

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN, WTO, and Other International Organizations in Geneva

# STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AT 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee

14-18 October 2024

## Madam Chair Mr. High Commissioner Excellencies

- 1. The Four Geneva Conventions are universally ratified... and form the cornerstone of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).
- 2. They **protect civilians** ... and mandates **respect** for **the inviolability** of medical and humanitarian personnel, facilities, and missions.
- 3. They also extend protection to UN peacekeepers.
- 4. Yet, since October 7 last year, in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, we have witnessed **flagrant violations of IHL by a single country**.

### Madam Chair/ Mr. High Commissioner

- 4. Indonesia unequivocally condemns **Israel's indiscriminate attacks** in Gaza, the West Bank, and now Lebanon.
- 5. These actions have resulted in the tragic deaths of medical and humanitarian workers, **including two of UNHCR staff and over 220 UNRWA staff**.
- 6. We also condemn the attack in southern Lebanon that injured 15 UNIFIL personnel, **including two Indonesian soldiers**.
- 7. These violations are unacceptable and breach international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions.
- 8. Global tensions, **particularly in the Middle East**, must be de-escalated.
- 9. We therefore call on all parties to respect IHL and **immediately end the violence**.

#### **Madam Chair**

- 11. By mid-2024, 122.6 million people have been displaced globally... including over 6 million Palestinian refugees...
- 12. This crisis... driven by conflict and worsened by climate change... **demands** strengthened international cooperation.
- 13. **We commend** the High Commissioner Office's relentless efforts to protect the displaced persons, but a stronger collaboration is urgently needed.
- 14. Indonesia has consistently contributed to alleviating global humanitarian crises.
- 15. We have **upheld the principle of non-refoulment**, rescuing refugees stranded at our borders, especially Rohingya refugees arriving in Aceh.
- 16. In collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, we continue providing essential support to thousands of refugees and asylum seekers in transit.
- 17. It is also important to highlight the instrumental role of host communities... particularly the people in our Aceh Province... in welcoming and supporting these refugees.
- 18. However, we face a concerning situation, as reports indicate another boat of Rohingya refugees may arrive by the end of this year, similar to last year.
- 19. This **repeated influx** raises concerns about an emerging pattern.
- 20. Indonesia remains committed to **intensifying efforts** to combat human trafficking and people smuggling, particularly targeting refugees.
- 21. **We will also take firm actions** against those involved in these transnational crimes.
- 22. Regionally, as co-chairs of the Bali Process, Indonesia and Australia are strengthening collective efforts to address these issues.
- 23. The plight of long-term refugees... particularly the Afghan population who make up half of Indonesia's refugee community....is also another concern.
- 24. **In 2023, only 13% of UNHCR's operations in Indonesia were funded**. The lack of funding has limited support for refugees who continue to endure harsh living conditions.

- 25. With a projected 27% increase in UNHCR's 2025 budget for Indonesia, we hope this will bring tangible improvements for long-term refugees.
- 26. We call on the High Commissioner's office and the international community to prioritize solutions for these refugees, who have waited far too long for resettlement.
- 27. As the High Commissioner has stated... with displacement rising... humanitarian funding must become predictable, and long-term commitments must replace the current system.
- 28. **Indonesia reaffirms its commitment to burden-sharing**, contributing to UNHCR in un-earmarked funds.
- 29. In 2023-2024, we have also increased and diversified our humanitarian contribution through different channels... bilaterally with states concerned... and through various international organizations.

#### **Madam Chair**

- 24. In conclusion, Indonesia remains steadfast in addressing the root causes of displacement and supporting refugees.
- 25. As a member of the Group of Friends for the #IBelong Campaign... we welcome the launch of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness... and look forward for a continued cooperation with states and UNHCR.

#### Thank you.

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