



74th session of the UNHCR Executive Committee

Statement of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Item 3: General debate

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**Madam Chairperson,
Mr. High Commissioner for Refugees,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

Forced displacement has reached the staggering number of 110 million people, who have fled because of conflict, persecution, discrimination, violence, and the impact of climate change.

This dire situation is further compounded by the ever-growing funding gap.

Madam Chairperson,

Forced displacement is a **priority issue on the OIC's humanitarian agenda**, as many OIC Member States are either countries of origin or destination of refugees.

The OIC commends the efforts of host countries and communities that provide hospitality and protection to refugees, especially those in developing countries and those facing protracted situations.

In this context, we stress on **the urgent need for the full implementation of the principle of responsibility sharing** to alleviate the burden of host countries, especially developing ones.

The OIC, for its part, has **scaled up its efforts to bring assistance** to refugee populations in OIC Member States.

In this respect, we have strengthened the capacities of our regional offices in Kabul, Niger, and Somalia to implement projects across the Triple Nexus.

Funding for humanitarian assistance is notably disbursed through the Islamic Solidarity Fund and OIC Humanitarian Funds.

We welcome the establishment of the **Global Islamic Fund for Refugees**, in partnership with the UNHCR, ISFD, and the IsDB. This Fund provides an innovative and sustainable funding tool that will help alleviate the plight of millions in need.

Global food insecurity, which particularly affects refugees, is also of concern to the OIC. In this regard, the **OIC Food security organization** has devised food security programs for OIC countries, such as in Afghanistan.

In addition, work is underway to **develop a strategic plan to ensure food security in the OIC Member States**, with the aim of building synergies and capacities for sustainable agricultural and rural development and enhanced food security.

Madam Chairperson,

Addressing the root causes of forced displacement, especially conflict, is key.

The OIC reiterates here that the root causes of the ongoing situation in the Middle East lie in the Israeli colonial occupation, and the disregard for the rights of Palestinians and international law. The OIC calls for a credible solution that will end the Israeli occupation and achieve a just two-state solution on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital of the **State of Palestine**.

Madam Chairperson,

The OIC stands in full solidarity with **Afghanistan** in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck the country.

As part of its support to Afghanistan, the OIC is engaged with the de facto authorities to advance the rights of women and girls to education and work.

In addition, the OIC Humanitarian Trust Fund for Afghanistan, established under the leadership of IsDB, has recently signed several implementation agreements with humanitarian actors, including UNICEF, IOM, and the WFP to provide food assistance, children's nutrition, and health care.

With respect to the Rohingya community, we would like to underscore the recent joint UNHCR-OIC visit to Cox Bazar which was undertaken in August 2023 under the UNHCR-OIC Joint Humanitarian Plan of Action. In this context, we reiterate our commitment to the International Court of Justice framework to **end the persecution of the Rohingyas** and ensure accountability.

We also emphasize the importance of creating a safe and voluntary environment for the Rohingya refugees to return to their homeland in Myanmar and to alleviate the burden on Bangladesh.

Madam Chairperson,

The UNHCR and the OIC are long-term partners that have joined forces to strengthen cooperation on protection and solutions to help alleviate the suffering of those on the move.

We are looking forward to the second edition of the Global Refugee Forum to strengthen humanitarian assistance and durable solutions.

I thank you