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Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Seventy-fifth session

Summary record of the 772nd meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 18 October 2024, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Stasch (Germany)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Agenda item 6: Consideration and adoption of the programme budget for 2025

(continued) (A/AC.96/75/5 and A/AC.96/75/6)

1. **Ms. Clements** (United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees), responding to questions posed at the previous meeting in respect of the current funding gap, said she was grateful to the delegations of Uganda, speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, Ethiopia, the Sudan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for having advocated for more unearmarked contributions, and welcomed the support expressed by the delegation of Japan for enhanced cooperation to promote a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach to refugee responses.

2. Regarding the question put by the delegation of Ethiopia about a perceived decrease in the budget, she was able, after having reviewed the situation, to confirm that the budget had actually increased by 2 per cent overall, an increase which, she hoped, could be maintained at the implementation stage. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was working in close partnership with Governments and other actors to promote the implementation of the settlement approach and the inclusion agenda.

3. In response to the question posed by the delegation of the Russian Federation about how UNHCR ensured sustainability in its procurement activities, she wished to reiterate that the Office's financial rules aligned with those of the United Nations and were strictly applied. Procurement activities were carried out with due regard for the principles of best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and international competition, and the question of sustainability was given due consideration. Market research suggested that choosing a sustainable option did not entail a significant price increase; in fact, it was quite the opposite.

4. UNHCR would continue to be guided by the principle of value for money while striving to procure sustainable products.

5. She wished to reassure delegations that risk management was an integral part of the Office's budget and planning processes. The input received from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was extremely valuable, and UNHCR was committed to following up on its observations. As was customary, the action taken in follow-up to the Committee's observations on the programme budget for the previous year was contained in annex II of the High Commissioner's report on the programme budget for 2025 (A/AC.96/75/5).

6. Concerning the budget cycle, as the High Commissioner himself had mentioned, there was a recognized need to reflect on how UNHCR programmed and budgeted, including whether to move to multi-year budgets to support multi-year strategic planning, which was now the approach being followed at all UNHCR offices, including at headquarters. If such a move proved necessary, consultations would be held, and the Executive Committee would be asked to adopt a decision on the matter.

7. **Ms. Namono** (Rapporteur) said that the draft general decision on administrative, financial and programme matters contained in annex V of the High Commissioner's report was a standard decision that was adopted every year. Under the draft general decision for 2025, the Executive Committee would approve the programme budget for 2025 and thereby enable the Office to pursue its work on behalf of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons around the world. In paragraph (a) of the draft decision, the Executive Committee would approve the revised requirements for the global and regional programmes of UNHCR and its headquarters for 2024 in the amount of some \$10.8 billion and, in paragraph (c), it would approve the programmes and budgets for regional and global programmes and headquarters for 2025 in the amount of some \$10.2 billion. Under the draft decision, the Executive Committee would also authorize the High Commissioner to create supplementary budgets and issue special appeals in the event of emergency needs that could not be met fully from the operational reserve.

8. **The Chair** said she took it that the Executive Committee wished to adopt the programme budget for 2025 as set out in the draft general decision.

9. **Mr. Boutadghart** (Morocco) said that his delegation, acting in the vital interests of Morocco, wished to request a vote on the proposed programme budget for 2025, in order to express its dissatisfaction at the secretariat's failure to act on a justified and legitimate complaint about the content of a paid report intended for donors whose aim was to obtain additional funding to address the unprecedented and unique situation in the militarized camps located in Tindouf. The request for a vote was justified by the tendentious and erroneous content of the report, which included not only figures and data but also political terminology that was unacceptable in a humanitarian context. For several months, his delegation had been trying to draw the Office's attention to the report's content, which was in total contradiction not only with the principles, standards and doctrines of UNHCR, but also with the vital interests of Morocco.

10. His delegation had repeatedly appealed to the Office to remedy the situation and to take the measures necessary to address a number of flagrant failings, which included, firstly, the deliberate cessation of the crucial task of registering the persons confined in the Tindouf camps, in direct contradiction with the Office's mandate; secondly, the continued lack of transparency regarding the real numbers of persons residing there and the publication by UNHCR of fictitious or contradictory figures with no proper basis that failed to comply with international standards; thirdly, the tacit approval of the verified misappropriation of humanitarian aid to the detriment of vulnerable populations and the guilty silence in the face of the lack of free access to the camps and the unlawful transfer by the host country of its sovereignty and its legal and humanitarian responsibilities to an armed militia; fourthly, the persistent failure to address the recruitment of children by armed militias, which was a long-standing and inhumane practice that constituted a serious breach of the obligation to preserve the humanitarian and civilian character of the camps; and, lastly, the silence on arbitrary displacements, the forced separation of families and the climate of insecurity and instability prevailing in the camps, which only served to exacerbate the vulnerability of the persons confined there.

11. His delegation deplored the indifference shown to the plight of the persons deprived of their fundamental rights by armed militias, including freedom of movement, and hoped that its concerns would be heard.

12. **Mr. Bladehane** (Algeria) said that Algeria rejected any attempt to politicize the actions of UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies. Morocco, the occupying force in the territory of Western Sahara, had no legitimacy whatsoever to talk about Saharawi refugees, of whom there were 173,600, according to the 2023 Sahrawi Refugees Response Plan. Morocco was neither the country of origin nor the host country of those refugees, let alone a donor country. Thus, its obstructionist attitude towards the adoption of the UNHCR budget programme for 2025 had no political justification, much less a moral and humanitarian justification.

13. Calling for a vote on the budget showed a lack of consideration not only for the High Commissioner and the teams deployed across the globe to assist millions of displaced persons, but also for the experts who had worked tirelessly to draw up the budget, whose sole purpose was to support the humanitarian action of UNHCR. Such a defiant attitude undermined the values and the very essence of the Office's humanitarian mandate, which should not be politicized.

14. He wished to recall that the document in question had been drawn up by some 20 United Nations agencies and other organizations active in the field, based on years of tried and tested UNHCR practice and on language approved by the United Nations. His delegation urged UNHCR to adhere to the agreed language used by the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It recalled the 2023 report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2023/729), which referred to the Saharawi Mine Action Coordination Office, the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, the United Nations Children's Fund education strategy drawn up with the Saharawi authorities and many other instruments.

15. Algeria recalled that the distribution of aid to the Saharawi refugees was based on a clear framework established by the United Nations, in which Saharawi civil society, in particular women and the Saharawi Red Crescent, played a crucial role. Challenging

Saharawi institutions would make the work of humanitarian agencies difficult. Algeria was firmly opposed to any form of instrumentalization of the refugee issue and any attempt to violate international law, since wishing to block the decision approving the Office's budget was tantamount to an attempt to deprive the world's 123 million refugees and displaced persons of vital support. All delegations had a responsibility to oppose that action.

16. **Ms. Namono** (Uganda) said that, as the country with the largest refugee population in Africa, Uganda was appalled that a delegation from the same continent had called for a vote on the lives of people living in its own backyard. While the delegation of Morocco was entitled to do so, she wished to recall that, under rule 26 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Committee, "With the exception of decisions on the election of officers, the appointment of members of subsidiary bodies and questions of procedure, the Chairperson will in the ordinary course of business, ascertain the sense of the meeting in lieu of a formal vote".

17. The delegation of Morocco had participated in the informal preparatory meetings at which the draft decisions had been discussed and at which agreement had been reached to adopt them by consensus. Not once had the delegation of Morocco, whether in writing or by any other means, raised any concerns in relation to the proposed decision on the budget programme for 2025. Its decision to call for a vote had come as a complete surprise. If UNHCR had been informed in advance of the intention of the delegation of Morocco to request a vote on a matter of crucial importance, such as the budget, other delegations should have been informed.

18. The sovereignty of the members of the Executive Committee was at stake, as were the lives of the people who depended on the Office's programme budget being approved. No mention was made in the High Commissioner's report of the issues raised by the delegation of Morocco. To politicize and use a document in that manner was anathema to the principles of the Executive Committee. For one delegation to attempt to undermine the consensus reached on the decision approving the Office's budget to further its own agenda was absurd. Her delegation called on the Chair to ascertain the sense of the meeting and to advise on the way forward. If a vote was to take place, her delegation would vote in favour of adopting the draft decision as it stood.

19. **Ms. Kalmbach** (United States of America) said that the seventy-fifth session of the Executive Committee had made one thing clear: the work of UNHCR was more vital than ever before. In the face of soaring needs and unprecedented strains on the humanitarian system, the Executive Committee must remain united and focused on the task before it. As was customary, it must approve the Office's budget by consensus to enable the delivery of life-saving assistance in response to the crises in Lebanon, the Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar and in every other place where UNHCR operated.

20. **The Chair** said that, as there was currently no consensus on the draft general decision setting out the programme budget for 2025, she would suspend the meeting to allow the necessary consultations to take place.

The meeting was suspended at 10.55 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

21. **The Chair**, noting that more time was needed to allow further consultations to take place and a solution to be found, suggested postponing the decision to be taken under agenda item 6 until that afternoon.

22. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 7: Review of the global consultations with non-governmental organizations held in 2024

23. **Mr. Ntobuah** (Newcomers with Disabilities in Sweden) said that the global consultations held in June 2024, which had focused on how solutions, inclusion and gender equality could drive change for forcibly displaced and stateless persons, had been attended by representatives of, inter alia, 41 organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons, 39 women-led organizations, 18 faith-based organizations, 65 national and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 61 international NGOs.

24. Participants had reiterated that protection for forcibly displaced and stateless persons should entail access to essential services and to an environment conducive to their full development. They should be protected by inclusive policies that safeguarded the rights of all and fostered self-reliance and a sense of belonging and empowerment. UNHCR and NGOs had jointly drafted a set of recommendations, which had been informed by an online questionnaire and an interactive discussion during the consultations themselves to allow participants and experts to refine their content.

25. **Ms. Faillace** (Church World Service) said that the recommendations made under the themes of solutions and inclusion called on States Members, NGOs and UNHCR to enhance and utilize existing national structures from the onset of a crisis. Doing so would require policies and programmes that effectively integrated host, stateless and displaced communities into national systems. Area-based approaches were a good example of inclusive, multi-partner humanitarian responses.

26. Secondly, actors should work towards increasing the self-reliance of displaced and stateless persons by addressing the barriers preventing them from gaining access to rights and opportunities through inclusive policies informed by local realities. The use of accurate, comparable data had been identified as one enabler to promote self-reliance. States Members should consider introducing legislative changes to protect and realize the right to work for forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

27. Thirdly, participants had recognized that fostering a positive narrative and strengthening local initiatives were the key to enhancing social cohesion. Facilitating dialogue between forcibly displaced, stateless and host communities was essential for building trust and promoting social inclusion. Stepping up efforts in that area would ensure that all members of the community were informed of their rights and could have access to services and protection on an equal footing, which would pave the way for durable solutions.

28. Lastly, participants had underscored the importance of equitable and collaborative partnerships focusing on mutual capacity-sharing. It was crucial to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders and to ensure local ownership by including local organizations and organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

29. Under the theme of gender equality, participants had recommended that States Members, UNHCR and NGOs should promote sustainable and equitable partnerships with organizations led by displaced and stateless women and girls, including those with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ persons. Greater investment was needed to develop the expertise and leadership of such organizations and to ensure their meaningful participation in decision-making processes. To that end, opportunities for flexible, direct and sustainable funding, capacity-sharing, collective advocacy and coalition development should be scaled up. Partnerships with the private sector would also help to enhance impact in that area. The efforts of LGBTIQ+ organizations should be supported; removing restrictions on the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons and addressing the risks and challenges that they faced would help to create a more inclusive and just environment for all.

30. Secondly, actors should ensure that all forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls, including those with disabilities, were involved as equal partners and empowered to develop solutions. To that end, their meaningful participation in and leadership of local, national, and international decision-making processes should be guaranteed. Actors should ensure that programmes were gender-inclusive and should actively involve a diverse range of women and girls in designing interventions for protection and solutions.

31. Thirdly, a survivor-centred approach should be adopted to protect forcibly displaced and stateless persons from gender-based violence. Doing so would require a holistic, coordinated and adaptable strategy that addressed survivors' diverse needs along mixed migration routes. Equally important was the fostering of equal partnerships with organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless women in the context of preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

32. A resounding conclusion from the consultations was the importance of working in strategic and equitable multi-stakeholder partnerships that recognized the expertise and contribution of each actor.

33. **Ms. Leone** (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to extend its gratitude to NGO representatives, delegates and advisers for their tireless and often dangerous work to support displaced and stateless individuals and all persons in need, wherever they might be. Her delegation wished to thank UNHCR and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies for having convened the global consultations in June 2024. As situations of displacement became more protracted and the special needs of particularly vulnerable populations became ever more apparent in places like Ukraine and Lebanon, the local knowledge and lived experiences of affected communities and local and national NGOs were vital for developing contextually relevant, sustainable solutions and ensuring true inclusivity. Her delegation looked forward to reviewing the outcomes of the consultations and was committed to working with NGOs, other donors and financial actors, the private sector and affected persons to seek creative, inclusive solutions to meet growing global humanitarian needs.

Agenda item 8: Other statements

34. **Ms. Meynet** (Staff Council) said that she wished to pay tribute to the two colleagues who had been killed by airstrikes in Lebanon. Her thoughts were with all colleagues working in the Middle East and North Africa region and all UNHCR staff who were risking their lives in emergencies across the globe.

35. As a result of the abolition of nearly 1,000 international posts, over 600 international professional staff had found themselves between assignments. The freeze on external recruitment should therefore continue and other measures should be taken to find dignified solutions for all colleagues concerned.

36. The downsizing exercise had also significantly affected national staff, including those serving in countries rocked by conflict, where alternative employment opportunities were few and far between. The trauma of losing their jobs was often compounded by the feeling that many decisions had been made arbitrarily in the absence of oversight and safeguards and forward planning.

37. In response to the concerns raised by colleagues about the realignment exercise and the recruitment and assignment processes, the Global Staff Council had conducted a staff survey in early 2024, which had revealed an overwhelming lack of trust in the human resources system and a perceived lack of central oversight over decision-making in the field, which only contributed to the perception that outcomes were arbitrary, rather than needs-driven. Staff had also expressed serious concerns regarding continued external recruitment, at all levels and without clear rationale, and the perceived removal of procedural safeguards and checks and balances in the system. The Council had therefore set up a task force to make recommendations for short-term measures to address the situation of unassigned staff and for broader changes to the current assignment policy, with a view to introducing some critical safeguards.

38. Unfortunately, the shift in focus from career management to talent acquisition had only served to exacerbate the stigma attached to long-serving staff members, who were often described as “dead wood” or “lifers”. After the age of 50, many experienced colleagues who had served the organization loyally for many years reported encountering a lack of support and of access to professional opportunities. Colleagues who had made personal sacrifices were being separated when the end of their contract and their assignment happened to coincide or were being deprived of their wages unless they secured a temporary assignment. The implementation of the High Commissioner’s special measures would reduce the problem to a certain extent, but only with the full cooperation and accountability of all managers.

39. There was a pressing need for a workforce strategy that took account of the existing workforce skills and the Office’s future needs and provided opportunities for reskilling where required. The Global Staff Council therefore encouraged the urgent implementation of the recommendations made in the independent evaluation of the Office’s decentralization and regionalization reform, namely to strengthen workforce planning, on the basis of a comprehensive skills-mapping exercise, and establish a learning strategy. It appreciated the High Commissioner’s openness to discussion and called for the strengthening of ongoing measures to tackle the critical staffing challenges, through short-term actions and transparent,

forward-looking and evidence-based policies and strategies, to give the dedicated and experienced colleagues a sense of stability and security as they endeavoured to protect people of concern to UNHCR.

40. While the role of UNHCR at the forefront of efforts to tackle sexual misconduct was commendable, the same level of attention should be applied to tackling abuses of power – including bullying, harassment and discrimination – which, at times, seemed to be tolerated in the name of perceived operational successes and efficiencies. Emotional abuse created a toxic environment, leading to extended sick leave, burnout and health issues among staff; colleagues must be supported to feel psychologically and physically well so that they, in turn, could provide assistance and protection to those who needed it most. Nevertheless, despite the efforts of senior management, the “speak-up” culture had regressed, largely owing to fears of retaliation.

41. The Global Staff Council urged UNHCR to spare no effort in resolving the current staffing crisis and to strengthen its commitment to cultivating a more constructive working culture, including through greater diversity and inclusion, building on the recently adopted diversity, equity and inclusion strategic framework. The Office’s unique mandate could only be delivered by experienced and dedicated staff working in some of the world’s most challenging contexts and locations. All UNHCR staff were connected by their unyielding commitment, their countless personal sacrifices, and their unconditional love for and dedication to the Office’s mission and mandate. They deserved to be loved in return.

42. **Mr. Banzet** (Canada) said that his delegation greatly appreciated the work of UNHCR and its staff and supported the Office’s efforts to strengthen transparency and operational efficiency, while also maintaining agility and the ability to adapt to a complex global humanitarian landscape. His delegation supported the shift towards a sustainable programming approach, including the emphasis on self-reliance, inclusion and durable solutions for displaced populations, combined with a balanced approach to budget planning and programme implementation to address immediate protection needs and provide long-term solutions. His delegation commended UNHCR for forging robust partnerships, including with development actors and international financial institutions, to address root causes and advance durable solutions; welcomed its efforts to expand its donor base and engage the private sector; and urged it to ensure that it remained fully equipped to deliver on its core humanitarian and protection mandate.

43. His delegation welcomed the adoption of a results-based management approach, encouraged UNHCR to tailor its data collection efforts to better meet regional needs and called for comprehensive data management strategies to promote greater interoperability with other United Nations system organizations so as to optimize resource utilization and strengthen targeted service delivery for the most vulnerable.

44. The Office’s greatest asset was its dedicated staff. While difficult decisions on staffing had been required, the efforts to respond to concerns in a transparent manner, fostering a supportive and understanding environment, were appreciated. Its strategy on mental health and well-being – of critical concern for humanitarian staff working under enormous pressure in increasingly dangerous contexts – was commendable. So, too, was the introduction of the diversity, equity and inclusion strategic framework, the implementation of which should be rigorously monitored, particularly with regard to the recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups, to render inclusion a reality, not merely an objective, at all levels of UNHCR. The new policy on sexual misconduct and the strategy to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, must be continued in order to build trust and ensure a safe environment for all.

45. **Ms. Clements** (United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights), thanking the Global Staff Council for its efforts to bring the concerns of UNHCR staff to the attention of management, said that she, too, wished to express her condolences to the families and friends of the two UNHCR colleagues who had lost their lives in Lebanon. To say that 2024 had not been an easy year was an understatement.

46. The financial uncertainties and the realignment exercise were sources of understandable tension, leaving a long-lasting impact on UNHCR colleagues, more of whom were seeking assignments. While the Office’s robust rotation system was unique in the

United Nations system, it was not without its challenges. Strong safeguards, such as a transparent recruitment policy, a formal compliance review body and an electronic recruitment system, had been put in place to address some of the issues raised. Efforts would continue to support affected colleagues and ensure that processes were conducted fairly and with integrity. Special measures had been introduced and career guidance resources and psychological support made available to all staff. Over the previous six months, over 400 colleagues, more than 150 of whom had been between postings, had been given new assignments. The overarching goal was to ensure that colleagues were well prepared to handle those transitions, either within UNHCR or elsewhere.

47. She appreciated the constructive engagement of the Global Staff Council with the Division of Human Resources in supporting affected colleagues and identifying potential solutions. Several of the task forces recommendations had already been implemented; management would continue to engage regularly with the Global Staff Council, including on diversity and inclusion, the administration of justice and human resources-related issues. In times of change, supporting staff as they worked to support people who had been forced to flee their homes or left stateless, was a priority.

48. **The Chair** said that the Executive Committee greatly appreciated the commitment, courage and dedication of UNHCR staff, without whom the work that it asked UNHCR to carry out could not be done. The Committee counted on the Staff Council to keep it informed of developments affecting staff in what was a difficult context.

Agenda item 9: Programme of work of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 10: Consideration of the provisional agenda of the seventy-sixth session of the Executive Committee

49. **The Chair** said that a number of draft decisions fell under the two agenda items under consideration, which related to the work of the Executive Committee and the Standing Committee in 2025. Those draft decisions had been reviewed and agreed upon by members of the Executive Committee during informal preparatory consultations.

50. **Ms. Namono** (Rapporteur) said that draft decision 2 was of a procedural nature and dealt with the programme of work of the Standing Committee for 2025, as established in the 2004 decision on working methods. The meeting scheduled for March 2025 would focus on operations, the meeting scheduled for June or July 2025 would focus on the international protection and programme policy, and the meeting scheduled for September 2025 would be devoted to management, finance, oversight and human resources. The draft decision authorized the Committee to add or delete items, as appropriate, and to request member States to meet in December 2024 to prepare a detailed workplan. It also called on UNHCR to be explicit and analytical in its reports to the Standing Committee and to submit documentation in a timely manner. In addition, it underscored the importance of a substantive and interactive debate in meetings in order to provide the High Commissioner with practical guidance and clear advice, in accordance with the Committee's statutory functions.

51. Draft decision 3 addressed observer participation in meetings of the Standing Committee from October 2024 to October 2025. Draft decision 4 contained the standard provisional agenda for the seventy-sixth session of the Executive Committee, as established in the 2004 decision on working methods. Draft decision 5 dealt with the participation of intergovernmental organizations in private meetings of the Executive Committee. Lastly, draft decision 6, which concerned the simultaneous distribution of documents of the Executive Committee, was a technical update of a similar decision that had been adopted in 2016, since it was virtually impossible, for procedural reasons, for the Office to submit several documents within the established deadlines in all six official languages of the United Nations.

52. **The Chair** said that the following States had made official requests to participate in the meetings of the Standing Committee as observers: Central African Republic, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Honduras, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Niger and Sierra Leone. She suggested that the names of those States should be added to the agreed text of draft decision 3.

53. *It was so decided.*

54. **The Chair** said she took it that the Executive Committee wished to adopt the draft decisions.

55. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 11: Election of officers

56. **Ms. Fuentes Julio** (Chile) nominated Mr. Vázquez Bermúdez (Ecuador) for the office of the Chair.

57. **Mr. Gómez Martínez** (Spain) seconded the nomination.

58. *Mr. Vázquez Bermúdez was elected Chair by acclamation.*

59. **Ms. Gorely** (Australia) nominated Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan) for the office of first Vice-Chair.

60. **Mr. Endresen** (Norway) seconded the nomination.

61. *Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan) was elected first Vice-Chair by acclamation.*

62. **Mr. Guillond** (Congo) nominated Mr. Daka (Ethiopia) for the office of second Vice-Chair.

63. **Mr. Bekkers** (Kingdom of the Netherlands) seconded the nomination.

64. *Mr. Daka (Ethiopia) was elected second Vice-Chair by acclamation.*

65. **Mr. Mayr** (Germany) nominated Ms. Advani (United Kingdom) for the office of Rapporteur.

66. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) seconded the nomination.

67. *Ms. Advani (United Kingdom) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

68. **Mr. Vázquez Bermúdez** (Ecuador) said that, at a time of multiple crises, which had forced an unprecedented number of people to flee their homes owing to conflict, violence, humanitarian emergencies and climate pressures, there was an urgent need for greater international cooperation based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing and for the continued support of donor countries. More leadership like that shown by UNHCR and countries that were hosting, supporting and protecting asylum-seekers and refugees, promoting their inclusion and socioeconomic integration, notwithstanding major financial strains, was required. He wished to congratulate the High Commissioner and the staff of UNHCR for the measurable actions that had been taken to provide urgent protection and give hope to millions of persons of concern to UNHCR. The cooperation and support of myriad international organizations, financial institutions, NGOs and religious organizations, and of thousands of people motivated by a spirit of solidarity, would continue to inspire efforts on behalf of those who were most in need.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.