

**In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful**

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Zolfaghari, Deputy Minister for Security and Law  
Enforcement of the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

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**Madam Chair,**

At the outset, I would like to extend my appreciation on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Mr. <sup>High</sup> Commissioner, UNHCR representative office in Tehran and all donor countries that have continuously strived to alleviate the refugees' ~~grievances~~ <sup>sufferings</sup> through their effectual presence in Iran.

In one hand, The Islamic Republic of Iran as a country being victimised by terrorism stands at the forefront of combating it on the other hand, it has been confronted with unlawful coercive unilateral sanctions. Amid all these occurrences, it hosts three million individuals from amongst registered refugees and undocumented migrants to whom there has been no disruption in rendering services so far. Moreover during the last two years more than 850,000 individuals from amongst undocumented migrants were identified to issue documentation for them in collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan.

**Distinguished Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to refer to some measures that have been taken and services have been rendered by the Islamic Republic of Iran within four decades to refugees as follows:

- 1- Educational services have been provided to an approximately 500,000 students in 17,000 classroom;
- 2- 17,000 students are currently educating at our universities, while 25,000 have been graduated so far;
- 3- 18,815 individuals have finished technical and Professional training courses;
- 4- Literacy level in refugee population has been raised from 6% to 65% percent;

- 5- 320,000 vulnerable refugees have enjoyed free public health insurance in cooperation with UNHCR;
- 6- All the refugees enjoy Salamat Health Insurance like Iranian nationals and they have been also provided with health services, antenatal cares and vaccination, to name a few;
- 7- More than 600,000 job opportunities have been provided for the refugees
- 8- The legal costs such as (taxes and duties) have been reduced to protect refugees and migrants;
- 9- Development of cultural, scientific programmes and holding athletic and artistic competitions, etc.
- 10- Implementation of the program for studies on Afghanistan particularly for those Afghan children born in Iran;
- 11- Cooperation and facilitation of the possibility of refugees travelling to Afghanistan in order to raise awareness about their country of origin;
- 12- Setting up small enterprises through granting special loans;
- 13- Granting cash assistance and distribution of goods among vulnerable refugees in contribution by UNHCR and several other relevant international organizations;
- 14- Construction of 14 health posts specifically for refugees in particular regions.

Moreover, to regulate the presence of afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran and to prohibit undocumented migrations, we have taken certain measures as followings:

- 1- Elimination of receiving any bail as a guarantee for return at the time of visa issuance.
- 2- Elimination of the condition which necessitates air travelling for taking visa.
- 3- Extension of three months residency period to nine-month for individuals who have visa.
- 4- Building capacity for issuing 550,000 visas annually for those Afghan nationals who are in search of jobs.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is necessary to point out that the imposition of unlawful sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, a decrease in Afghan refugees income as well as the spread of insecurities by the presence of ISIS militants in Afghanistan along side of the country's poor economic conditions, all has aggravated the trend of Afghans migration to other countries particularly to European states that needs to be addressed thoroughly.

gratitude

The Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed its ~~support~~ for the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugee (GCR) so, we expect the international community to take new measures in line with the compact objectives. Accordingly, we suggest by avoiding the previous repetitive routines, a mechanism should be adopted so that all decisions can be translated into actions with all parts remain dedicated to.

## **Distinguished Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In order to alleviate the grievances of all refugees around the world, we need the international community:

1. To terminate the entire regional crisis with sincerity and without any form of self-interest. Because as long as all these crisis and insecurities exist, we must expect a greater population displacements.
2. To provide an all-out assistance to those countries affected by war devastations and to stabilize and boost their social and economic infrastructure which will ultimately end up in a decent and voluntary repatriation of refugees.
3. To share the burden and responsibility of hosting refugees equally between all countries so that all pains and traumas experienced by refugees are partially alleviated.

In conclusion, I hope such meeting culminates into the alleviation of refugees sufferings and the international community assists host countries more and adheres to their commitments.

**Thank you**