

**Egypt's Statement**  
**73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee**  
**General Debate**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered by the groups to which it belongs.

Egypt extends its sincere appreciation to the High Commissioner and congratulates him on the extension of his mandate. We are grateful to the UNHCR and its staff for their tireless efforts to provide protection and assistance to millions of refugees and displaced persons, in the midst of devastating humanitarian crises and a continuing gap between needs and financial resources.

Egypt expresses its deep concern over the increasing number of refugees and other people of concern, and the severity of challenges and humanitarian crises- whether conflict or climate -driven - that have played a direct role in driving large influxes of displacement in various parts of the world.

Egypt reiterates its historic and long-standing commitment to grant asylum and protection to refugees. Egypt hosts more than 283,000 refugees and asylum seekers from 65 nationalities, most of whom originate from areas of protracted crises. This is in addition to a growing

number of persons fleeing crises and situations of violence, estimated at more than 9 million persons, according to the latest IOM report.

Egypt adopts a policy towards refugees and asylum seekers that is guided by three main principles:

- “Upholding human rights”, which includes respecting their freedom of movement and ensuring non-discriminatory access to basic services on an equal basis with Egyptian nationals;
- “One-Refugee- Approach” which ensures equality between all refugees and asylum seekers regardless of their country of origin and;
- “Leaving no one behind”, through scaling up national efforts to ensure the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in their host communities, enhance social cohesion and integration, and improve their livelihoods and resilience.

Despite the heavy toll of COVID-19, and the complex Economic challenges the world has been witnessing over the past three years, Egypt has continued to emphasize the inclusion of refugees in all national responses and campaigns targeted at addressing the dire impact of those global crises, and has engaged in innovative mechanisms aimed at enhancing their protection.

Egypt has recently launched the Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees, which aims at expanding the partnership between the Government and UN agencies, including the UNHCR, on issues pertaining to displacement. It contributes to bridging the gap between resources and needs through an innovative mechanism, that coordinates between the government, the UN and the donor community, with the aim

of mobilizing and channeling the required international support to areas of priority to Migrants and Refugees in Egypt as well as their host communities.

The Joint Platform builds on the principle of equitable burden and responsibility sharing, as endorsed by the Global Compact on Refugees, and addresses the humanitarian-development nexus through a multi-stakeholders approach that puts the human rights and protection needs of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as their host communities, at the heart of its services.

However, given persistent underfunding and increasing responsibilities shouldered by hosting countries, Egypt calls on the International Community to ensure that refugee-hosting countries, including Egypt, receive guarantees of international support that equates with their generosity and contributions, and to align assistance with the ongoing national development efforts to enhance resilience and guarantee long-term solutions for refugees and their host communities.

We welcome the UNHCR support to the Joint Platform and encourage states and international partners to endorse its future activities.

Mr. Chairperson,

Egypt is concerned with the persistence of conflict and challenging humanitarian situations, which threaten to increase refugee and mixed movements in the region. Egypt believes in the importance of addressing the root-causes of forced- displacement and creating enabling conditions for voluntary return.

Egypt currently hosts the African Union center for post-conflict reconstruction and development, which aims at addressing the refugee crisis in a comprehensive manner that supports regional efforts at

maintaining peace and stability. Egypt also organizes the annual Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, which calls for shifting the focus from managing situations of forced displacement to preventing and resolving them.

Egypt also recognizes that water scarcity and environmental degradation- compounded by climate change- compel people to move. As the COP27 president, Egypt will advocate engagement with climate related global processes such as the COP, the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, and the 2023 Midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and will continue to promote a more concerted international effort to collectively address these phenomena, increase resilience and focus on prevention.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, Egypt re-emphasizes the importance of scaling up efforts to achieve durable solutions for refugees, and to support hosting communities through increasing “un-earmarked assistance” and expanding resettlement opportunities as a critically important tool for durable and equitable burden and responsibility sharing.

I thank you.