

## 74<sup>th</sup> Session of UNHCR ExCoM 9-13 October 2023

### General Debate

#### Intervention by The Kingdom of The Netherlands

- Thank you Chair, thank you High Commissioner Grandi.
- We are shocked by the terrible terrorist attack on Israel and concerned about the escalation of violence following. The Netherlands has condemned the terrorist actions by Hamas in the strongest possible terms.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims on both Israeli and Palestinian side. Our thoughts also go out to the victims of the earthquake in Afghanistan.
- Chair, in my statement I will talk about what it means to be a humanitarian, about the global state of displacement, the GRF, our efforts to make it a success, and as you so importantly called for HCR, the need for unity. While doing so, I will use some Greek etymology and quotes.
- Chair, when the ancient Greeks were pondering their place in the cosmos, they coined humankind “Anthropos”, meaning “He who looks up”. But it is not up, but around us, where we humanitarians must look. Around to those in need of our protection and life saving support.
- And when I look around Chair, I am saddened by the vastness of such needs and the state of displacement worldwide, now reaching 110 million.
- Over the past two years alone, we keep falling from crisis into crisis, mostly man made. We greatly appreciate the communities hosting the forcefully displaced worldwide. Yesterday HCR, you mentioned 69% of

the displaced are hosted in neighboring countries..... 69%. And 90% are hosted by low and middle income countries. They need solutions and they need our support.

- It is up to the International Community at large to assist in reaching those solutions, and in particular up to us, humanitarians, to help those in immediate need around us.
- An effort that needs to be shaped and implemented together with affected populations and from the ground up.
- An effort that does not only alleviate immediate humanitarian needs, but works on sustainable and long-lasting solutions.
- An effort that must link up with efforts of others in the areas of development and peace.
- An effort that goes beyond the sheer physical suffering and needs of people but goes to the core of what allows us to function..... of what makes us Anthropos....human.
- Chair, Sophocles already said “success is dependent on effort”, and only 9 weeks away from the GRF, we are putting in that effort, working on exactly these things.
- We are working on the Economic Inclusion Pledge bringing to the table our PROSPECTS program, whose budget of EUR 500 mln will go up double digits in the coming 4 years.
- We are working on meaningful refugee participation and localization to include grassroots organizations and those we aim to serve.
- We are engaged in the HDP nexus pledge to try and further the transformational approach of how we can all work together better. Us donors, hosting countries, the UN, IFIs, private sector, NGOs and affected populations.

- We are working on MHPSS in the framework of the health pledge with the aim to strengthen and integrate MHPSS in refugee responses and increase capacity in the field, to ensure the much needed psychosocial support to traumatized refugees you mentioned yesterday HCR.
- We are engaged as Vice-Chair in the Support Platform for the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees seeking to advance a regional approach to solutions in the Afghan displacement situation.
- And, as one of the largest unearmarked donors, we hope to see a multi donor pledge on unearmarked humanitarian funding and thwart the downward trend you mentioned HCR. We will continue to resist HCR, and see help offered where it is most needed.
- Chair, with the GRF approaching rapidly, I can't help but be reminded of Aristotle, who already asserted that all men are bound by a common duty of solidarity. And indeed, we must work together, on protection, on solutions, on burden and responsibility sharing. But we can only succeed if we work in unity, as you HCR have underscored yesterday.
- So coming back to the central theme of being a humanitarian, of looking around us, I look around me in this very room and I see so many others working tirelessly on their pledges for the GRF.
- We must go into the GRF and stand united as one in the service of the global public good of refugee hosting. For Anthropos, nothing less will do.
- I thank you Chair.