

**Elements of the High Commissioner's statement
to the seventy-third plenary session
of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme**

(10 October 2022)

In his opening statement to the seventy-third plenary session of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner will outline how the many challenges facing the world, including armed conflict, violence, discrimination, persecution and the climate emergency, have driven an unprecedented number of people from their homes.

The High Commissioner will recall the work of UNHCR over yet another challenging year for the people for whom it works, namely refugees, asylum-seekers, the internally displaced, and stateless people. He will highlight the extraordinary efforts made not only by UNHCR colleagues on the ground, but also by its partners – including in the United Nations system and by non-governmental organizations, both local and international, as well as refugee-led organizations.

He will address displacement caused by the armed conflict in Ukraine and the war's wider impact on the plight of the tens of millions of displaced and stateless people who are not in the headlines. This includes those who are deeply affected by economic recession, political uncertainty, food insecurity and even famine-like conditions.

While there have been some deeply worrying and concerning failures on the part of States to uphold their international protection obligations, the High Commissioner will highlight the strides that have been made by countries and host communities to provide protection, assistance, inclusion and opportunity to those fleeing for their lives. He will speak to the expansion of partnerships and the enhanced engagement of all parts of society – including States, development agencies, international financial institutions, academia, sports organizations and the private sector, as well as the displaced themselves – to bring their expertise to the world's refugee response and in so doing, the collective work towards meeting the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

The High Commissioner will note the important reforms that continue to be undertaken by UNHCR to improve its effectiveness and efficiency. He will also highlight how the private sector, both individuals and companies, have dramatically scaled up their solidarity and support for refugees, with contributions to UNHCR that will reach \$1 billion this year. The High Commissioner will encourage member States of the United Nations to respond with the same levels of enthusiasm and solidarity as their citizens have, in order to meet the financial challenges for UNHCR operations and help alleviate some of the suffering faced by refugees.

The need for solutions to displacement will remain an underlying message of the High Commissioner's address, including the need for greater burden- and responsibility-sharing and efforts to prevent and resolve conflict from the outset. This is particularly important as we look ahead to the Global Refugee Forum at the end of 2023.

UNHCR
28 September 2022