

High-Level Officials Meeting, December 14-15, 2021
Statement by the Government of Finland
Delivered by Ms. Lauratuulia Lehtinen, Humanitarian Director, Ministry for
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Honorable Chair, High Commissioner, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Global Refugee Forum of 2019 was a milestone in many respects. First of its kind, it demonstrated the international community's response to forced displacement – a challenge that is global by nature.

The following two years have turned out to be quite different than expected. The global pandemic changed the landscape dramatically – and has still not eased its grip on us. We have also seen shocking evidence of the climate change becoming reality in front of us and not being just a distant threat. In the big picture, we are on a right track but at the same time, serious challenges remain as the number of displaced persons is projected to reach 100 million in 2022.

In the midst of this, GRF has shown its value in the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. Progress has been achieved on many fronts. As the recent indicator report shows, we are closer towards the objectives of GCR than two years ago. To name but a few examples, more ODA is being allocated to refugee situations, more refugees have access to decent work, education or freedom of movement, and more refugees have received durable solutions.

At GRF, Finland announced three national pledges: to strengthen UNHCR's capacity on disability inclusion, to increase the resettlement quota, and to increase humanitarian funding. Today, we are pleased to say that all of these pledges have been implemented. However, our work continues along the same priorities. We continue to provide predictable quality funding to UNHCR and we are exploring ways to further support UNHCR in its efforts to mainstream disability inclusion in its work as we highly value the strong focus UNHCR has on participation by persons with disabilities in decision-making and community leadership processes.

We wish to congratulate other member states and organizations that have progressed with their pledges and show appreciation to refugee-hosting countries and communities for their invaluable role. As humanitarian financing struggles to keep pace with growing needs, we welcome UNHCR's increasing attention to private sector financing which has yielded good results. We also encourage other states to join the challenge if they are not yet donors to UNCHR or providers of durable solutions.

At the same time, we need to continue fighting any phenomena countering the spirit of Global Compact on Refugees and humanitarian action in our countries, such as hostility, xenophobia, or discrimination against refugees. Similarly, any kind of

instrumentalization of displaced persons should have absolutely no place. What we need in the current global situation, is more solidarity and more tolerance.

Thank you.