



**UNHCR High Level Officials Meeting
Bangladesh Statement at Plenary Discussion
(Geneva, 14 December 2021)**

High Commissioner Mr. Grandi

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Let me thank you, High Commissioner, for leading this High-Level Officials Meeting. I also thank Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis for his welcome remarks.

Excellencies,

This high-level meeting is convened at a time when we are fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, an increasing number of people continues to be displaced across continents, and the refugee situations are being protracted.

The pandemic has compounded the existing burden of the host countries. Yet, we have witnessed the continued shortage of humanitarian fundings, diversion of resources and unequal supply of vaccines to the host countries. While we take stalk of the pledges made in the GRF in 2019, it is necessary to address the existing and emerging challenges of the host countries. Hence, we must-

- fully realize the principle of equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing,
- find an innovative and sustainable financing mechanism to reduce the burden of the host countries, and
- ensure timely and equitable supply of vaccines, medicines and therapeutic for all, in particular to the host countries.

Excellencies,

Successful implementation of the GCR depends on equal emphasis on all aspects of UNHCR's mandate. Hence, designing innovative solutions to refugee crises, in particular through voluntary repatriation is a key.

Distinguished delegates,

Bangladesh has been hosting over a million Rohingyas for more than four years. Despite our own challenges we are doing our best to take care of them. We have included them in the national vaccination programme.

To address the Rohingya crisis effectively and comprehensively, we have innovated a "Joint Response Plan" for multi-agency planning, fundraising and implementation. However, each year, we experience significant shortage of funding, causing an additional burden for us.

Excellencies,

The Rohingya crisis is to be solved in Myanmar through sustainable return of Rohingyas in justice and dignity. We are concerned that recent shift of international community's attention from the Rohingya issue may cause further delay in commencing repatriation. This has potential to make the situation more untenable in the region.

Our experience in dealing with the Rohingya crisis suggests that a conducive environment in Rakhine is critical for a durable solution. We urge UNHCR to play its due role in facilitating a conducive environment in Rakhine to ensure sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar.

I thank you.
