



**Global Refugee Forum
Plenary Session:
Debate on burden- and
responsibility sharing**

**17 December 2:30 pm
Location: Assembly Hall,
Palais des Nations**

(As prepared for delivery)

High Commissioner

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a historic moment in refugee protection and response, one year after the affirmation of the Global Compact on Refugees.

We are here at a pivotal time, with global records of forcibly displaced people and a changing pattern of movement. While many refugee situations begin in crisis, they endure to become long-term phenomena.

Today's reality challenges mainstream expectations and many current policies.

For example, today's support to refugees needs to reflect the reality that it is *developing countries* that host the majority of the world's growing refugee population. Seven out of the ten top developing countries to host refugees are themselves on the OECD's list of fragile contexts.

The OECD is supporting policy changes that reflect this landscape. DAC members allocated \$26 billion to developing countries for hosting refugees in 2015-2017. Of this, 72% of financing was humanitarian in nature, critical for providing fundamental protection and support. But, as refugees move from isolation to inclusion, it is critical that our efforts are coherent and effective. This year, the OECD DAC adopted a Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Recommendation, that helps promote coordination, programming and financing to work in complementary ways.

While emerging trends are positive, and development actors are increasingly recognising the often protracted nature of refugee situations, the current model of financing still largely suits a pattern of displacement that no longer exists.

Therefore, the OECD's key contribution to the Global Refugee Forum is centred around the recently published *Policy Paper on Financing for Refugee Situations* based on four country studies conducted in Central African Republic, Colombia, Lebanon and

Uganda. This research also informed a common position on financing for refugee situations endorsed by the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF). The paper highlights the financing principles that have the potential to transform the way we work and adapt to the realities of today's refugee movements.

As a priority, the international community should make financing fit-for-purpose and (i). support development and peace interventions, by default, alongside humanitarian responses; (ii) facilitate the inclusion of refugees in development strategies and programming; and, (iii) support local governance systems.

We advocate for (iv) greater flexibility in financing to fit the reality of mobile populations, and an (v) increase in concessionality for refugee situations, when government borrowing is necessary. This, can expand the volume of financing available, while reducing the costs to host countries.

Financing is one element of sharing responsibility, and it is (vi) most effective when it goes hand-in-hand with an enabling policy environment. Together, we can use our collective voice to advocate for policies that promote refugees' self-reliance through education, work and documentation and support host community welfare.

As a second contribution to the Forum, the OECD is committed to collect and provide data to monitor financial support to refugee situations on a regular basis. These include:

- Financial and in-kind resources going to projects and programmes benefitting refugees and host communities through Official Development Assistance and Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)
- In-donor refugee costs in DAC Member Countries;

To promote global responsibility sharing, the OECD calls on all supporters of the Global Compact on Refugees to join forces, by translating the financing principles into concrete actions, and by sharing financing data towards a comprehensive monitoring effort.