



Bangladesh's Statement on International Protection
75th Executive Committee meeting of the High Commissioner's
Programme
Geneva, 17 October 2024 (15.00-16.00)

Madam Chair,

We thank the Assistant High Commissioner (Protection) for the overview on International Protection.

Bangladesh is encouraged to see positive endeavors including route-based approaches undertaken by UNHCR in enhancing international protection to more than 122 million refugees fleeing violence, conflict, persecution and discrimination multiplied by environmental degradation and climate change. Declaration of 43 emergencies in 2023 indicates the intensity of conflict and violence and lack of political settlements among States and non-state actors as well as a growing tendency of non-compliance with International Humanitarian Law and other international human rights law.

Madam Chair,

Regrettably, we are witnessing terrible rise of anti-refugee, anti-migrant narratives and proliferation of hate speech, racism, xenophobia and religious hatred across the world, particularly in the developed and refugee hosting countries. In this backdrop, the whole-of-society approach must be applied and development partners along with donors must extend their support to the host countries and countries of origin.

Climate- and disaster-forced people are in dire need of international protection. Adverse effects of climate change may exacerbate social, inter-ethnic and other tensions.

Madam Chair,

We also have a situation in Bangladesh. Let me now turn to that. Bangladesh has been hosting for last seven years over 1.2 million Rohingyas forcibly displaced from Myanmar. We are providing humanitarian assistance and protection to them. Unfortunately, not a single Rohingya has returned to Myanmar so far. Making things worse, 30 thousand Rohingyas crossed into our border in the last two months fleeing escalating violence and persecution in Rakhine. We are grateful to UNHCR, IOM and other humanitarian partners for supporting our efforts in sheltering them. We are providing Rohingya children with education in Myanmar language in around 6,000 learning centres. To de-congest the camps in Cox's Bazar, a few years back, we developed Bhasan Char with all amenities and ample options for economic activities. There 100,000 Rohingyas can be shifted. As of now, around 35,000 Rohingyas have been relocated to Bhasan Char voluntarily. It is important to connect Bhasan Char with supply chain of our national economy. International Community can play a stronger role in uplifting overall camp life of

Rohingyas. At present, Joint Response Plan (JRP) for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis is only 49% funded. We urge donors and relevant actors to close the chronic funding gap of JRP.

Madam Chair,

Being a densely populated developing country, we have left with one durable solution to this protracted humanitarian crisis - voluntary repatriation. The international community, UNHCR, ASEAN, development partners and other key stakeholders, must intensify their efforts to facilitate safe, voluntary and dignified return of Rohingyas to Myanmar. Only assurance of their protection upon return to Rakhine can make it happen.

I thank you.

-----***-----

[word count: 444, Speaking time: 3 minutes]