

**Opening statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the
Sixty-ninth session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's
Programme**

(Geneva, 1 October 2018)

Elements

In his opening statement to the sixty-ninth session of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner will review the key drivers and features of today's global forced displacement, challenges to international protection, the advances made by UNHCR and its partners in pursuing protection and solutions in this context, and his vision for how the global compact on refugees, presented as part II of his annual report to the General Assembly, can leverage more comprehensive, predictable and solutions-oriented engagement in support of the forcibly displaced and their hosts.

- Current trends and future outlook: characteristics of emerging, recurrent and protracted displacement crises, shrinking protection space amidst politicization of refugees and migrants, pressures on host countries, complex and insecure working environments, reinforcing support to states to address protection challenges, including in large-scale influxes and mixed migration contexts; looking ahead;
- Pursuing UNHCR's Strategic Directions: how the 'core directions' of "protect, respond, include, empower, solve" are being pursued, concrete examples of their application in major crises, and how traditional and non-traditional partnerships, and the use of innovation, are leveraging results. (To include engagement in mixed flows, internal displacement, emergency preparedness and response, inclusion of displaced and stateless people in national systems and development programmes, cash-based interventions, participation and empowerment, statelessness, more robust quest for solutions, including in IDP contexts);
- The global compact on refugees: the New York Declaration and comprehensive response model two years on; key aspects and main arrangements of the proposed global compact, what is needed to ensure its robust implementation;
- UNHCR's capacities and role: adapting, refining and reinforcing the integrity and effectiveness of UNHCR's work, including addressing sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, internal reforms and regionalization, risk management, human resources, accountability and oversight, data.

17 September 2018