



**Statement by the delegation of Nepal during the General Debate of  
75<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR  
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**Madam Chair**

**Mr. High Commissioner,**

Nepal thanks the High Commissioner for his comprehensive statement which rightly reflects the humanitarian situation in the world today as we continue to witness conflict, violence and abuses that displace millions of people.

Nepal appreciates the efforts made by the High Commissioner in responding to the emergencies by protecting and providing assistance to the refugees and other vulnerable populations around the world.

It is the vulnerable group including refugees, migrants and displaced people who are most exposed to the vulnerabilities including conflicts, climate crisis, disasters, food insecurity, and health emergencies.

Nepal shares the views with the High Commissioner that ‘the effects of climate change-floods, drought, crop failures, extreme weather events- have become displacement-multipliers’. As a climate vulnerable country Nepal calls international community to fulfil the commitments to climate financing and looks forward to the meaningful outcome of the upcoming COP29.

**Madam. Chair**

Nepal has been providing shelter for thousands of Bhutanese refugees for decades despite not being a party to refugee convention 1951 and the 1967 protocol.

A landlocked and least developed country with limited resources, and other domestic difficulties, Nepal has been continuously doing so on purely humanitarian grounds.

Currently, there are over 18000 refugees in Nepal, most of them are elderly desperately waiting for return to their homeland.

The countries of origin have the biggest responsibility in creating conditions for safe return, as the High Commissioner has rightly pointed 'to look at the root causes in the countries of origin'.

We reiterate our appreciation to the core group of countries for the support in third country resettlement.

Nepal commends UNHCR's support and care to the refugees in Nepal. Currently we have a dedicated unit – the National Unit for the Coordination of Refugee Affairs (NUCRA) – at the Ministry of Home Affairs which works closely with the UNHCR in addressing the issues of refugees.

The Government of Nepal, despite limited resources and capacity constraint, has implemented measures to enhancing the livelihood opportunities and self- reliance of refugees. The Government of Nepal has taken steps to ensure that the refugees' access to education and health services and engage in income generating activities to sustain themselves.

Nepal will continue to address the issues relating to the life and livelihood of refugees in its emergency response given the country's vulnerability to the climate induced disasters. We incorporated refugees in the national COVID – 19 vaccination programme.

As a host country, we call for enhanced international cooperation and solidarity to protect refugees and other people on the move around the world.

I thank you.