



**Statement by the Vice-Minister for Multilateral Political Affairs of Brazil's  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Carlos Márcio Cozendey, during  
the 74a session of the Executive Committee (UNHCR)**

**October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**(5 min)**

Madam President,

I take this opportunity to express our solidarity to the victims and families affected by the deteriorating security situation in Israel and Palestine, and by the earthquake in Afghanistan. Their plight will add up to the already appalling number of displaced people worldwide, increasing the urgency of comprehensive responses to protect those in most need.

This session takes place at a particularly challenging time. With the II Global Refugee Forum only a few months away, we continue to witness the proliferation of crises and armed conflicts, with grave humanitarian consequences.

As indicated by the High Commissioner, the staggering number of 110 million people is forcibly displaced worldwide due to persecution, conflict, violence, and human rights violations.

Sadly, international solidarity has not grown in the same proportion. Increased restrictions on the entry of migrants and asylum seekers, separation of children from their families, long detention periods in precarious conditions, and attempts to relativize the core principles of the 1951 Convention: those are all actions that threaten to erode the foundation upon which our global refugee protection regime is built.

Brazil has been moving in the opposite direction, with the firm belief that the protection of refugees is a shared responsibility that knows no borders.

Our refugee legislation is based on the respect for human dignity and the primacy of human rights. In the spirit of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration, we adopted an extended refugee definition that has allowed Brazil to provide broad and generous protection for asylum seekers.

We have also established an innovative system of "prima facie recognition" for asylum-seekers from a number of countries and vulnerable groups. This year this policy was extended to two new groups: refugees who come from countries that criminalize LGBTQIA+ minorities, persecuted for their sexual orientation, and girls and women from countries where female genital mutilation or cutting is still a practice.

Humanitarian visas are also expanding regular and safe migration channels to Brazil. This policy provides a safe access to the Brazilian territory and a generous emergency exit for nationals of countries experiencing severe instability or conflict. Currently Brazilian humanitarian visas are available for people coming from Haiti, Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

As a country built by migrants, the sustainable integration of refugees into our society is also a priority for Brazil. This year, for instance, we launched a programme for strengthening the protection and local integration of the Haitian population in Brazil.

Madam President,

2023 marks the conclusion of the 10-year period of the Brazil Plan of Action, adopted in 2014, within the framework of the 30th commemoration of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration.

During this period, Latin American and Caribbean countries advanced on a path of inclusion and solidarity, despite the numerous challenges faced by our region. We now prepare to commit to a new and ambitious plan of action for Cartagena+40, under the leadership of Chile.

Allow me to highlight the importance to match those efforts with a relevant increase of funds for the Americas region in UNHCR budget. The support of the international community is essential for countries that have limited financial capacities while facing unprecedented forced displacement flows.

Considering the importance of voluntary contributions in UNHCR budget, Brazil also joins appeals for more flexible and unearmarked contributions, allowing the Agency to respond swiftly to emergencies. Increasing flexible funding would be a sign of donors' confidence in

UNHCR ability to deliver aid efficiently and impartially. If, on the contrary, donor countries remain attached to their discretionary power, maybe we should think on mechanisms to channel a share of those contributions to less contemplated regions as a token of global solidarity.

Madam President,

As the global refugee forum approaches, greater responsibility and burden sharing must be the number one priority for all of us. Let us not forget that 90% of the world's refugees are hosted by low and middle-income countries. Those are the countries bearing most of the brunt and that are making significant pledges every day.

Thank you.