



General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 April 2020
English
Original: French

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Seventieth session

Summary record of the 723rd meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 9 October 2019, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Delmi (Algeria)

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High-level segment on statelessness and general debate (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Muylle** (Belgium) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its member States. Every year since 2018, Belgium had allocated US\$ 9.5 million in non-earmarked contributions to the regular budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In 2019, his Government's total contribution to the UNHCR budget would be well over US\$ 20 million. In addition, Belgium was financing UNHCR interventions in Lebanon, Iraq, Chad, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan and Yemen. It was also continuing its resettlement efforts. Between 2013 and 2019, Belgium had resettled 3,284 refugees from nine countries and aimed to resettle 1,150 refugees in its territory in 2020. His Government commended the Government of Rwanda on the establishment of the Emergency Transit Mechanism, in collaboration with the African Union and UNHCR, which would provide life-saving assistance to the African refugees and asylum seekers currently detained in Libya.

2. **Mr. Harahsheh** (Jordan) said that his country had taken in 1.3 million Syrian refugees in the space of eight years. Despite the fact that the international community's support for those persons was continually decreasing, his Government allowed over 130,000 refugees to attend public schools and had issued 145,000 work permits. Since the reopening of the Jaber border crossing point, in October 2018, 153,000 Syrians had returned to their country. His Government hoped that the Global Refugee Forum would lay the foundation for responsibility-sharing among all countries so that the burden did not rest solely on the shoulders of host countries.

3. **Ms. Mailu** (Kenya) said that her delegation aligned itself with the statements made by the representative of Zimbabwe, on behalf of the Group of African States, and by the representative of Thailand, on behalf of the Group of Friends of the #IBelong campaign. Her Government had taken many measures to combat statelessness. For example, in 2016, the members of the Makonde community had been granted Kenyan nationality and, in April 2019, the authorities had organized the Ministerial Conference on the Eradication of Statelessness in the Great Lakes Region, in Nairobi, at which they had made several pledges, including to accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and to eradicate statelessness by 2023. In addition, her Government had recently established a task force on the issue of statelessness, had collected data on stateless persons as part of the national census conducted in August 2019 and had drafted a bill to harmonize legislation on the registration of persons, known as the *huduma* bill.

4. Kenya currently hosted 479,194 refugees. Although the Kambioos and Ifo 2 camps had been closed, as the refugees in those camps had voluntarily returned to their country of origin, her Government would continue to seek solutions for those in the other camps in Dadaab, including through the work of the national committee responsible for resolving the issue of double registration. Her Government called upon the international community to contribute to the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia adopted in March 2017. Lastly, Kenya welcomed the growing partnership between UNHCR and the World Bank.

5. **Ms. Flores Liera** (Mexico) said that her delegation aligned itself with the statements made by the representative of Ecuador, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and by the representative of Thailand, on behalf of the Group of Friends of the #IBelong campaign. Mexico and six Central American countries were working to implement the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework, which was a framework for action to realize the global compact on refugees. The Friends of the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework created under the auspices of the Organization of American States were working to establish a voluntary fund, which should be operational by January 2020, to support the implementation of the compact. Together with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, her Government was implementing a comprehensive development plan, which contained 30 recommendations drawn up by 16

United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. Those recommendations were aimed at facilitating inclusive development, access to services and the elimination of the structural causes of migrant and refugee displacement and were being implemented, including as part of the “Young People Building the Future” (“Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro”) programme in Honduras and the “Sowing Life” (“Sembrando Vida”) programme in southern Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador.

6. **Mr. Diané** (Guinea) said that his delegation fully aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of Zimbabwe on behalf of the Group of African States. With the aim of eradicating statelessness, his Government had adopted a national plan of action to combat statelessness and taken steps to implement that plan, had designated a national focal point for statelessness issues and had embarked on a legislative reform, one aim of which was the adoption of the new Civil Code. His Government pledged to adopt a law on stateless person status and the procedure for determining that status, implement the National Strategy to Reform and Modernize Civil Status and draft implementing legislation for the Civil Code, all by 2020–2022.

7. **Mr. Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg** (Germany) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its member States. His Government pledged to examine the relevance of the reservations that Germany had entered upon its ratification of the 1961 Convention. In view of the increasing number of attacks on humanitarian and medical personnel and obstacles to humanitarian assistance, Germany and France had launched a humanitarian call for action in September 2019. It contained specific commitments that Member States could make to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law and principled humanitarian action and was already supported by 41 States.

8. **Mr. Grima** (Observer for Malta) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its member States and looked forward to participating in the next session of the Executive Committee as a member. Malta should soon be in a position to deposit the instrument of ratification of the 1954 Convention. Over the past year, some 2,700 irregular migrants had disembarked on Malta, having been rescued by the Armed Forces of Malta (1,850) or vessels operated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (850). Those figures represented a 214 per cent increase compared to those recorded in autumn 2018. In addition, as at 22 September 2019, 2,369 asylum applications had been filed with the competent services. His Government thanked UNHCR for its support and work with social partners, local organizations and NGOs, which helped to raise awareness of the situation of asylum seekers in Malta and the need to provide durable solutions for refugees and beneficiaries of protection.

9. **Ms. Bard** (Sweden) said that her delegation aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its member States. Sweden would withdraw two reservations to the 1954 Convention and the corresponding reservations to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Over the previous five years, 22,000 stateless persons had been granted Swedish nationality. In addition, several measures had been taken to simplify the acquisition of Swedish nationality by stateless persons. Her Government commended Kyrgyzstan on being the first country to have eradicated statelessness. With regard to funding, Sweden would provide around US\$ 400 million in non-earmarked contributions over four years. Since the beginning of 2019, it had contributed some US\$ 25 million to UNHCR appeals.

10. **Ms. Paik** (Republic of Korea) said that the Republic of Korea would make a multi-year contribution totalling US\$ 5 million to the comprehensive refugee response framework in Uganda, between 2020 and 2022, and would build on the efforts already made to eradicate statelessness. In addition, her Government wished to partner with UNHCR in the context of combating sexual and gender-based violence.

11. Her delegation would like to express its deep gratitude to and respect for those who were at the forefront of humanitarian missions.

12. **Mr. Zniber** (Morocco) said that his Government fully supported the reforms undertaken by UNHCR and would contribute financially to the first Global Refugee Forum, at which it would be represented by a high-level delegation and would co-sponsor the

consideration of certain issues, including the employment of refugees in the private sector. With regard to statelessness, in July 2019, his Government had hosted a meeting for the Middle East and North Africa region in order to present the progress made in implementing the #IBelong campaign and encourage States and other stakeholders to take additional measures to combat the phenomenon. Within the framework of its National Immigration and Asylum Strategy, it had launched a comprehensive regularization programme to ensure that persons in an irregular situation could gain access to education, employment and health care and set up associations and cooperatives. His Government considered that the voluntary return of refugees was the most appropriate solution to protracted situations.

13. The attitude of the country hosting the population of the Tindouf camps, which had made the organization of a census conditional on a political settlement of the Moroccan Sahara dispute, and the militarization of the camps were contrary to the statutory and legal rules of UNHCR. Humanitarian issues should be separated from political ones. His Government disputed the stated number of refugees in the Tindouf camps. The only number that the country could accept was one based on a census conducted in accordance with UNHCR criteria and standards.

14. **Mr. Bellelli** (Italy) said that he aligned himself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. Italy had made substantial contributions to UNHCR over the previous couple of years, and his Government had renewed its support for UNHCR humanitarian activities in the major conflict areas. His Government believed that, while adequate funding for humanitarian interventions was of course important, that funding had to be matched by a willingness to share the burden with the countries hosting the largest numbers of persons of concern to UNHCR. Solutions had to be found in both a regional and a global context. Italy had signed the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and, in 2015, had ratified the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In 2016, his Government had organized a working group on statelessness, chaired by UNHCR, which had brought together nine civil society organizations. The working group had been tasked with submitting proposals to improve the protection of stateless persons and resolve statelessness cases in Italy. The recommendations drawn up in that context had been submitted to the Italian Senate, and the first of them, on improving the status determination procedure for stateless persons, had resulted in a parliamentary proposal. His Government was also working to improve its qualitative and quantitative data on statelessness and was financing projects on the registration of newborns and minors in Ethiopia, which was one of the top five countries of origin of stateless persons in Italy. Particular attention was paid to the status of children born in Italy to stateless parents.

15. **Mr. Mukongo Ngay** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the new President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Tshisekedi, intended to maintain the tradition of hospitality of his country, which was at the centre of the continent's migration flows. The country currently hosted 538,009 refugees, including 216,451 Rwandans and 172,809 Central Africans. Around 73 per cent of those refugees lived in rural areas within host communities. The issue of statelessness was governed by a 2004 law on Congolese nationality, pursuant to which nationality was automatically conferred on any child born in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to stateless parents or foreign parents who could not pass on their nationality to the child. In June 2017, his Government had hosted a regional conference of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on statelessness. It had set up an interinstitutional technical committee for combating statelessness in order to implement the Declaration and Action Plan on the Eradication of Statelessness in the Great Lakes Region adopted in October 2017. In August 2019, his Government and UNHCR had signed a memorandum of understanding on the implementation of the project on the eradication of statelessness in the country. In that context, two bills had been drafted on the ratification by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the two conventions on statelessness. His Government wished to draw attention to the risk of statelessness faced by former Angolan refugees who had opted for repatriation to their country of origin but were still living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo without a defined status, and to the plight of Rwandan refugee children who had been born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo but did not have birth certificates. His Government wished to reiterate its request to UNHCR to facilitate the implementation of the agreements signed with neighbouring countries for the effective return to the

Democratic Republic of the Congo of Congolese nationals who had sought refuge in the territory of those countries.

16. **Mr. Ambrazevich** (Belarus) said that it was essential to eliminate the main cause of mass forced displacements of refugees. If international law continued to be violated, and wars and conflicts continued to occur as a result, the flows of forcibly displaced persons would increase, as the High Commissioner had reminded the members of the United Nations Security Council in April 2019. The Security Council had a key role to play in managing wars and conflicts and could help to eliminate the root causes of forced displacement. His Government was in favour of resuming a global dialogue on security issues, through which States, in particular the major Powers, could reach agreement to forge new and constructive international relations. That would make it possible to solve major problems, including forced displacements around the world. With regard to statelessness, Belarus intended to accede to the two conventions in 2020, once all the necessary internal procedures had been completed.

17. **Mr. Grandi** (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that he welcomed the efforts made by the various countries and their support for the activities of his Office. In particular, he wished to thank Kenya, which continued to host one of the world's largest refugee populations and had managed to close camps. The search for solutions must continue, and he echoed the appeal of Kenya that the resettlement solution should not be abandoned. He also wished to thank Germany, whose financial contribution to UNHCR had quadrupled in recent years, and Sweden, a champion of non-earmarked contributions, which were extremely useful to the work of UNHCR. He agreed with Belarus that discussions on the root causes of displacement should be resumed. He wished to thank Mexico, which was chairing the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework, for its work, given the complex migration situation in the region. Lastly, he wished to commend the private sector and civil society of the Republic of Korea for their ever-increasing contribution to the activities of UNHCR.

18. **Mr. Gani** (Togo), recalling his Government's commitment to support all initiatives relating to assistance and protection for refugees worldwide, said that Togo was seeking to provide durable solutions for the more than 12,337 refugees belonging to 14 nationalities in its territory, the majority of whom were long-term refugees. In 2017, his Government and UNHCR had organized a forum on the search for durable solutions, with the active participation of refugees themselves. A technical committee had been set up to monitor the implementation of the forum's recommendations with a view to finding solutions in the areas of local integration and voluntary repatriation. With regard to local integration, a census of refugees of over 18 years of age who had been born in Togo had been carried out with a view to granting them nationality, and the procedure by which refugees could obtain a residence permit had been simplified. With regard to voluntary repatriation, emphasis had been placed on the repatriation of Ivorian refugees, with the assistance of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. Concerning statelessness, Togo had signed the Abidjan Declaration, approved the Banjul Plan of Action, appointed a coordinator for statelessness and established a national commission to combat statelessness. A national plan for the eradication of statelessness had also been adopted. In addition, approval had been given to a preliminary bill on a new Togolese nationality code, which would eliminate the discriminatory provisions in the existing code, with a view to combating statelessness. A law authorizing accession to the 1954 Convention had been passed and a bill authorizing accession to the 1961 Convention soon would be. A major national biometric identification project, which was under way, would result in the issuance of a unique identification number to persons living in Togo and help to combat statelessness. Civil status would be reorganized with a view to ensuring the systematic registration of all civil status events. In accordance with the Abidjan commitments, Togo had pledged, by 2021, to eliminate gender discrimination in national legislation, to register births systematically and to improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless groups or groups at risk of becoming stateless in Togo.

19. **Mr. Jespersen** (Denmark) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its member States. Denmark had made a substantial financial contribution to the work of UNHCR in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Syria,

Libya, Mali and Burkina Faso and intended to continue to support the organization's activities through non-earmarked and flexible multi-year contributions. His Government had recently decided to resume the process of resettling refugees in its territory and planned to strengthen its partnership with UNHCR by providing it with additional funding. Denmark encouraged all stakeholders to participate fully in the Global Refugee Forum, at which it would be co-sponsoring the thematic areas of burden- and responsibility-sharing and solutions. Recognizing the need for the international community to provide assistance to refugee host States, his Government had taken steps to incorporate the issue of protracted displacement into the development programmes of various host countries, including Uganda, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Jordan and Lebanon. In addition, Denmark hosted and supported the Joint Data Centre of the World Bank and UNHCR. As a party to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, Denmark pledged to continue to combat statelessness and to improve cooperation among national authorities with respect to the identification of stateless persons.

20. **Mr. Podhorský** (Slovakia) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its member States and with the statement made on behalf of the Group of Friends of the #IBelong campaign. Forced displacement was a problem of increasing scale and complexity that affected the entire international community. The root causes of protracted displacements must be addressed and affected populations must be guaranteed protection and access to basic services. All countries must play their part in that regard. As a party to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, Slovakia was committed to the eradication of statelessness, which violated multiple human rights. Slovak law facilitated the naturalization of stateless persons and provided that no child born in the national territory could be stateless.

21. **Ms. Marsiaj Pinto** (Brazil) said that, in addition to having acceded to all the international instruments on statelessness, her Government had established, under the Migration Act, a statelessness determination procedure. A stateless person could acquire Brazilian nationality after two years of residence in the country, and the Brazilian Constitution provided for the acquisition of nationality by *jus soli* and by *jus sanguinis*. In view of the ongoing crisis in Venezuela, her Government had decided to adopt a policy of openness towards Venezuelans. In June 2019, the country's National Committee for Refugees had decided to apply to Venezuelan asylum seekers a legal definition inspired by the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, which expedited the status determination procedure. The massive influx of refugees and migrants from Venezuela had had a tremendous impact on the border state of Roraima, where local services had been completely overwhelmed. Over 480,000 refugees and migrants had entered Brazil, and 200,000 of them were still in the country. There had been a recent increase in the number of Venezuelan nationals entering Brazilian territory, currently estimated at over 1,000 persons per day. Venezuelans could apply for a temporary residence permit or request refugee status without needing a visa. In addition, her Government had decided to accept expired Venezuelan passports for a further five years.

22. Given the overwhelming impact of the Venezuelan crisis on Brazilian structures, her Government had launched Operation Acolhida, which was aimed at coordinating the activities of various public services, international agencies and national and international NGOs, and was structured around three pillars: reception centres, which enabled all Venezuelans to register and receive documents in order to gain access to all public services in Brazil; humanitarian assistance, which was provided mainly in 13 public shelters; and the internal resettlement strategy, which involved relocating refugees and migrants to cities that offered them better infrastructure, better services and more economic opportunities. Since April 2018, over 14,000 Venezuelans had been relocated to more than 200 cities as part of the strategy. More than 40 per cent of working-age beneficiaries had managed to find employment within three months of their relocation.

23. President Bolsonaro had recently launched the second phase of the Operation, which provided for the construction of a new reception centre to accelerate internal resettlement, the establishment of an independent fund for receiving international donations for

humanitarian action and the conclusion of an agreement with the National Confederation of Municipalities to scale up internal resettlement efforts. Her Government continued to do its part in implementing durable solutions. In 2019, Brazil had taken in 25 persons from the north of Central America under its first-ever State-funded resettlement programme, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR within the framework of the Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism. Her Government hoped to continue its collaboration with IOM and UNHCR.

24. **Mr. Youssef** (Egypt) said that Egypt aligned itself with the statement made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Group of African States.

25. Since 2004, Egyptian law had granted mothers the right to pass on their nationality to their children, and that provision was retroactive. The law also provided for the registration of births and the issuance of identity documents to children. Any child born to an Egyptian father or an Egyptian mother thus acquired Egyptian nationality. In addition, the Children's Act had been amended in 2008 to allow mothers to register their newborn children for the purpose of obtaining a birth certificate. Egyptian law also provided that children born in Egyptian territory to unknown parents had the right to Egyptian nationality. His Government was willing to cooperate with UNHCR and other relevant United Nations agencies in order to share its best practices, including in the area of combating discrimination against women in nationality laws.

26. As 2019 had been declared the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, Egypt, which was currently chairing the African Union, had hosted a series of events to promote that theme, including a preparatory workshop on forced displacement in advance of the Aswan Forum. The country currently hosted refugees from 58 countries in its territory. Those persons did not need to obtain refugee status in order to live in the country, had access to public services, including education and health care, on an equal footing with Egyptian citizens and enjoyed freedom of movement. Thus, although only 250,000 refugees in the country were registered with UNHCR, there were in fact millions of persons in refugee-like situations in Egypt.

27. His Government was grateful to donors but considered that responsibility-sharing was essential and that international solidarity should be strengthened in order to provide assistance to refugee host countries.

28. **Mr. Leweniqila** (Fiji) said that his country and the other States in the Pacific region were facing the emerging issue of a projected increase in population displacement as a result of climate change, which, in the future, could create situations of statelessness. If that time came, Fiji, which fortunately had highlands to which retreat would be possible, would take in the populations of the affected States. Since its previous statement to the Executive Committee, his Government had developed national planned relocation guidelines, which provided for a human rights-based resettlement plan and took into account vulnerable and marginalized groups. The Citizenship of Fiji Act 2009 contained provisions that contributed to the prevention of statelessness, including the provision that a child born in Fiji would acquire Fiji citizenship if he or she ran the risk of statelessness. Other provisions set out procedures by which children born outside the country could obtain Fiji citizenship. His Government would continue to do its part to address statelessness.

29. **Mr. Rivasseau** (France) said that, in view of the shortfall in funding for humanitarian organizations and United Nations agencies, his Government had decided to increase its contribution to humanitarian organizations very substantially. In addition, in 2017 France had pledged to take in 10,000 persons, who were to be resettled in the country by the end of 2019. Recognizing that countries needed to harmonize their practices and efforts to better integrate refugees and take greater account of host populations, France would be co-sponsoring the thematic areas on energy and infrastructure and on protection capacity at the Global Refugee Forum. In 2019, France was also chairing the Platform on Disaster Displacement, which aimed to promote the idea that climate refugees would account for the majority of displaced persons in years to come. As migration entailed risks for the persons who left their countries, the international community should take resolute action against networks of traffickers and combat the exploitation of persons by smugglers and trafficking networks. Countries should also work together to address the root causes of

forced displacement, such as conflict, development issues and climate change, and take environmental issues into account in that context.

30. **Mr. Majawar** (Yemen) said that, despite the major humanitarian crisis that Yemen was currently experiencing, which had forced around 3 million persons to leave and created over 400,000 refugees, the country had still taken in a large number of refugees, including from Somalia, Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. The budget that UNHCR allocated to Yemen, which was around US\$ 198 million for 2019, was insufficient and did not allow the country to absorb the massive influx of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, which was constantly increasing, and to provide the necessary assistance to those groups. UNHCR should considerably increase its funding, and the international community should honour its commitments to host countries in accordance with the principle of equitable responsibility-sharing.

31. **Mr. Okaniwa** (Japan) said that his country, which was one of the main donors to UNHCR, supported the work that the organization was doing to eliminate statelessness and provide assistance to the most vulnerable. His Government would continue to support all Syrians displaced as a result of the conflict, regardless of their country of refuge. His country paid tribute to Bangladesh for hosting persons who had fled Rakhine State in Myanmar and strongly encouraged the parties concerned to facilitate their repatriation in cooperation with the United Nations. In August 2019, Japan had hosted the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development. At that event, emphasis had been placed on the importance of providing durable solutions for displaced persons and host communities. In order to further that objective, his Government supported host communities and refugees in various ways, including through the provision of vocational training.

32. **Mr. Wannamethee** (Thailand) said that his Government was working continuously to end statelessness, and some 10,000 stateless persons thus obtained Thai nationality every year. By joining the #IBelong campaign, Thailand had pledged to do its utmost to combat statelessness, including by enhancing access to civil registration services and raising public awareness of the importance of birth and civil registration. In recent years, Thailand had cooperated closely with Myanmar to ensure the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of persons who had sought refuge in Thailand, including those who had fled the situation in Rakhine State. Since 2016, over 1,000 refugees had been able to return to Myanmar, and the returns continued. His Government was just as keen to ensure that those persons were successfully resettled in Myanmar as that they were well looked after while they were in Thailand. To that end, his Government counted on the assistance of UNHCR and donors. In addition, a screening mechanism to separate economic migrants in an irregular situation from persons in need of international protection would soon become operational, measures were being taken to remove migrant mothers and children from the administrative detention centres in which they had been placed and efforts continued to be made to implement the global compact on refugees.

33. **Mr. Izquierdo Miño** (Ecuador) said that statelessness was not a problem in his country. In fact, regardless of the nationality or migration status of his or her parents, any person born in the territory of Ecuador acquired Ecuadorian nationality. In addition, the Organic Act on Human Mobility facilitated the naturalization of persons who might find themselves in a situation of statelessness. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, Ecuador remained the country that hosted the largest number of refugees (68,000 in total), 97 per cent of whom were Colombian nationals. In addition, there had been a massive influx of Venezuelan migrants and refugees. Since 2016, 1,850,000 of them had taken refuge in the country, and approximately 375,000 had remained. Guided by the principle of solidarity, his Government was doing its utmost to regularize the situation of those persons and provide them with the protection and assistance that they needed. It had thus issued 115,000 visas, had taken additional protection measures and had made provision for special procedures for the most vulnerable Venezuelan refugees. However, Ecuador alone did not have sufficient resources, given the scale of the migration crisis. The international community should therefore provide it with greater assistance and ensure equitable responsibility-sharing.

34. **Mr. Chaïbo** (Chad) said that his country hosted more than 700,000 persons, including refugees, displaced persons and returnees. In order to join the movement launched by the #IBelong campaign and end statelessness by 2024, his Government had reformed the national civil status system in the light of the civil registration and vital statistics system and had drawn up a strategic plan to improve the situation over the period 2018–2022. With the assistance of UNHCR, it had also launched a project to support citizenship and prevent statelessness, which had led to the issuance of some 80,000 birth certificates to refugee, displaced and host community children. In order to eradicate statelessness by 2024, his Government had set itself several major objectives, including to issue identity documents to all citizens of Chad who had returned from the Central African Republic and the Lake Chad Basin; to adopt, in 2020, a national plan to combat statelessness; to improve access to birth registration procedures, including procedures for late birth registration; to raise public awareness of statelessness; and to participate in a qualitative study on the issue, under the auspices of the African Union and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community. In addition, his Government continued to carry out the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees living in Chad and was redoubling its efforts to ensure the socioeconomic inclusion of those whose stay in the territory had become protracted. In order to honour the principle of equitable responsibility-sharing, the international community should increase the number of resettlement places in third countries.

35. **Mr. Grandi** (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that he welcomed the efforts made by the various countries and their support for the activities of his Office. It was important that the international community continued to mobilize in order to address the problem of climate displacement. UNHCR would continue to share its expertise on the matter and was committed to ensuring the resettlement of climate refugees. In order to end statelessness, countries in which nationality could not be transmitted through the matrilineal line urgently needed to recognize that form of transmission in their legislation.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.