



**Statement of Ambassador Nassima Baghli,
Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
at the 72nd session of the UNHCR Executive Committee
4-8 October 2021- Geneva
General debate**

Madam Chairperson,

Multiple factors are generating an unprecedented number of displaced people in the world.

In addition to the traditional causes of displacement, new ones have emerged such as climate change.

All these factors have resulted in rising food insecurity and even looming famines in many parts of the world.

The Covid- 19 pandemic has further exacerbated this already tense situation.

Madam Chairperson,

As OIC countries are hosting two thirds of refugees in the world, the organization is expanding its activities in the humanitarian field.

Its Office in Niamey is being transformed into a regional Humanitarian and Development office focusing on access to drinking water and agricultural projects.

The capacities of the OIC Office in Mogadishu has been bolstered to be able to operate in the whole country.

As to the Kabul Office, it has recently, played a major role in coordinating aid extended by the Islamic Solidarity Fund to the Afghan people.

The OIC is also providing aid to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

On this latter issue, Myanmar is called upon to put in place the necessary measures to allow a safe, voluntary and dignified return of these refugees to their home country.

Madam Chairperson,

Based on the Convention relating to the status of refugees which remains the bedrock of international protection, the UNHCR is to be commended for the solutions- oriented initiatives it is taking to cope with the many challenges it is facing.

The Global Compact on Refugees has risen great expectations for host countries in terms of burden and responsibility sharing.

For many OIC countries, the humanitarian- development nexus is very important.

The High- level official meeting to be held in December 2021 will be an opportunity to take stock and assess the pledges made during the first Global Refugee Forum.

I thank you.