

Statement

**by H.E. Mr. Achsanul Habib
Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Indonesia
to the UN, WTO, and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

**at the 73rd Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee
9-13 October 2023**

**Thank you Chair,
Mr. High Commissioner,
Excellencies,**

1. Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Korea, on behalf of MIKTA countries.
2. At the outset, we would like to begin by conveying our highest appreciation, to the High Commissioner and his office, for their efforts, to advance international protection and durable solutions for refugees.
3. However, every year, we have seen an increasing number of refugees around the world.
4. In 2019, more than 79.5 million people have been forcibly displaced.
5. In 2023, 4 years after the first Global Refugee Forum, the number of people forcibly displaced due to war, conflict, persecution, human rights violations, and environmental degradation is projected to increase to more than 117 million.
6. In Palestine, due to the recent conflict and total siege, as we speak, more than 160.000 civilians have been displaced.
7. We call for all parties, to obey the international humanitarian law.

8. Civilians, healthcare, and humanitarian workers must be respected and protected at all times.
9. The root cause of the humanitarian situation, which is the occupation of Palestinian territories, must be resolved according to the UN resolutions and relevant international law.

Chairperson,

10. Against the global refugee crises that the international community is facing, Indonesia wishes to highlight 3 important points:
11. ***FIRST, countries need to live up to their commitment.***
12. Around 76% of the world's refugee population, is now being hosted in low- and middle-income countries, with limited capacity and resources, including Indonesia.
13. We have witnessed a constant flow of refugees coming into Southeast Asia, against difficult and dangerous journeys, including by sea.
14. In the past few year, **Indonesia has again received more than 900 Rohingya refugees in Aceh.**
15. The impact of this crisis goes beyond statistics and numbers. Our resources are stretched, and the call for **burden and responsibility sharing** has never been more relevant.
16. Hence, we call on countries, especially **parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its protocol, to realize their commitments and obligations.**
17. We also urge the international community to **galvanize support for international organizations**, including the UNHCR.

18. This will enable the effective realization of their mandates in transit countries.
19. ***SECOND, international community must work together to stop human trafficking and people smuggling, especially in the context of refugees.***
20. From the **irregular migration of refugees** in our region for the past years, Indonesia has observed that these movements show
 - ➔ a strong indication of human trafficking and people-smuggling syndicates involvement;
 - ➔ and they are prone to inhumane treatment and exploitation.
21. We need to stop these crimes.
22. As part of the efforts to stop these crimes, Indonesia is continuously working through regional mechanisms... such as the **Bali Process which Indonesia co-chaired together with Australia.**
23. Bali Process provides serious attention to address the recent irregular maritime movements in the Andaman Sea.
24. We, therefore, call on countries and the UNHCR to redouble efforts and collaboration **to prevent the already vulnerable refugees from taking dangerous journeys** and becoming victims of human trafficking and people smuggling.
25. ***THIRD, all relevant stakeholders must continue the pursuit of long-term solutions.***
26. Given the magnitude and complexity of today's global refugee crisis, a holistic approach is required.

27. For the past few years, we have seen continuous gap in humanitarian funding including UNHCR.
28. For this, Indonesia will continue to support the endeavor taken by the UNHCR in broadening its donor base and innovative financing.
29. However, merely increasing humanitarian financing will not resolve the global refugee challenges.
 - ➔ Displacement will not stop when a life-threatening situation still persists.
30. Hence, we would like to encourage the international community to support the efforts made by the origin countries in solving the root causes of the refugee crisis, so that sustainable repatriation can be conducted.

**Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,**

31. Ensuring our support and contribution for refugees and addressing the root causes of crises, will lay the foundation for lasting solutions.
32. At the same time, the global community must also increase its focus and efforts in addressing displacement issues caused by non-traditional causes, such as climate change, food and water crisis, as well as environmental degradation.
33. Indonesia stands ready to support the UNHCR and collaborate with international community to achieve such goals.
34. I thank you.