

**Egypt's Statement**  
**General debate - 75<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Committee of UNHCR**

Thank you Madame Chair,

At the outset, let me express Egypt's deep appreciation for the dedication of appreciate the High Commissioner and his team to protecting refugees, and asylum seekers and alleviating their living conditions as well as that of their hosting communities. a. We echo his call for the urgent need for equitable and sustainable burden and responsibility-sharing and support his emphasis on key humanitarian principles and fundamental tenets of international law that are increasingly challenged, especially in light of his timely visit to the region.

Madame Chair,

There is no need to repeat our position on the humanitarian catastrophe occurring before our very eyes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which falls under the exclusive and irreplaceable mandate of UNRWA, or the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Lebanon as was clearly highlighted in the Arab Group's statement. However, we re-iterate Egypt's strong condemnation and rejection of Israeli aggression, which constitutes a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and fundamental norms and principles.

Madame chair, rejecting aggression and violations of international humanitarian law, and calling for ceasefires and lasting political solutions, does not constitute straying away from the core issues discussed in the EXCOM or from the UNHCR's mandate. It is rather highlighting the root causes of the displacement crises in our region, that if left unaddressed, risk trapping the region in a vicious cycle of violence and mass displacement, with consequences that could extend far beyond the region and impact other parts of the world.

This reflects our commitment to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, which addresses the root causes of conflict, meets urgent humanitarian needs, and builds long-term and sustainable resilience of the affected communities. It was this goal that led Egypt, along with Colombia and Norway, to jointly launch the multi-stakeholder peacebuilding pledge at the Global Refugee Forum.

Madame Chair, Mr High Commissioner,

By the end of September 2024, the number of officially registered refugees and asylum seekers with UNHCR in Egypt reached approximately 800,000, representing 62 nationalities. This marks a nearly threefold increase in less than two years and the highest in Egypt's history. In 2023, Egypt ranked third globally for new asylum applications, with over 183,000 submitted.

Egypt holds a unique position, hosting over 9 million migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and individuals in refugee-like situations, according to IOM. This includes around 5 million Sudanese nationals, whom Egypt has welcomed and integrated in its societies for decades. Currently, Egypt hosts the second-largest number of Sudanese refugees, surpassing a total of one million. We have been long committed to keeping our doors open to our Sudanese brothers and sisters, as highlighted during yesterday's side event on Sudan and exemplified by "Nada Fadol," the Nansen Award laureate, who we proudly recognize for her work supporting refugees.

Madame Chair, Mr. High Commissioner,

Egypt is committed to its "one refugee approach," ensuring refugees and asylum seekers receive equal protection and essential services as Egyptian citizens, particularly in the health and education sectors, regardless of their nationality.

In this spirit, Egypt pledged to enhance the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers into society at the Second Global Refugee Forum. This builds on the 2021 launch of the Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees, through which the first joint program was initiated last month in partnership with UNHCR and other agencies, with €12.2 million in funding from the European Union. Additionally, Egypt is collaborating with UNHCR and UNDP to finalize the "2025 Refugee Response and Resilience Plan," providing a framework to support Egypt's efforts in addressing the needs of refugees.

Despite these efforts, the inclusion of refugees in Egypt, has placed significant pressure on the country's resources and infrastructure, affecting both refugees and asylum seekers as well as their hosting communities. With ongoing global economic challenges and regional instability, there is an urgent need to scale up the global humanitarian response to displacement crises and fulfill funding commitments in line with the principle of equitable burden and responsibility sharing.

We would also like to express our concern over the disparities between the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR, migrants in refugee-like situations, and individuals in need of international protection. In this regard, we urge the strengthening of UNHCR's registration capacities, particularly in protracted refugee situations.

Finally, we commend UNHCR's efforts in facilitating safe and voluntary return to countries of origin, as the most preferred durable solution by refugees and asylum seekers, along with strengthening preparedness for returns. Egypt emphasizes the importance of a balanced approach to durable solutions, prioritizing resettlement, complementary pathways, and addressing the root causes of displacement to ensure safe and voluntary returns.

I thank you.