

**Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme**  
**Sixty-Ninth session**  
**General Debate: Australia's Response to the Statement by the High**  
**Commissioner**

Thank you Chair

I want to start by extending our deepest condolences to the people of Indonesia following the devastating disaster in Sulawesi. Australia stands in solidarity with Indonesia, and will provide a 5.5 million dollar package of humanitarian assistance to support the Indonesian Government's leadership of the response.

Displacement continues to be one of the most significant challenges of our time, and protection needs are rising globally. Conflicts are becoming increasingly protracted and the resulting displacement is affecting growing numbers of people, with over 68 million currently displaced worldwide.

Australia commends UNHCR for its efforts in responding to these unprecedented and escalating humanitarian needs. We appreciate UNHCR's continued attention to Asia and the Pacific, and acknowledge the importance of UNHCR's presence within our region and its capacity to scale up operations when needed. Australia is pleased to support UNHCR with multiyear funding, including in the Syria regional response - our largest ever multi-year humanitarian commitment.

Australia is pleased to see new countries seeking to implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) approach, including within our region. We acknowledge the significant efforts of host countries in rolling out the CRRF framework and the positive developments this has afforded refugees and the communities that host them.

We acknowledge the generosity of host countries and communities, and we must continue to support countries of first asylum.

Global displacement is a shared challenge that cannot be addressed by one state alone. Australia is committed to sharing this global responsibility, and we are proud to be a leader in refugee resettlement. Our generous annual resettlement program has increased to 18,750 places this year, and we remain focused on groups most in need of resettlement, including vulnerable women and children.

Australia's record on refugee resettlement and generous humanitarian assistance is representative of our longstanding contribution to burden sharing. We encourage UNHCR to continue working with States on resettlement solutions, and support the expansion of complementary pathways to ensure greater access to protection, particularly in protracted situations. We encourage more countries to commence and expand resettlement programs.

Australia recognises that effective solutions to refugee crises must involve productive cooperation between countries of origin and destination. This includes bilateral and regional collaboration, which improves States' capacity to address the causes of displacement, and manage displaced populations. This cooperation extends to supporting conditions for voluntary and safe returns, and we commend UNHCR for continuing to work with States on sustainable solutions.

We thank UNHCR for producing a comprehensive final draft of the Global Compact on Refugees. UNHCR made a concerted effort to incorporate the many contributions from Member States, and we commend UNHCR and all States for their constructive engagement with the Compact over the course of the consultations.

We are pleased the final text of the Compact addresses Australia's humanitarian priorities. The Compact is gender-sensitive and includes strong language on the protection of women and girls. It also acknowledges the particular needs and vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities. We continue to encourage UNHCR to prioritise gender and disability inclusion across its operations.

Australia encourages all of its humanitarian partners to ensure they have robust monitoring and evaluation processes, and to embed risk management capability in all operations. We welcome UNHCR's continued efforts to prevent incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse, fraud, and corruption, and emphasise the need for UNHCR to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of its work through robust accountability and oversight mechanisms.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with UNHCR.

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