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Intervention at the 2021 High-Level Officials Meeting

15 December 1100 - 1300 Plenary Discussion

High Commissioner, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNDP stands in solidarity with refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and the communities that host them. We are committed to advancing lasting development solutions in forced displacement situations together, especially those that are protracted.

As mentioned by the UNDP Administrator, Mr Achim Steiner at the opening panel, we are progressing with implementing UNDP's Global Refugee Forum commitments in over 40 countries, together with UNHCR and partners.

Looking forward, we are deepening our collaboration with UNHCR through a four-year Global Joint Initiative on Inclusion and Solutions focusing on the areas of prevention, local governance, rule of law, livelihoods, climate change and SDG Integration.

We are also increasing joint humanitarian-development collaboration in regions and countries. For example, in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, we are developing joint work for assistance that meets immediate needs of refugees and IDPs, and provides pathways to stability, resilience and recovery in the medium to long term, both in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries.

UNDP is also committed to step up our policy and programming efforts to work with governments and find faster development solutions for IDPs and host communities towards achieving national and sustainable development goals. We will support the UN follow up mechanism to implement the recommendations of the UN Secretary General High-Level Panel on internal displacement report.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development pledge to leave no one behind, including refugees, IDPs and especially displaced women and girls, aims to advance the rights and well-being of some of the planet's most vulnerable and marginalized people.

Trends, however, are heading in the wrong direction with continuing increase in the numbers of displaced people and length of their displacement. The burdens are also increasing on the communities that host them, which are overwhelmingly in countries facing their own development challenges.

Any real resolution to cross-border and internal displacement situations requires targeted interventions that build national ownership and accountability and contribute to making those forcibly displaced the actors and actresses of their own development. Broadening refugees and IDPs' capabilities and expanding the opportunities they have to study, work or create businesses are also ways for them to contribute to the economies and societies of their host communities. Such approach comes from more predictable collaboration between governments, development, humanitarian and peace actors, together with sustainable financing.

Towards these future endeavours to build forward better, UNDP stands ready and welcomes expanded, new partnerships on solutions to resolve forced displacement.

Thank you.