



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR DATO' DR. AHMAD FAISAL MUHAMAD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS
AT THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
17 - 18 DECEMBER 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia thanks and congratulates the co-hosts for the convening of the inaugural Global Refugee Forum (GRF), a follow-up to the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) adopted at the UNGA on 17 December 2018. Malaysia is proud to be part of the process in developing the GCR.

2. Malaysia has a long history of hosting refugees – from Vietnam in the 1970s; Southern Philippines and Cambodia in the 1980s; Bosnia in the 1990s and more recently, from Myanmar and Syria.

3. Based on humanitarian grounds, Malaysia has taken up the financial and social responsibilities in providing assistance to

refugees, although Malaysia is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol. Among others:

- (i) Between 2015 to 2018, Malaysia subsidised about USD 7 million of medical treatment for UNHCR refugee cardholders by government healthcare providers;
- (ii) The Government facilitates access to education for refugee children through collaboration with UNHCR and NGOs by providing Alternative Learning Centres (ALC) and Community Learning Centres (CLC) and is considering appropriate accreditation to them; and
- (iii) Malaysia is also finalising arrangements to allow Rohingya UNHCR cardholders to work in selected sectors.

4. Since 2017, Malaysia has been operating a Field Hospital at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh with a total contribution of USD 4 million. We will continue this until December 2021.

Mr. Chairman,

5. At this Forum, Malaysia through our CSOs, have shared best practices involving refugee communities, CSOs, Parliamentarians, Government and Private sectors, to address the needs of refugees in holistic and effective manner.

6. Moving forward, we must collectively address several challenges. In this regard:

- (i) Malaysia welcomes the cooperation of all States and international organisations to shoulder proportionate burden and responsibility sharing in the management of refugees globally;
- (ii) We call on relevant countries to deliver on their commitments to receive more refugees for resettlement and relocation; and
- (iii) We call on the international community to address the root-causes of the refugee problem.

7. Finally, Malaysia is determined and committed in playing our part and meeting our responsibilities to promote the objectives of the GCR and the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.