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Chair: Mr. Faye (Vice-Chair) (Senegal)

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In the absence of Ms. Mesquita Borges (Timor-Leste), Mr. Faye (Senegal), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 61: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (*continued*) (A/69/12, A/69/12/Add.1 and A/69/339)

1. **Mr. Thomson** (Fiji) said that in 2013 around 22 million people had been displaced by natural disasters and, with global climate change, those numbers would grow. A small island State, Fiji was already grappling with the relocation of coastal communities, and the situation was worse in neighbouring Kiribati, which had recently purchased land from Fiji to replace arable land damaged by seawater. Given the cost and complexity of relocating people and communities, he urged Member States and other partners to work together to strengthen the international community's capacity to deal with the immense and growing crisis of climate-related refugees.

2. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that the Afghan displaced population was one of the largest in the world. The newly elected Government recognized the rights of internally displaced persons and would work to prevent conditions leading to displacement, minimize unavoidable displacement and offer emergency assistance, longer term support and protection. The Government provided support for the many Afghan returnees through the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations and was working closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to continue to promote repatriation through the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees. Reiterating the obligation of refugee host Governments to uphold the principle of voluntary return, protect refugees and provide full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian relief agencies, he called on them also to ensure the same standards of treatment for Afghan refugees as for citizens and other foreign nationals. His Government was deeply grateful to the host countries of Afghan refugees and particularly to Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which bore most of the burden.

3. **Ms. Mballa Eyenga** (Cameroon) said that the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility

should guide both emergency and long-term assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons. It was crucial that humanitarian aid should be accompanied by structural development assistance to support both the affected populations and the host communities. Cameroon joined UNHCR in calling on donors to provide additional support for long-term solutions in protracted refugee situations. It was also essential to redouble efforts to attack the root causes of the conflicts.

4. The flood of refugees fleeing violence in the Central African Republic and Nigeria placed a very heavy burden on Cameroon, which was nevertheless determined to shoulder its share and had put in place a legislative framework to manage the crisis and facilitate cooperation between ministries as well as with UNHCR and other partners. However, additional support was needed from the international community and Member States, and she called on them to respond effectively to requests from the Central African Republic and neighbouring countries such as Cameroon.

5. **Ms. Haile** (Eritrea) called for better protection for refugees, especially in the West, where they were increasingly subject to discrimination and even violence. Receiving centres and refugee camps should not be used for military or political recruitment and should be under the full control of UNHCR. A signatory to the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa, Eritrea maintained an exemplary record as a refugee host country. While strongly opposing forced repatriations and expulsions of its nationals, it encouraged their voluntary return by providing social reintegration assistance. Contrary to some assertions, it did not detain or prosecute returning Eritreans.

6. To address the root causes of refugee and mixed migration, Member States must respect their obligations under international law, tolerating neither the occupation of any country by another nor unjust sanctions. To promote long-term solutions, the work of UNHCR should go hand in hand with development activities by other United Nations entities, and mechanisms should be put in place for carefully distinguishing refugees from economic migrants. In that connection, steps should be taken to identify individuals falsely claiming Eritrean citizenship in

order to benefit from the preferential treatment accorded to Eritrean asylum seekers.

7. **Mr. Makharoblishvili** (Georgia) said that her Government was doing its utmost to provide asylum to people fleeing Syria, Iraq and Ukraine. A signatory of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, it protected refugees and stateless persons under its national laws and was working with UNHCR and other partners to promote their integration. Unfortunately, Georgia had a large population of internally displaced persons as a result of ethnic cleansing that had intensified with the 2008 Russian occupation of South Ossetia. The issue of internally displaced persons should not have been removed from the agenda of the Geneva international discussions under pressure from certain participants, especially since new barriers along the occupation line and restrictive measures recently instituted in the Gali district were fuelling a further exodus. Meanwhile, the occupying Power continued to refuse access to international human rights monitors. Without prejudice to their right of safe and dignified return, her Government had taken steps to ensure housing, financial assistance, education and livelihoods or employment for internally displaced Georgians.

8. **Mr. Shapoval** (Ukraine) said that his Government was committed to implementing the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto and was working with the European Union to meet the benchmarks of the European Commission's action plan on visa liberalization. In cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other international agencies, it was also endeavouring to meet the needs of the 275,000 internally displaced persons in Ukraine, including by facilitating the recent visit of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons. A law enacted in October 2014 protected the rights of internally displaced persons and addressed issues such as facilitating international humanitarian assistance.

9. The so-called humanitarian convoys dispatched to Ukraine by the Russian Federation constituted a clear violation of the Charter and international and national law, inasmuch as they were sent without Ukrainian consent and were not overseen by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The very high figure recently advanced by the Russian delegation with respect to the number of Ukrainian

refugees in the Russian Federation had not been independently verified. However, it was the Russian Federation's invasion of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and its fuelling of the conflict in eastern Ukraine that was the direct cause of displacement of the Ukrainian refugees in the Russian Federation and those internally displaced within Ukraine.

10. Ukraine urged the Russian Federation to stop waging a hybrid war against Ukraine, halt the sponsoring and arming of terrorists, fully withdraw its troops and mercenaries and establish effective and verifiable border control. Unless the Russian Federation took steps to fulfil its obligations under the Minsk Protocol, the problem of internally displaced persons and refugees would remain unresolved.

11. **Ms. Muedin** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that the recently released IOM publication, *Fatal Journeys: Tracking Lives Lost during Migration*, showed Europe to be the most dangerous destination for so-called irregular migrants and underlined the need for urgent action and intensified cooperation to protect asylum seekers and other migrants. IOM worked in partnership with UNHCR to protect the most vulnerable migrants. For example, the two organizations co-led the global camp coordination and camp management cluster in the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and they collaborated to promote multidimensional solutions to mixed migratory flows. Recently, IOM had been working closely with UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies in five level 3 humanitarian emergencies; since their establishment, the two organizations had shared responsibility in refugee resettlement operations, with UNHCR identifying and referring refugee cases for consideration to the countries of resettlement and IOM working directly with the identified refugees to prepare and process their transport.

Agenda item 26: Social development (*continued*)

(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*) (A/C.3/69/L.14/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.14/Rev.1: Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

12. **Mr. Mamani Paco** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft built on

previous resolutions and emphasized the role of the Open-ended Working Group. There was also emphasis on the need to include age-related issues and poverty eradication strategies in national development plans.

13. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Turkey had joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 61: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (*continued*) (A/C.3/69/L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.54: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

14. **Ms. Clifford** (Sweden), introducing the draft resolution, said that, in addition to a few minor drafting changes, the text contained a new preambular paragraph referring to deep concern at the near record number of forcibly displaced persons, as well as six new substantive paragraphs related to the operational and policy challenges described in the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/69/12).

15. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Morocco, New Zealand and Serbia had joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

- (b) **Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms** (*continued*) (A/C.3/69/L.36, A/C.3/69/L.37, A/C.3/69/L.49, A/C.3/69/L.50 and A/C.3/69/L.51)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.36: United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region

16. **Ms. Al-Temimi** (Qatar), introducing the draft resolution, said that Bahrain, Cameroon, Egypt, Eritrea, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen had joined the sponsors.

17. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Morocco, Nigeria and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had also joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.37: Human rights in the administration of justice

18. **Ms. Kalb** (Austria), introducing the draft resolution, said that Andorra, Costa Rica, Honduras, Lithuania, Paraguay and Ukraine had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution retained its focus on the situation of persons deprived of their liberty, detention conditions, juvenile justice and children in detention while taking into account recent developments such as the new United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which would be presented at a high-level panel discussion on 21 November 2014.

19. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.49: Missing Persons

20. **Ms. Mammadova** (Azerbaijan), introducing the draft resolution, said that Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Canada, Egypt, Greece, Liechtenstein, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution was based on General Assembly resolution 67/177 and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council. It had been updated to reflect the report of the Secretary-General on missing persons (A/69/293) and the report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on best practices in the matter of missing persons (A/HRC/16/70).

21. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Georgia and Morocco had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.50: The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity

22. **Mr. Pouleas** (Greece), introducing the draft resolution, said that Andorra, Benin, Colombia, Georgia, Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mali, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Somalia, Turkey and Ukraine had joined the sponsors. The text drew attention to the unabated upward trend in targeted, unprosecuted killings of journalists and to strengthen the protection of journalists on the basis of the existing international framework, including in particular Human Rights Council resolution 27/5 of 25 September 2014. Deep concern was expressed for

the growing threat to the safety of journalists posed by non-State actors and there was a call for the immediate release of those taken hostage.

23. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso and San Marino had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.51: Moratorium on the use of the death penalty

24. **Mr. Ruidiaz** (Chile), introducing the draft resolution, said that Cambodia, Ecuador and Kyrgyzstan had joined the sponsors. The non-prescriptive text contained only minor additions, mostly reflecting positive developments and the growing trend towards the abolition of the death penalty.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (continued)
(A/C.3/69/L.28, A/C.3/69/L.32 and A/C.3/69/L.33)

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.28: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

25. **Ms. Gatto** (Italy), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, the European Union member States and Japan, said that Chile, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Panama, Republic of Moldova, San Marino and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had joined the sponsors. In its report (A/HCR/25/63), the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had spotlighted the gravity of the human rights situation in that country, the pervasive culture of impunity and the lack of accountability and had identified a number of human rights violations that it considered crimes against humanity. The draft resolution nevertheless noted positive developments over the preceding year, including the Government's signature of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; its acceptance of nearly half of the recommendations made during its second universal periodic review, its expressed willingness to consider human rights dialogues with States and the resumption of reunions of separated families in February 2014.

26. However, in the absence of any substantive improvements, most of the changes to the text involved new issues raised by the report. For example, serious concern about discrimination based on the songbun

system was expressed. The Security Council was encouraged to take appropriate action to ensure accountability for crimes against humanity, possibly through referral to the International Criminal Court. As in previous years, the sponsors of the resolution had informed the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of the contents of the draft.

27. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bosnia and Herzegovina had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.32: Situation of human rights in Myanmar

28. **Ms. Gatto** (Italy), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, European Union member States, said that Israel, Monaco, Palau, the Republic of Korea and San Marino had joined the sponsors. They welcomed the continued positive developments in Myanmar, including the Government's efforts to improve engagement and cooperation with the international community, its engagement with national political actors and its steps towards a nationwide ceasefire with ethnic armed groups and an all-inclusive national dialogue. At the same time, the Government was encouraged to ensure that the 2015 elections were credible, inclusive and transparent and to fulfil its commitment to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. It was also urged to address a number of serious human rights challenges, including the situation in Rakhine State.

Draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.33: Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

29. **Mr. Rishchynski** (Canada), introducing the draft resolution, said that Palau, Panama, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tuvalu and Vanuatu had joined the sponsors. Despite the hopes of many Iranians and the international community, the overall situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran had remained essentially unchanged since the election of the new President in 2013. The Government's recent engagement with the heads of United Nations agencies was welcomed, as was its submission of national periodic reports and its participation in the country's second universal periodic review. Legislative and administrative changes that addressed certain human rights issues were also acknowledged. However, there was deep concern about the many ongoing and serious human rights violations and once again the Government was called on to

address them, in accordance with the President's repeated pledges.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

30. **Ms. Vadiati** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, in draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.33](#), Canada had chosen to ignore her Government's efforts to promote human rights, development and democracy by encouraging structural and substantive changes. Invoking the principles of equality, non-selectivity and objectivity, democratic governance and the rule of law, she urged Committee members to vote against the resolution.

31. **Mr. Kim Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his delegation categorically rejected draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.28](#), which was a United States-inspired political ploy to blacken his country's image and, as such, a declaration of confrontation. His Government had proposed an open human rights dialogue with the European Union; it had expressed willingness to receive technical assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and it had agreed to visits by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights. Confrontation was incompatible with dialogue and cooperation. If the European Union and Japan persisted in their policy of confrontation, they alone would bear responsibility for the unpredictable consequences.

Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) ([A/C.3/69/L.18](#))

Draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.18](#): Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

32. **Mr. Calderón Velásquez** (Chile), introducing the draft resolution, said that El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay had joined the sponsors. Despite the significant progress made, only a small percentage of the proceeds of corruption from developing countries had been returned to the countries of origin, largely because of technical and legal difficulties. Building on the previous General Assembly resolutions

and the agreements reached at the fifth Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the draft resolution retained its focus on developing the provisions of chapter V of the Convention. To that end, States parties were urged to cooperate and provide wider assistance in identifying illegally acquired assets, to give timely consideration to mutual legal assistance requests and to develop practical tools for implementing the Convention through the exchange of information, lessons learned and good practices.

33. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Morocco, Papua New Guinea and Turkey had joined the sponsors.

The meeting rose at 5.00 p.m.