

Chair,

I want to commend UNHCR for their efforts in preparing for this High-Level Officials Meeting. The various reports shared and events arranged focusing on taking stock of progress made since the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019, provide a good basis for looking ahead.

The needs for protection and support to refugees and internally displaced persons are growing. In too many countries and regions, people are forced to flee, to escape from conflict and natural disasters. The **Global Compact on Refugees** is a good framework for responding to refugee situations, including enhanced burden-sharing between donor and host countries.

Let me highlight a few points on issues where we need to strengthen our efforts:

We need to put more emphasize on **prevention**. We must focus on actions preventing situations that force people to flee. This means armed conflict, climate change and poverty.

We need to respond to refugee situations with a **comprehensive approach**. We must strengthen the links between our humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, and human rights work. Norway will strengthen humanitarian assistance and support the countries with the largest refugee populations.

We need to empower, protect and support refugees through an **age, gender and diversity** approach.

Also, we must recognize the complex links between climate change, natural disasters, vulnerability, and displacement.

We need more reliable **information and data** on climate and security risks. Displacement movements should be monitored in real time.

The trend of a growing number of **internally displaced persons** (IDPs) is of great concern. Protection and support to internally displaced persons must be a priority, as they are often the most vulnerable. We must ensure a robust follow-up of the report by the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.

The **Covid-19** pandemic is far from over, and efforts to mitigate the consequences for refugees and IDPs need to be supported. This includes reversing the advances lost on **gender equality**.

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Norway's broad engagement was reflected in our pledges submitted to the GRF, including:

- Significant core support to UNHCR
- resettlement
- cooperation with host countries and countries of origin
- global qualifications passports for refugees and vulnerable migrants
- enhanced integration and inclusion efforts in our own country
- education in emergencies
- prevention and protection against sexual and gender-based violence
- support UNHCR *Clean Energy Challenge*

Protecting refugees and internally displaced people is a priority for Norway. We will continue to provide substantial financial support to partners with flexible funding, including UNHCR. We are also committed to support efforts to improve how we work to achieve results, including anticipatory financing and implementing Grand Bargain 2.0.

The challenges can seem overwhelming. This must not stop us from continuing our collective efforts to prevent, protect, and support people that are forced to flee. The ambitions set at the GRF two years ago must be upheld.