



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 April 2020
English
Original: French

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Seventieth session

Summary record of the 724th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 9 October 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Delmi..... (Algeria)

Contents

High-level segment on statelessness and general debate (*continued*)



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

High-level segment on statelessness and general debate *(continued)*

1. **Mr. Naanda** (Namibia) said that his country aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of African States. National consultations had been held to determine whether Namibia should become a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. The results had indicated that the country was ready to take that step, including with respect to the instruments on statelessness. The Government had also developed a national action plan on the eradication of statelessness and had boldly decided to naturalize foreigners who had arrived in the country between 1930 and 1977. The Government was committed to the full integration of the former Angolan refugees living in Namibia and thanked the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for funding 123 of the 429 permanent residence permits issued to them. The remaining 306 residence permits had been issued free of charge to the households concerned, with the waived fees amounting to 3,724,938 Namibia dollars. After the Government of Botswana had, on 31 December 2015, revoked the refugee status of Namibians who had been living in that country for 21 years, some of those individuals had returned to Namibia under a voluntary repatriation programme while others had been sent back under procedures provided for in the immigration laws of Botswana. His Government had facilitated their return by providing them with building materials, food rations and cash grants. Given the current situation and the Government's commitment to uphold its international obligations, the Government called upon UNHCR to reopen its Namibia country office, which it had closed in 2015.

2. **Ms. Bastistić Kos** (Croatia) said that her country aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Croatia had a limited number of stateless persons, who were primarily members of the Roma community. Those individuals were generally not de jure stateless but rather had a nationality that was unknown, either because they had not regularized their status following the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or because of administrative barriers. In order to reduce those barriers, the Ministry of Interior had been providing training for the government officials who dealt with statelessness. In addition, one of the goals of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy (2013–2020) was to regularize the status of members of that community. Under the voluntary resettlement programme of the European Union, the Government had committed to hosting 250 Syrian refugees and asylum seekers. It had also agreed to host 150 refugees and asylum seekers from third countries. Such persons were under the international protection system and therefore had access to health care, the labour market and primary and secondary education. The country paid special attention to the inclusion of members of ethnic and religious minorities, and the Croatian Muslim community was actively involved in the integration of Muslim refugees.

3. **Mr. Alam** (India) said that, while India and its neighbours hosted one sixth of persons of concern to UNHCR, less than one tenth of the total UNHCR budget was allocated to the region, attesting to the inequitable distribution of the burden among countries. India was one of those countries that had a long tradition of playing host to a large number of refugees despite its own developmental and security related challenges. His Government welcomed the Office's internal reorganization and its efforts to delegate and decentralize, which would bring UNHCR teams closer to their areas of action. Those measures would allow UNHCR to carry out its work in a more agile and effective manner.

4. **Mr. Baddoura** (Lebanon) said that his country had received an unprecedented number of refugees since the start of the war in Syria in 2011. Despite the country's limited resources, lack of preparedness and sluggish economic situation, the people and Government of Lebanon had taken up the humanitarian challenge and welcomed Syrian refugees with admirable solidarity. However, the pressure that had been mounting on the economy, infrastructure, society, environment and health sector over the preceding eight years had reached intolerable levels, and the level of international support, while commendable, was increasingly insufficient. The time had come to find a durable solution to the situation and, for the Government, "durable solution" meant the repatriation of all

refugees, as integration could not be envisaged in the Lebanese context. With regard to statelessness, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities had begun adopting a series of measures in 2017 to modernize the civil registration system and to address procedural gender inequalities. The Ministry had also developed several strategies to facilitate civil registration for Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees who had previously been living in Syria. As a result, the number of parents requesting that the births of their children be registered had increased 12 per cent in three years. The Government was also planning to digitize civil registry records.

5. **Mr. Czech** (Poland) said that his country aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Statelessness was not a significant problem in Poland. The 369 individuals whose stateless status had been recognized by the Office for Foreigners and the 43 individuals whose nationality the Office had been unable to determine accounted for 0.10 per cent of all foreigners legally residing in the country. The Act of 12 December 2013 on Foreigners and the Polish Citizenship Act of 2 April 2009 protected foreigners from statelessness. Under the Act on Foreigners, foreign minors who were abandoned in Poland by their biological parents could obtain an identity document and regularize their stay, and the Polish Citizenship Act included a simplified procedure for stateless persons wishing to be naturalized.

6. **Ms. Stadler Repnik** (Slovenia) said that her country aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. As a signatory to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, Slovenia firmly supported the #IBelong campaign. The Government paid special attention to foreign children and allowed children born in Slovenia to stateless parents to acquire citizenship. In response to the increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons around the world, Slovenia had significantly increased the humanitarian assistance it provided. In 2019, it had allocated aid to Syria, Yemen and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and was continuing its bilateral operations in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Uganda. Syrian refugees received the largest share of Slovenian humanitarian assistance.

7. **Ms. Tichy-Fisslberger** (Austria) said that her country aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Her Government welcomed the Office's efforts to provide a good-quality education to refugee and host community children in Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen. The number of refugees hosted in Austria per capita had been one of the highest in Europe since 2015. The Government provided accommodation and basic care to some 33,000 asylum seekers and also placed great emphasis on integration measures. Since 2015, over 60,000 refugees had been able to take German classes and more than 100,000 had taken part in integration and civic education programmes that focused on key values for coexistence in Austrian society, such as freedom of expression, gender equality and tolerance.

8. **Mr. Jgenti** (Georgia) said that his Government had amended the country's citizenship legislation to bring it into compliance with international instruments and had adopted laws such as the Organic Law on Citizenship, which contained measures to reduce statelessness, the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens and Stateless Persons, which defined the rights and obligations of stateless persons, and the Law on International Protection, which set out general principles on applying for asylum and strengthened safeguards at each step of the application procedure. Over 8,100 asylum seekers had arrived in Georgia since 2012, and international protection had been granted to 1,400 of them. However, over more than 25 years, hundreds of thousands of Georgians had been expelled from the occupied regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali and continued to be deprived of their fundamental right to return to their homes in safety and dignity. While the Government continued its efforts to promote the socioeconomic integration of internally displaced persons, it was unable to protect the inhabitants of those occupied regions; it relied on UNHCR to provide humanitarian assistance to people in conflict-affected areas. To address statelessness, the Government would take the following steps by 2021: facilitate the naturalization of stateless persons, reduce by half the fees for the statelessness determination procedure, carry out a door-to-door campaign to identify stateless persons and a campaign to raise awareness of statelessness, and provide free legal aid to persons applying for stateless status.

9. **Mr. Litjobo** (Lesotho) said that his country aligned itself with the statement delivered by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Group of African States. Lesotho was a party to

the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and its Government was taking steps to protect the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals. It had, for example, helped draft the Ministerial Declaration and Regional Action Plan to End Statelessness in the Southern African Development Community, amended the Constitution to affirm that all citizens had an equal capacity to confer their nationality on their spouses and addressed migration-related issues in the National Strategic Development Plan. It also undertook to adopt a bill that granted nationality to children of unknown origin in the country and provided for a safeguard to grant nationality to children born on the territory who would otherwise be stateless by 2020, and to carry out a qualitative study to better understand the situation of stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness residing in the country.

10. **Mr. Ahsan** (Bangladesh) said that developing countries continued to bear the lion's share of the refugee burden. Bangladesh itself hosted 1.1 million Rohingya. The Government was trying hard to meet their needs, but only 42 per cent of the required funding had been provided. The severe environmental degradation and social instability resulting from the presence of so many refugees had made the situation untenable, prompting the plan to relocate 100,000 Rohingya to the island Bhasan Char. The memorandum of understanding concluded among the Government of Myanmar, UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme had been renewed for another year but unfortunately had not fulfilled its promises. The Government of Myanmar held the key. It had to build an environment of trust conducive to the refugees' return by disseminating accurate information about the situation on the ground; abolish laws, policies and practices that discriminated against the Rohingya; and allow Rohingya representatives to make "go-and-see" visits to northern Rakhine State. In addition, the international community must address the root causes of the crisis and ensure that those responsible for the atrocities committed be brought to justice. His Government welcomed the global campaign to end statelessness by 2024. However, identifying the Rohingya as stateless would be tantamount to legitimizing the revocation of their nationality on the basis of their ethnic identity.

11. **Mr. Chen Xu** (China) said that, in view of the growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide and the widening gap between humanitarian needs and financial assistance, the international community should make use of the global compact on refugees as a mechanism for increasing collaboration. His Government believed that all countries must take on their share of the burden under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and tackle the root causes of conflicts by helping countries of origin establish lasting peace and create conditions conducive to the voluntary return of refugees. Objectivity, impartiality and non-discrimination constituted the foundations of international protection. In order to preserve the credibility of the international refugee protection system, the international community and UNHCR should not, under any circumstances, grant refugee status to criminals or terrorists and should prevent protection mechanisms from becoming an instrument for interference in internal affairs. As an active supporter of peaceful diplomacy and multilateralism, the Government was ready to strengthen its cooperation with UNHCR.

12. **Mr. Alkhateeb** (Observer for Iraq) said that the emergence of the terrorist group Daesh, which had invaded a large part of Iraq in 2014, had compelled 6 million Iraqis to flee the country. After Iraqi armed forces had liberated much of the territory occupied and cleared it of mines in 2017, 3.8 million people had been able to return. A survey showed that most displaced persons wished to return home; however, they were unable to do so because their houses and basic infrastructure had been partially or totally destroyed. To ensure the sustainable return of displaced persons, those structures first needed to be rebuilt. The Government was working hard to ensure justice and the rule of law and assist individuals in need, which was essential for restoring stability in the country. The joint efforts it had undertaken with the international community had yielded immediate benefits in that they had helped create conditions conducive to the return of displaced persons to their home towns. The Government had made significant strides in countering statelessness even though Iraq was not a party to the statelessness conventions. The amended law on nationality provided that any child born in Iraq to unknown parents would acquire Iraqi nationality and allowed for Iraqi nationality to be restored to persons who had been deprived of it for political reasons or on grounds of race or ethnicity. His country needed continued technical, technological and legislative assistance from the international community, as well as help in rebuilding its infrastructure.

13. **Mr. Grandi** (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that he welcomed the efforts made by the States and their support for the work of UNHCR.

14. **Ms. Giron Sierra** (Observer for Honduras) said that her Government was working towards fulfilling the 14 commitments undertaken at the regional conference held in San Pedro Sula in 2017 and was participating in efforts under the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework. It was determined to improve the protection enjoyed by refugees and asylum seekers in the country and to facilitate the reintegration of Honduran migrants who had returned to the country. The Government hoped that the Global Refugee Forum, to be held in December 2019, would be an opportunity for new technical and financial cooperation commitments to be made, ensuring the continued implementation of the comprehensive regional framework. Children born to irregular migrants in Honduras acquired Honduran nationality under the principle of *jus soli*. As part of its efforts to eliminate statelessness, the Government had also carried out a population census in the country's border areas and capacity-building activities for national institutions.

15. **Mr. Aspelund** (Observer for Iceland) said that UNHCR must step up its efforts to support women and girls, the most vulnerable groups in situations of forced displacement, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex refugees, who continued to face various forms of discrimination and harassment, including physical assault. In May, Parliament had approved the country's new Policy for International Development Cooperation, which made UNHCR one of the country's priority organizations and included a commitment to provide flexible and multi-year funding. The Government had also scaled up its resettlement programme, welcoming 74 Syrian and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex refugees thus far in 2019, while 185 individuals had been granted protection. Those were significant numbers when compared to the country's population. The Government had taken steps to join the Executive Committee, and the Economic and Social Council had adopted a resolution addressing the country's membership in July. The country also intended to become a party to the statelessness conventions.

16. **Ms. Kostadinova** (Bulgaria) said that her country aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Bulgaria had become a party to the statelessness conventions in 2012 and the domestic laws addressing the issue were fully in line with the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. In 2016, after reviewing the legislation, mechanisms and best practices implemented in other countries, the Government had introduced a statelessness determination procedure that was based on the fundamental principles of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Once a person's stateless status was recognized, he or she could acquire Bulgarian citizenship through a simplified procedure. Since September 2017, 115 persons had been recognized as stateless. Bulgaria undertook to withdraw its reservation to article 31 of the 1956 Convention, to regularly review the relevance of its other reservations, to improve the procedure for granting stateless status and to include stateless persons in the national census.

17. **Mr. Aala** (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Syrian law on nationality applied the principle of *jus sanguinis* and, in some cases, the principle of *jus soli*. Children of foreign terrorists who were in camps in north-eastern Syria risked becoming stateless because their parents' countries of origin refused to take responsibility. Attempts to destabilize a country's institutions and legitimate government, acts of aggression, foreign occupation, foreign-directed terrorism and unilateral coercive measures remained key factors in humanitarian crises and forced displacement. However, there was no mention of them in reports prepared by United Nations bodies. Syria was working to improve the humanitarian situation and foster the return of displaced persons. The suffering of refugees should not be used as a pretext for creating so-called safe areas on Syrian territory without the consent of the Government, an act that would be in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Since the terrorist forces had been eliminated, 1.9 million Syrians – 1.3 million internally displaced persons and 600,000 refugees – had been able to return home, with 28,000 refugees returning in August alone. The Government had amended domestic legislation to facilitate the return of all Syrians and the issuance of official documents. It called on international organizations, including UNHCR, to encourage and contribute to the return of Syrian refugees, despite the obstacles created by some countries and international parties.

18. **Mr. Azeez** (Observer for Sri Lanka) said that statelessness had not yet received as much attention as matters relating to refugees and migrants. An inclusive framework,

involving all stakeholders, should be established in order to make real progress. Sri Lanka had been facing the issue of statelessness since its independence in 1948 and had taken legislative and executive measures over the years, particularly since the 1980s, to address it. Under the applicable laws, all persons living in Sri Lanka could be recognized as citizens if they so wished.

19. **Mr. Erwin** (Observer for Indonesia) said that, while his country was not a party to the statelessness conventions, under its nationality law (Law No. 12 of 2006), no child born in Indonesia would be stateless and both men and women could transmit their nationality to their children. Indonesia undertook to expand the scope of its civil registration system and increase the resources available to it in order to achieve a registration rate of 90.5 per cent in 2019 (compared with 85 per cent in 2017); to encourage the use of the digital platform for civil registration and issuance of identity documents such as birth certificates and single identity numbers; to enhance cooperation with UNHCR in processing refugees and asylum seekers; and to work together with all countries to address statelessness.

20. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Observer for Nepal) said that, although his country was not a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol and faced a difficult domestic situation, it had hosted thousands of Bhutanese refugees for over 30 years. His Government was concerned about the growing shortfall in humanitarian budgets, which was felt most keenly by refugee-hosting least developed countries. Its efforts to find a solution to the Bhutanese refugee situation had been hindered by the rigidity and inaction of the Bhutanese Government. Most of the refugees had been resettled in other countries, but a small number were desperately waiting to be able to return to their homeland in safety and dignity.

21. **Mr. Caraballo** (Observer for the Dominican Republic) said that there were no cases of statelessness in the Dominican Republic and that a segment of the population was not being rendered stateless by the Dominican legal system. The Government was, however, aware of the concerns raised domestically and internationally about decision No. 168/13 of the Constitutional Court. To meet the needs of two large groups of people born in the country, designated Groups A and B, Congress had adopted Act No. 169-14, which set forth specific measures to regularize their status. Members of Group A, descendants of irregular migrants who were born in the country and whose information had erroneously been entered in the civil registry, could obtain Dominican nationality under the terms of the Act. Forty-eight per cent of the 61,049 members of Group A had already done so. Group B comprised descendants of irregular migrants who were born in the country but whose information had never been entered in the civil registry. Under the Act, those persons could register as foreigners and eventually be naturalized. The Central Electoral Board had already prepared 4,176 identity cards for members of Group B, but not all the cards had yet been collected. Although 6,577 people were eligible for naturalization, only 751 had taken the necessary steps. In 2007, the Central Electoral Board had introduced a registry to record the births of children born in the Dominican Republic to foreign mothers who did not reside in the country, thereby upholding the children's rights to a name and nationality from birth, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That registration would facilitate the process of applying for the nationality to which a child was entitled through the relevant diplomatic mission. According to Central Electoral Board statistics, 45,127 births had been entered in that registry in 2016. In addition, under Act No. 285-04, the General Migration Act, when a foreign woman without a residence permit gave birth to a child, the health facility was required to issue a birth certificate bearing the mother's name. He welcomed the recent visit to the country of Ms. Cardoletti-Carroll, UNHCR Deputy Regional Representative, and that public recognition of the Government's efforts.

22. **Mr. Jurkovič** (Holy See) said that the commitments made under the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the global compact on refugees needed to be transformed into tangible actions. It was important to address the root causes of displacement and support reconciliation and confidence-building measures so as to facilitate the safe return of refugees; to respect the universal right to a nationality at birth; and to safeguard the health of migrants and refugees, including their mental health.

23. **Mr. Halibou** (Observer for Mali) said that his Government had signed the Abidjan Declaration of Ministers of ECOWAS Member States on Eradication of Statelessness, which aimed to end statelessness in the Economic Community of West African States

(ECOWAS) by 2024; adhered to the Banjul Plan of Action on the Eradication of Statelessness 2017–2024, also under ECOWAS; and had developed its own national plan of action, which it was in the process of implementing. It had also ratified the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and set up an interministerial committee on statelessness. As the lack of statistics on statelessness posed a major challenge in efforts to address the issue, the Government undertook to include questions in the next general population census, scheduled for 2020, that would allow it to ascertain the risk of statelessness. It also undertook to institute statelessness determination procedures meeting international standards and to ensure that no child born in Mali would become stateless. It had set up a steering committee to process applications for naturalization. The Government was very concerned about the continuing increase in the number of displaced persons in the Sahel, which stood at 1.3 million. Intercommunal tensions in border areas and the activities of armed groups and extremist movements led to a continued climate of insecurity that exacerbated population displacements. Despite the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process and the efforts of the international community, the regions of Ségou and Mopti continued to see fighting. That situation, combined with climate change, was leading to forced displacement. To resolve the issue of forced displacement, a high-level meeting on the safe and dignified return of Malian refugees had been held in Niamey on 24 February 2018, and a regional dialogue on protection and solutions in the context of forced displacement in the Sahel had been held in Bamako in September 2019. Through those efforts, the Government hoped to find ways to meet the most pressing needs of the affected populations, in particular internally displaced persons, stateless persons, persons at risk of statelessness and host communities.

24. **Mr. Delgado Sánchez** (Observer for Cuba) said that, while Cuba was not a party to the international instruments regarding refugees and statelessness, it had nonetheless hosted and protected more than 11,000 refugees from some 35 countries over the previous 30 years; given them free access to health-care services, education, training and scholarships; and offered them a durable solution by facilitating their resettlement in other countries. The Government had taken a number of steps to counter statelessness. One of them, in place since 1 January 2018, was to eliminate the residence requirement for acquiring Cuban nationality, thereby allowing children born abroad to Cuban parents residing abroad to become Cuban nationals and obtain identity documents. The measure was especially important for children who were born to Cuban parents in a country that did not recognize the principle of *jus soli* and who, prior to the new measure, had not acquired any nationality at birth. Between 1 January 2018 and July 2019, 2,320 applications for Cuban nationality had been submitted, almost half (1,110) of them at a Cuban consulate abroad. Of those applications, 1,914 had been approved and 406 were being processed.

25. **Ms. van Daalen** (Netherlands) said that her Government would be allocating €128 million annually to bolster the capacity of host countries to welcome and protect refugees and expand the access of both refugees and host communities to education, services and employment. In 2018, the Netherlands had entered into a new partnership, valued at €500 million over four years, with UNHCR, the International Finance Corporation, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank to support a development-based response to forced displacement, particularly in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. Her Government encouraged States to start resettlement programmes of their own and to actively work together to enhance the quality of resettlement and promote the integration of refugees into host societies. Mental health and psychosocial support should be a part of refugee response mechanisms. Her Government urged UNHCR to make the required means available for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment.

26. **Ms. Serazzi** (Chile) said that Chile aligned itself with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group. Her Government wished to thank the High Commissioner for his visit to Chile on 13 and 14 August 2019, the first visit by any United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to Chile. Given the increase in humanitarian crises, it was essential to coordinate international action so that emergencies could be managed and durable solutions found for the approximately 70 million refugees worldwide. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean had taken a coordinated approach in responding to the humanitarian crisis that had caused 4.3 million Venezuelans to leave their country. The Government was grateful to UNHCR and the International

Organization for Migration for their assistance in preparing the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, which aimed to help both Venezuelan refugees and host communities. Helping those refugees could not be the sole responsibility of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and international organizations; the involvement of the entire international community was needed to raise the required funding. Chile supported the campaign to end statelessness by 2024. On 11 April 2018, it had ratified the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. Given the range of emergencies around the world and the related challenges, it was fitting for UNHCR to undertake reforms aimed at decentralizing the Office's operations, giving greater responsibility to the regional offices and making those offices more effective, provided that they worked closely with the permanent missions in Geneva. Pursuant to the ratification by Chile in 1972 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Government had adopted Act No. 20.430 on the protection of refugees. The Government considered it particularly important for requests for the determination of refugee status to be examined on a case-by-case basis and in strict compliance with domestic law and international obligations.

27. **Mr. Winder** (United Kingdom) said that, over the previous year, there had been yet another increase in forced displacement, with more than 70 million people now being affected. It was therefore important to pay tribute to the host countries and communities that opened their doors to those fleeing conflict and persecution and to recall that involuntary or forced returns were in violation of humanitarian and human rights law. Host countries must ensure that repatriations were carried out in safety and dignity, and donors must increase their financial contributions in order to make long-term support possible. For its part, the United Kingdom had committed to providing £30 million in aid for Venezuelan refugees and £80 million for Rohingya refugees. It supported the #IBelong campaign to end statelessness by 2024 and was working with international organizations and UNHCR to find durable solutions to the problem of statelessness. Five thousand particularly vulnerable refugees would be resettled in the United Kingdom during the first year of the country's recently announced global resettlement scheme. His Government welcomed the Office's reform process, with its focus on decentralization, and considered it essential for UNHCR to collaborate with new partners, particularly those working in development. However, it must also continue to operate as a cohesive organization, with coherent priorities among entities in the field and controls and a transparent decision-making process put in place to avoid fragmentation. He welcomed the continued roll-out of the Risk Management 2.0 initiative and the better reporting of sexual misconduct, which indicated that the complaint mechanisms were working. The United Kingdom remained deeply concerned about the scale and severity of situations of internal displacement and called for increased efforts to address the issue. Lastly, he welcomed the first Global Refugee Forum, to be held in Geneva in December 2019, which would keep up the momentum generated by the global compact on refugees and increase the involvement of non-traditional donors and resettlement countries.

28. **Mr. Grandi** (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that he welcomed the efforts made by the States and their support for the work of UNHCR.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.