banks and continued engagement with Member States in seeking new and innovative ways to support solutions for all persons of concern.

71. **Ms. Arango Blanco** (Colombia) underscored the importance of international cooperation and responsibility-sharing to dealing with displacement situations. She expressed appreciation to UNHCR for its support to her Government in its efforts to find durable solutions to protect the rights and well-being of the displaced persons in Colombia. Her country, as a member of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework Support Platform (known as MIRPS), had shared with other countries in the region a range of good practices that had been recognized by various United Nations entities, such as the High-level Panel on Internal Displacement. These good practices included its early warning system, normative framework and consolidated register of victims; the integration of displaced persons, particularly those in remote areas, into political life, with many having taken part in its recent presidential elections; and their participation in efforts to find solutions so that their views were taken into account in the development of projects that affected them. Colombia had paid close attention to the work coordinated by the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement and was grateful to the countries that had supported Colombia in implementing its temporary protected status initiative, under which permits had been granted to some 3 million Venezuelan refugees to date.

72. **Mr. Mayr** (Germany), commended UNHCR for its tireless work in finding solutions for displaced people. He said that Germany, as a host country, resettlement country, donor and partner to UNHCR and other host countries, would continue to work with the organization on resettlement, return, integration and reintegration, self-reliance and third-country solutions. The variety of efforts to find such solutions was a tangible expression of global burden and responsibility-sharing. All actors, in view of the ever-increasing numbers of forcibly displaced persons in the world, should redouble their efforts and raise their level of engagement to address the shortfall, particularly in the period leading up to the Global Refugee Forum the following year.

73. **Mr. Fattal** (France) applauded the efforts of UNHCR to find durable and inclusive solutions to better respond to the needs of vulnerable forcibly displaced persons, particularly in protracted crisis situations. The positive momentum sparked by the Global Refugee Forum in 2019, which had garnered over 800 pledges, had demonstrated the high degree of engagement of all the stakeholders in UNHCR's solutions-related work. He said that momentum must be maintained and strengthened in the period leading up to the next edition of the forum in 2023. Solutions must be tailored to the individual expectations of refugees, particularly in the case of local resettlement and reintegration. Resettlement was key to the protection of vulnerable populations and France was a resettlement country, accepting 10,000 persons per year, and had shown its commitment to the role in the granting of legal access to 8,000 Afghan refugees since early 2021. Partnerships with development agencies and banks should be encouraged with a view to mainstreaming displacement issues into their respective programmes. His delegation welcomed the closer links forged and synergies fostered between UNHCR and the French Development Agency.

74. **Mr. Taha** (Sudan), expressed his country's unwavering support for UNHCR's work to find durable and lasting solutions for protracted refugee crises, and its commitment, in particular, to the solutions initiative for the displacement situation in Sudan and South Sudan led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). He said that his country, as Chair of IGAD, had worked tirelessly to galvanize the political and financial support to create the conditions for a safe and meaningful return of forcibly displaced persons. He noted that a recently completed draft national strategy for the implementation of durable solutions was awaiting validation; and that his delegation looked forward to hearing UNHCR's views on the next steps to be taken for all actors, including donor countries and international financial institutions, to expedite progress on the initiative.

75. **Mr. Damiani Pellegrini** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), stressed that it was important to understand and address the root causes of displacement when seeking durable solutions for the protection of the displaced. He said that UNHCR, in light of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, could no longer ignore the cause of the migratory flows from his country. This was due to the devastating impacts on people's livelihoods of the criminal and illegal sanctions imposed on his country, unilaterally, by the United States. Had UNHCR's narrative been more positive, it might have generated the solutions to eliminate it. Further, some governments in the region, in aiding and abetting the imposition of more than 400 such coercive measures, had incapacitated his Government's humanitarian programmes. It was a violation of international law and a crime against humanity. Finding durable solutions called for international cooperation and respect for international law, the Charter of the United Nations and state sovereignty. In spite of the return of massive

numbers of Venezuelans, the Government's "return to the motherland" plan, which constituted a durable and effective solution for voluntary returnees, had not had the support of international organizations and agencies.

76. **Mr. Arga** (Ethiopia), noted that the global internal displacement crisis, in spite of its scale and the fact that it was growing ever deeper, had been relatively overlooked. He underscored the need, as highlighted by the United Nations Secretary-General in his Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, to address prevention, response and solutions simultaneously, as they were interlinked. Solutions could not be durable without strengthening the protection mechanisms and tackling the root causes, and prevention called for a holistic approach. This included building critical early warning systems while preventing the drivers of displacement, by both addressing the root causes and mitigating immediate risks and their impacts. Taking action on the drivers was the best form of prevention and helped to ensure the sustainability of solutions. Internal displacement problems were multifaceted and called for multi-sectoral responses, hence the involvement of all stakeholders. International solutions must adapt to national contexts and support the Member State's programmes and initiatives.

77. Ethiopia had been hard hit by internal displacement crises caused by natural disasters, the impacts of climate change and conflicts. A lack of funding for durable solutions also remained a major challenge. Millions of internally displaced persons could be returned to their place of origin but, since international support for a durable solutions strategy remained scant and access to development finance limited, the Government needed to strike a balance between humanitarian needs and long-term solutions. Predictable and flexible, multi-year, funding was crucial to ensuring real change in the internal displacement situation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. His Government acknowledged that it was primarily the responsibility of States to address their internal displacement problems and it remained committed to finding robust solutions, but that could not happen without strong international support, hence UNHCR was encouraged to remain engaged in the national durable solutions initiative.

78. **Mr. Matinrazm** (Islamic Republic of Iran), reiterated that his country attached great importance to voluntary repatriation as a core durable solution. He underscored the need, particularly in protracted refugee situations, to scale up resettlement programmes that rejected the pick-and-choose approach in favour of the principles of burden and responsibility-sharing. In view of the extremely limited progress to date, as reflected in the low rates of return and acceptance by resettlement countries, his delegation requested further details on UNHCR's assessment of the key obstacles to repatriation and resettlement in the case of Afghanistan, in particular, as well as on what UNHCR was doing to strengthen Afghan repatriation programmes.

79. **Mr. Chemakh** (Algeria) took note of UNHCR's efforts to look for durable solutions. There had been an increase of 71 per cent in the number of refugees who had benefited from the right of voluntary return. However, there was concern over the slow pace of return by those living in places of conflict who wished to return to their country of origin. Obstacles still needed to be overcome, and durable, inclusive and appropriate solutions were yet to be found, so his country was working on resolving the root causes of the issues. In that regard, Algeria was playing a role in various conflicts in Africa and through reconciliation and dialogue was working to avoid forced displacement and encourage voluntary return for people in Africa. It was vital to support African solutions to the continent's issues. The latest African Union summit in Malabo had implemented a preparatory programme for natural disasters in Africa with the aim of overcoming the humanitarian challenges of climate change, health and food insecurity and post-conflict rebuilding, as well as humanitarian aid funding in Africa.

80. Algeria remained very concerned about the lack of progress on a political solution to various refugee-related situations, as there were millions of refugees waiting for justice to be served before they could return to their countries of origin. Of particular concern was the refugee situation in Western Sahara, which had been under occupation for over half a century despite collective efforts to ensure protection and provide aid to the Sahrawi people, who continued to lack appropriate aid and were unable to exercise their right to self-determination, as enshrined in the doctrines of UNHCR and the African Union. Despite a ceasefire concluded on 13 November 2021 in Western Sahara and Mauritania, there remained daily violations against the Polisario Front by Morocco, which used sophisticated alarm systems to disrupt the lives of civilians, including those of Algerian and Mauritanian descent living in unrecognized territories. Falsified documents and propaganda campaigns continued to be used to pursue Morocco's de facto colonialism of the region. The expansionist programme by Morocco constituted a failure of the application of international law and human rights. Algeria called for the reactivation of the 1991 United Nations Joint Regulation Plan,

which was the only accepted agreement between both parties, with support from the Security Council. Algeria would continue to support the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara in the area to find a solution in good faith between the two conflicting parties. On his latest visit to Tindouf, he had seen many refugees there; their inalienable human rights should be respected. The occupation of Western Sahara continued to affect the local people living there and the scope of United Nations work in respecting their rights should be widened. Refugees should speak for themselves, and Algeria urged the UNHCR to use a more transparent and inclusive approach.

81. **Ms. Rodriguez Mancía** (Guatemala) thanked the UNHCR for its update on its efforts to find solutions for refugees. UNHCR had become a strategic partner and ally, close to her Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A relationship based on trust and empathy had been created to deal with refugees' needs, particularly a substantial commitment to those requiring international protection. That relationship was reflected in the signing of a local letter of understanding between UNHCR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Ambassador Mario Adolfo Búcaro Flores, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ms. Besem Obenson, Representative of UNHCR in Guatemala on 15 June 2022. The letter of understanding would, in particular, institutionally strengthen the General Directorate for Consular and Migratory Affairs, which was responsible for dealing with Guatemala's migrant population. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as coordinator of the work of the national technical team of MIRPS, had reiterated its commitment to continue working on the regional consultative process and implementing the national action plan, and recognized that the synergy between the MIRPS Support Platform and countries optimized the international community's participation in the follow-up mechanisms for implementing its commitments and shared responsibility to refugees and those in need of international protection, pursuant to the Global Compact on Refugees.

82. Guatemala welcomed collaboration on the Platform, which sought to boost support from States, international financial institutions, the private sector, international organizations and other partners to help develop the activities of host countries with a view to offering protection and solutions for displaced persons. The recent panel event, "Introduction on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways", held in Ottawa, Canada, as current Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, on 24–26 May 2022, had aimed to share best practices on solution-based policies, programmes and/or models for third countries, resettlement and complementary pathways, to promote the visibility of contributions and commitment to refugees and other displaced persons in need of international protection in host communities, and to explore international cooperation opportunities between MIRPS countries and the Support Platform.

83. The current trend of displaced persons in need of international protection was a challenge which no single country could deal with individually. As vulnerable conditions were amplified by the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of natural disasters, it had become vital to strengthen financial collaboration and cooperation on the issue. Guatemala reiterated its firm conviction and commitment to pursue work along with other MIRPS countries to find responses and durable solutions to population movements. She thanked UNHCR for its support to all of the activities carried out in the context of MIRPS.

84. **Ms. Dos Santos Manuel** (Angola) said that her delegation aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group. Despite post-pandemic challenges, UNHCR had played a crucial role in providing technical assistance and capacity-building for host countries to help them to implement local solutions, including in the fight against the negative effects of climate change. She thanked UNDP for its constructive cooperation, which had delivered various refugee self-sufficiency programmes and strengthened the resilience and social inclusion of over 2,500 families in the province of Lunda Norte.

85. For refugees to rebuild their lives and for the cycle of forced displacement to end, voluntary repatriation to countries of origin had always been one of the priority solutions for refugees. In partnership with UNHCR, Angola was preparing for voluntary repatriation to restart with dignity and in an orderly manner. Some 600 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, out of 7,000 currently housed in the Lovua centre following the start of conflict in Kasai province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were to be repatriated. In that regard, in the framework of the Tripartite Agreement signed in 2019, everything possible was being done to avoid operational and administrative restrictions, including delivering COVID-19 and yellow fever vaccination certificates.

86. **Ms. Lippman** (Head of Development Partnership, Analytics and Research Service) responded to the issue raised by the African Group on housing, land and property. UNHCR was

putting renewed emphasis on the promotion and protection of housing, land and property rights to support the sustainable reintegration of returnees, as it promoted the international community's support for government institutions to strengthen systems. UNHCR was supporting the restoration of housing, land and property rights, including through legal assistance projects in Burundi, Somalia, South Sudan and other countries. The organization also provided durable shelters in Nigeria and Somalia; and promoted support for governments, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the World Bank and others in assisting the Burundi and Nigerian governments on land identification, demarcation and issuance of land certificates and titles, including in areas with high numbers of returnees. UNHCR did take the issue seriously and had created extra technical expertise in that important area. On the issue of internally displaced persons, it was also very engaged with the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and was Co-Chair, with UNDP, of one of the working groups on looking at how to engage multilateral development banks and bilateral development actors to generate more consistent development support for internally displaced persons.

87. UNHCR commended Brazil for its programme of "interiorization" and regarded it as a model. It effectively took account of the human capital represented by refugees and the needs of municipalities, to ensure that refugees had opportunities in places where municipalities had a need.

88. UNHCR commended Uganda for being a model on the issue of inclusion, and acknowledged the Government's request to look at support in the development arena. UNHCR's view was that Uganda's success had been significantly influenced by the engagement of the World Bank and many other development actors, as Uganda had accessed the IDA replenishments IDA 18 and 19, and would soon access IDA 20, now called the Host Community and Refugee Window, which had proved to be very supportive to infrastructure in the areas impacted by refugees. UNHCR was considering carrying out some analyses of its engagement with the World Bank and was aware of two ongoing evaluations of the Global Refugee Forum model. It looked forward to receiving the results of those evaluations and seeing how to improve processes elsewhere by using development assistance and actors to improve inclusion in government services and providing necessary infrastructure in areas impacted by refugees.

89. UNHCR commended Pakistan's generous approach to refugees and acknowledged their inclusion in health, education and access to livelihoods, which highlighted the importance for refugees of living with greater dignity and increasing their human capital so that, when refugees were ready to return home, they could work for their country of origin.

90. UNHCR thanked Ecuador for its statement and engagement and commended all the governments that contributed to the Global Concessional Financing Facility of the World Bank which Ecuador had accessed. It showed once again the solidarity of the major multilateral development banks, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United States Government and demonstrated that, since the Global Refugee Forum, many more development actors had recognized that displacement was a development issue and could not be addressed through humanitarian support alone.

91. UNHCR thanked the Government of Japan which, through its development agency, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), had supported refugee situations. Through close engagement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JICA had contributed to an interesting model in Uganda and Zambia. In Zambia it had integrated former Rwandan and Angolan refugees, and in Uganda it had promoted inclusion in government services. UNHCR and JICA were now looking at the model and how it could be extended to other places around the world. UNHCR also appreciated Japan's support for human security, looking at root causes and prevention, and wished to reassure Japan and other governments that UNHCR was very engaged in work under the OECD Development Assistance Committee Recommendation on the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus. UNHCR looked forward to helping to identify what the nexus meant in concrete terms, with examples scheduled to be shared at the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges in December 2022.

92. Nigeria's plan for internally displaced persons in the context of the humanitarian–development–peace nexus was very interesting. UNHCR did its best to learn from countries facing such issues. It was important to mention that the central bank was providing loans and skills training for refugees and internally displaced persons, which was a vital step in terms of human capital and access to financial services. UNHCR welcomed the Government's willingness to provide access to basic social services, including the health insurance scheme, and reiterated its gratitude to the United States Government for its support for the Global Concessional Financing Facility and its support for

the governments of Colombia, Ecuador, Jordan and Lebanon in their efforts to obtain development assistance to support their work.

93. UNHCR thanked the Government of Germany, its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and particularly the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, which in 2022 had included in its annual call for proposals for its dedicated financing window, called the Special Initiative on Displacement, an explicit encouragement for new projects to promote the inclusion of refugees in national and local systems, services and development plans in their host countries and to support host country pledges. UNHCR had been working very closely with Germany on Ethiopia's pledge to expand Government technical and vocational education and training systems to provide skills training for host countries and refugees. Together with Germany, the organization also supported local administrations in Uganda to integrate refugees into development plans and Mauritania in opening a branch of its employment agency in the main refugee hosting area, combined with the inclusion of refugees in the health system, with the last being a good example of a nexus project. Refugees now had access to a World-Bank- financed national pay-in health insurance scheme, with support from Germany's development and cooperation agencies.

94. UNHCR welcomed its greatly increased collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD) and had discussed how AFD could also contribute in West Africa. UNHCR looked forward to seeing Sudan's national strategy on durable solutions and welcomed its engagement with IGAD. It supported South Sudan and Sudan on the Solutions Initiative in terms of engagement with development actors, to ensure that conditions on the ground were welcoming for returnees.

95. **Ms. Tan** (Director of the Division of International Protection, UNHCR) said that she had heard from many countries that were hosting a large number of refugees that resettlement and complementary pathways formed an important part of the burden- and responsibility-sharing approach to durable solutions. She thanked those Member States that were responding to that call, particularly the United States of America for rebuilding its sizeable resettlement programme, Canada for its leading role on complementary pathways and other countries that were doing their part, both in resettlement and on complementary pathways. These included Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, the Philippines, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, which would all have resettlement programmes and innovative approaches to complementary pathways.

96. With regard to solutions for internally displaced persons, she noted that Ms. Rizvi would be leading an upcoming session on internal displacement and would respond to some of those useful comments. More generally on durable solutions, it was heartening to hear the consensus among Member States that the resolution of situations of displacement required addressing their root causes. There was a need for lasting peace and long-term development support to ensure that refugees were able to return home. UNHCR remained committed to a nexus approach and to international cooperation to tackle the complex and protracted causes of forced displacement. Such situations were often found in volatile regions affected by conflict and compounded by economic and climate challenges. She thanked the many Member States that had expressed solidarity and provided concrete support for the efforts of host countries which were supporting inclusion and working towards political solutions to displacement.

97. As mentioned by many delegates, the Global Compact on Refugees provided the right framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, recognizing that a sustainable solution to refugee situations could not be achieved without international cooperation. The 2023 Global Refugee Forum would provide UNHCR and its Member States with an opportunity to reconnect towards finding solutions for the displaced and collectively tackling the root causes. UNHCR looked forward to continuing that work in the future.

d. The engagement of UNHCR with internally displaced persons (EC/73/SC/CRP.14)

98. **Ms. Rizvi** (Principal Advisor on Internal Displacement, UNHCR) shared an update on UNHCR's intensified engagement in internal displacement settings. UNHCR's forecast from 2016 had, sadly, come to pass. UNHCR, with its feet-on-the-ground approach across fragile and complex settings, had warned of trends of rapidly rising forced displacement. Internal displacement had accounted for the majority of people forced to flee their homes for safety. Six years ago, UNHCR had integrated the protection of internally displaced persons into the High Commissioner's Strategic Objectives and the latter had been further reinforced until 2026. The results of UNHCR's internal review in 2016 had determined its current IDP intensification, and it was in that vein that she was providing today's brief update, which would come in three main parts.

99. First, an update on UNHCR's strengthened delivery of internal displacement activities, with progressive developments since the previous year; both its operational capacity and coordination leadership had been systematized and there were more recent developments. Starting with UNHCR's cluster response, there had been an overall strengthening of UNHCR's protection, shelter and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) responses, including operational delivery and coordination leadership in support of national and inter-agency efforts. UNHCR now led 29 of the 32 national protection clusters and, with deep field presence, it combined that national leadership with programming and coordination leadership at subnational levels in areas where internally displaced persons resided. To target protection gaps that required political engagement and national expertise, a micro-level initiative was being tested, known as the IDP Protection Expert Group or IPEG, which had been established in 2021 in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, with whom it worked very closely. Comprising current and former special rapporteurs, senior thought leaders, and former resident and humanitarian coordinators, the aim of the group was to facilitate political will and national leadership through senior-level international support for a clear impact on protection. IPEG had undertaken two recent visits: one in 2021 to Burkina Faso and one more recently to Mexico, with other consultations under way in Honduras and South Sudan. All such consultations included discussions on policies and frameworks related to internally displaced persons in the concerned country.

100. UNHCR's leadership in the GP2.0 Plan of Action, an informal platform for joint initiatives and the sharing of good practices, was ongoing. The platform was also utilized for regional consultations on the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on internal displacement. UNHCR led 16 out of 31 activated shelter clusters and 19 cluster-like mechanisms around the world, and had helped with partners in providing shelters and core relief items for over 10.6 million internally displaced persons in 2021 alone, including a response in emergency settings. UNHCR's expenditure on internal displacement totalled \$784 million in 2021, a record for organizational expenditure. Considering the rapid increase in IDP numbers, CCCM activities required UNHCR to lead or co-lead 18 out of 22 global CCCM clusters, with new activations during the year in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia. More than half of the 224 CCCM partners with which UNHCR engaged were local actors. Over 12 million people were reached through such CCCM efforts and, in the first six months of 2022 alone, UNHCR had undertaken leadership of CCCM clusters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique. Strengthening UNHCR's operational footprint, it had provided cash assistance for protection and solutions for more than 2.1 million internally displaced persons in 27 countries, providing over \$120 million. The top five countries included Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Somalia and Yemen. The cash assistance programme had greatly expanded with the crisis in Ukraine. UNHCR had revised its results-based management system in 2021 for more integrated, equitable programming inclusive of internally displaced persons, actioning systematic operational delivery in internal displacement settings. The new approach further facilitated area-based programming by focusing on impact and outcomes across all population planning groups, which was a break from past siloed efforts.

101. All UNHCR operations had finalized their 2022 strategies using the new COMPASS approach, with attention to both responsibilities – “port of first call” and “providers of last resort”. The Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement (JDC), co-led by UNHCR and the World Bank, continued to enhance the ability of stakeholders, including governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make timely, well-informed and evidence-based decisions for resilience and solutions for internal displacement. The focus of the JDC was on socioeconomic data; it worked with partners to improve the collection, analysis and sharing of quality data on forced displacement in line with international standards, and specifically in support of national ownership. Specific activities of the JDC had been reported in 2022 relating to internal displacement in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Somalia, Iraq and Yemen. Her own “deep dives” on country operations in internal displacement and UNHCR's seven regional bureaux were supported by a variety of headquarters expertise, tailoring guidance to country operations. UNHCR had emphasized the cross-fertilization of experiences on laudable teams such as inclusion of internally displaced persons, area-based programming or management approaches in enabling synergies among its cluster leads in-country and combining cluster leadership with adequate programming. Consultations with regional and field offices and regular stocktaking had further supported consistency of operations, as UNHCR increased its activities to meet requirements in internal displacement.

102. Second, on linking UNHCR's operational footprint with the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, she noted that, as a core steering group member, UNHCR had supported the conceptualization and development of the Action Agenda. In further support, UNHCR

would shortly share a global institutional plan demonstrating the reinforcement of its institutional internal capacities and engagement in solutions to internal displacement. UNHCR warmly welcomed the recent appointment of Mr. Robert Piper as the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement. In support of the Action Agenda's commitment number 9, UNHCR was co-leading with UNDP the preparation of an ad-hoc forum, expected to meet in 2022, of development finance actors and affected States to explore how catalytic financing for solutions could be made more readily available. UNHCR had proactively undertaken to support resident coordinators as the United Nations lead on solutions at the country level. Its interventions were adjusted to the context and centred on the provision of evidence-based analysis for protection and solutions, drawing upon UNHCR's work in steering refugee solutions. UNHCR emphasized the importance of close collaboration with non-governmental organizations, civil society and displaced persons themselves, recognizing that they should be engaged as true partners in the search for solutions. To that end, UNHCR had supported the High-level Panel on Internal Displacement as well as the Secretary-General's Action Agenda, seeking the views of internally displaced communities. A joint global initiative between UNHCR and UNDP was in preparation for strengthening cooperation on matters relating to internal displacement, specifically internal displacement solutions. UNHCR was actively engaged in, and contributed to, data on such solutions at country level and facilitated nationally owned data systems in line with the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics, including the efforts of the UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Centre.

103. Lastly, on the update to certain enablers of UNHCR's engagement in internal displacement settings, she noted that they included integrated programming, data and information management and workforce management, all key elements that supported the decisiveness and predictability of internal displacement responses, on which recent progress had been made. Efforts had also been made to reinforce UNHCR's staff capacities to identify, train and maintain staff with specialized skills and competencies, including information and coordination management in both cluster and non-cluster situations and including deployment as needed, especially in emergencies. Four new internal training programmes had been launched, covering both the operational delivery and the coordination aspects of UNHCR's work, one of which was specifically targeted at managers in internal displacement situations.

104. On data and information management, UNHCR had strengthened its efforts to ensure the provision of accurate, up-to-date, quality and comprehensive data and information which could support evidence-informed advocacy, programming, monitoring assistance and service delivery by UNHCR and the rest of the humanitarian community, as well as contributing to solid protections and outcomes by also reaching out to non-humanitarian actors. Boosting predictability and prediction analysis, UNHCR was currently finalizing the release of standard information products, including prediction and related monitoring reports, needs analysis, technical assessments, service and presence mapping and other products, all in support of UNHCR's operational engagement and cluster responsibilities. Information products would be shared with partners in line with responsible data approaches, including UNHCR and inter-agency web-based platforms and portals.

105. On programming for internal displacement, she highlighted the importance of UNHCR's efforts to work across the full spectrum of forced displacement and promote the socioeconomic inclusion of internally displaced persons to facilitate resilience and solutions. In several countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and many others, UNHCR had sought to maximize opportunities to respond through inclusion of internally displaced persons in area-based programming and integrated approaches inclusive of all population groups, including returning internally displaced persons, refugees, asylum seekers from other countries and host communities. In addition, the new results-based management approach facilitated the area-based programming by focusing on impacts and outcomes through support for local services that could address the needs of those to whom services could be made available irrespective of status. Results and indicators would be linked to the population types that UNHCR served, allowing it to monitor the results achieved for internally displaced persons, as well as for any other groups, and promote equitable outcomes.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.