

**Barabara Daetwyler, Switzerland**

**Intervention – Climate Change/Greening spotlight**

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Thank you very much for this stimulating debate on the role of the Global Compact on Refugees in climate action and displacement. As humanitarian actors it is our **role** to alleviate suffering as best as we can. However, our operations repeatedly disregard climate considerations. Why? I often hear the argument that there is “no time” or that we don’t have a budget. **We** want to challenge this narrative and make **our** contribution to greening the humanitarian aid. That’s also why Switzerland signed, as the first donor, the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations. And we are delighted to see that UNHCR has adopted it too. We encourage all our partners to follow.

Let me take this opportunity to commend UNHCR for the launch of its Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability. We welcome the emphasis on participatory approaches and gender aspects. Both are critical to ensuring sustainability and accountability.

For our greening efforts to succeed, it is crucial that we leverage expertise, share it and continue to invest in it. Therefore, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation jointly with UNCHR has established the Geneva Technical Hub. What is the Geneva Technical Hub? As part of UNHCR Geneva, this Hub is a center of expertise dedicated to greening humanitarian actions in the field. Five Swiss experts are deployed to the Hub. They work on innovative, sustainable and green solutions to complex technical problems, and this in close cooperation with Swiss universities.

Let me give you an example: In Chad, UNHCR installs solar technology in water wells to provide renewable power to boreholes. The Geneva Technical Hub connects Swiss expertise with local expertise. It provides support with a hydrogeologist and a solar energy expert. And it provides access to the Swiss Federal Laboratory. This year, with the results of analyses done by the Swiss laboratory, the Hub hydrogeologist was able to confirm that 78 boreholes out of 208 were compatible with the installation of a solar pumping system.

Switzerland's commitment to supporting UNHCR in its greening efforts will remain strong. Greening the humanitarian aid – in the long-term – reduces the risks of people becoming forcibly displaced. And this is what we want to prevent, under all circumstances. Thank you!