## Permanent Delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to the United Nations Office in Geneva



Délégation Permanente de l'Organisation de la Coopération Islamique auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

## Statement of Ambassador Nassima Baghli, OIC Permanent Observer in Geneva 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UNHCR Executive Committee 10- 14 October 2022, Geneva

General debate

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Chairperson, Mr. High Commissioner for Refugees, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

The world is currently facing a convergence of multiple crises that are causing devastating effects and are pushing unprecedented numbers of people to leave their home place.

To the traditional causes of displacement like conflicts, we need to add climate change.

In such a context, the gap between soaring humanitarian needs and available funding has never been so high and the search for sustainable solutions more pressing.

Against this backdrop, the principle of burden and responsibility sharing which is at the heart of the Global Compact on Refugees, is more valid than ever. We should harness all the potential of this tool that has raised so much expectations.

The OIC, for its part, has strengthened its capacities in the humanitarian field as many OIC Member States are countries of origin and of destination of refugees. In this regard, it has scaled up its regional offices and, with the contribution of the different OIC organs, like the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Organization for Food Security, it strives to promote the triple Nexus approach.

The OIC Statistical, Research Training Center (Sesric) collects data aimed at better assessing the challenges faced by refugees and makes recommendations in that regard.

As to the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission, it has co- organized, few days ago with the government of Malaysia, a seminar which was concluded by the "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Rights and Access to Education for Refugees".

Moreover, and in line with the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, the OIC is developing a **multi-stakeholder- approach** to bring assistance to refugees.

The OIC has recently partnered with the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre to deliver non- food items to meet the basic needs of the drought victims in Somalia, and to implement an emergency food aid project for the flood- affected families in Afghanistan for the period 2022- 2023. This project will provide food assistance to more than 47, 000 families in 25 provinces of Afghanistan.

The OIC and **UNHCR** signed, last September, a **Joint Humanitarian Plan of Action** for the years 2022-2025, aimed at consolidating their cooperation in terms of capacity-building, protection and solutions.

Furthermore, and as it was mentioned by the High Commissioner for Refugees in his opening statement, an agreement was signed between the **UNHCR** and **the Islamic Development Bank** to launch the <u>Global Islamic Fund for Refugees</u> which provides an innovative resource mobilization tool for the benefit of refugees and host communities in OIC countries.

On behalf of the OIC Secretary General, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Filippo Grandi for the renewal of his mandate as High Commissioner for Refugees and wish him the best in his mission.

In concluding, and with reference to the need to tackle the root causes of humanitarian situations, I would like to mention that the OIC is engaged in **peace processes** in many OIC countries and is developing **mediation tools** in order to contribute to defusing tensions as soon as they appear.

I would like also to announce that the OIC is planning to convene, in the near future, a **donors' Conference for refugees and IDP's** in the Sahel region and Lake Chad Basin.

I thank you.