



Geneva

UNHCR ExCom
Swedish Statement on International Protection

Delivered by Ms Veronica Nordlund, First secretary

7 October 2020

We wish to thank UNHCR for the note on international protection. The note reflects the very important work undertaken by UNHCR and its partners. This is a challenging time globally for so many vulnerable people in need of protection. Sweden's commitment is clear; to the principles of protection and to ending statelessness, addressing the increasing numbers of internally displaced persons, upholding effective asylum systems and supporting durable solutions. We actively work on promoting the respect for the humanitarian principles.

Sweden is proud to be a major resettlement country, an important humanitarian donor and a large contributor of un-earmarked core support to the UNHCR. We see resettlement as a sustainable, safe and organized way to offer international protection to the most vulnerable refugees. It is also an act of solidarity with host countries. The temporary hold on resettlement travel caused by the pandemic has unfortunately delayed departures for refugees to many resettlement countries this year. In Sweden we have recently started a phased restart of resettlement transfers. Our primary goal is to fulfil this year's pledge, that is to receive

5 000 refugees, pending that submissions and transfers can continue at a steady pace. We stand ready to share our experiences. This will be an example of Sweden's continued support for a resettlement response that will be implementing the UNHCR Three-year strategy on Resettlement and complementary pathways. Furthermore, through our continued co-chairmanship of the UNHCR Priority Situations Core Group together with

Ireland until the end of 2020, Sweden supports an expanded and strategic global resettlement response.

The first Global Refugee Forum in December last year was a successful demonstration of global support for greater burden and responsibility sharing. Sweden is committed to continue to promote the Global Compact on Refugee, through sustained engagement towards ensuring its effective implementation. Protection and solutions of refugee situations need to be placed at the top of the international political agenda.

In the EU - Sweden will continue to be a strong voice for greater solidarity and responsibility sharing and for fair and effective asylum policies. We welcome the coming discussions of the proposals in the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum Policy.

Furthermore, Sweden continues to strive for protection to be at the core of all humanitarian action. Reducing the risks that people affected by humanitarian crises experience is essential. For this to be done in an effective way, a change in mindset and ways of working is needed. As the Global Lead Agency for Protection, UNHCR plays a critical role in contributing to this shift. Recognizing the multifaceted nature of the risks that people experience and the need for other sectors and disciplines to contribute to the efforts of reducing them is critical. The Global Protection Cluster's contribution to the revision of the Humanitarian Program Cycle Template has been crucial in promoting the protection analysis to be reflected in all parts of the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plans. The work to ensure that protection is central to humanitarian action needs to be upheld to promote a greater contribution from all humanitarian actors in addressing protection risks, irrespective of their sector-specific expertise as stipulated in the IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action (2016).

Due to the potential consequences of the coronavirus pandemic for persons in need of protection in the coming years, it will be more necessary than ever that States stay committed and show solidarity.

Thank you.