



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

Statement

74th Plenary Session of the Executive Committee of UNHCR

**Statement on behalf of the OIC Group by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi,
Acting Permanent Representative under Agenda Item 3: General Debate
(9-13 October 2023)**

Madam Chair,

At the outset, the OIC Group would like to commend the Chair, the (you) Permanent Representative of Djibouti for her skillful steering of the ExCom session.

The OIC Group appreciates UNHCR for its remarkable contribution to the UN wide humanitarian response including in the OIC countries.

Madam Chair,

OIC Countries are the countries of origin, major host countries, and also donors of UNHCR.

More than two-thirds of the global refugees are hosted in OIC countries.

In recent years, a series of intersecting crises such as COVID-19, the conflict in Ukraine, the fuel, food and financial shortage, have considerably exacerbated the scale, scope and complexity of refugee situations, and jeopardized the hard-earned development gains of several OIC countries hosting millions of refugees.

The Group is concerned over the impact of new conflicts on UNHCR's funding and support for protracted and large refugee situations in OIC Countries.

The Group calls upon UNHCR to sustain and enhance its support to OIC host governments and communities while continuing the pursuit of durable solutions as a strategic objective.

Madam Chair,

An optimal operationalization of the principles of international cooperation and equitable burden and responsibility-sharing are critical for holistic protection and solutions for refugees.

The OIC Group appreciates that the Global Compact on Refugees embodied this principle.

We look forward to the upcoming Global Refugee Forum as an opportunity to inspire equitable burden and responsibility sharing, take stock of the progress across four objectives of GCR, and identify effective ways to eliminate the root causes and triggers of forced displacement, including through political and security cooperation, diplomacy, development cooperation.

The OIC Group welcomes UNHCR's advocacy and partnership with development actors including Multilateral Development Banks, International Financial Institutions. However, the new models of financing through soft loans need to be revisited.

The Group calls upon UNHCR to continue its efforts to measure the impact of hosting, assisting and protecting refugees with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and find solutions.

Madam Chair,

We thank the High Commissioner for his engagement with the OIC Group. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with UNHCR on all controversial and non-consensual documents, notions and terminologies with a view to ensure that our partnership remains aligned with international law and universally recognized values and concepts.

Madam Chair,

This morning, we have expressed our sentiments jointly on loss of innocent lives. In doing so, we cannot forget the civilians in Gaza, especially women and children, whose protection and safety should be a major concern for the world.

I thank you.
