

United Nations High Commissioner for Protection Dialogue:

"Protection and resilience during pandemics"

(Geneva, December 9)

Written statement of the Russian Federation

We express our gratitude to the High Commissioner for the meaningful virtual discussions within the Dialogue. This year, this site has again confirmed its relevance, providing an opportunity to conduct a comprehensive exchange of views and experience on the most pressing issues in the field of protecting internally displaced persons.

The Russian Federation makes a significant contribution to strengthening the international refugee protection regime and solving migration problems, primarily through large-scale humanitarian activities in many countries and regions of the world, as well as political efforts to prevent and overcome crises. We proceed from the premise that the most effective way to solve the problem of internally displaced persons is to eliminate the root causes that force people to leave their homes. We believe that the successful solution of this task lies in the plane of political settlement in the states of origin of refugees and migrants, as well as rendering assistance to them in socio-economic development, state building and the fight against terrorism.

At present, more than 28 thousand people from 53 states have received asylum on the territory of Russia . Work continues on the draft of a new federal law on granting asylum on Russian territory, which would improve the mechanisms for providing assistance to foreign citizens in need of protection. We are confident that the adoption of the new law will further strengthen the asylum system on the territory of the Russian Federation.

This year, the world is faced with a new global challenge - the COVID-19 pandemic. We share UNHCR's concerns about the impact of the direct and indirect consequences of the pandemic on internally displaced persons around the world, as well as on the possibility of compliance with the international refugee protection regime.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the Office to curb the spread of the disease among refugees and IDPs, primarily through interaction with states to include internally displaced persons in national programs to combat the virus, conduct information campaigns among the population, increase the supply of medical supplies, and take measures to improve their systems. water supply and sanitation in refugee camps, hospitals, schools and other social institutions.

Unfortunately, the pandemic on the planet is not receding. We proceed from the need to provide comprehensive assistance to refugees and IDPs especially vulnerable to coronavirus infection, as well as to their host states. We are convinced that one of the most effective measures to combat the pandemic should be large-scale vaccination of the population. It is important that the COVID -19 vaccination process ensures access to the vaccine for all UNHCR caregivers, especially in refugee camps and other crowded areas.

In order to facilitate the settlement of the legal status of foreign citizens in our country in a pandemic, the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation suspended the validity period of a number of documents confirming the legal status of refugees and asylum seekers, and also frozen the decision-making process on deprivation of refugee status and temporary asylum. These measures are essential for targeted support of internally displaced persons in the current difficult epidemiological situation.