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United Nations Economic and Social Council: Management Segment Meeting

**Presided-by H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa,
Permanent Representative of Nepal and Vice-President of ECOSOC**

**Item 20(e), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Oral Report on the coordination aspects of the work of the Office of UNHCR
Delivered by Mr. Sivanka Dhanapala, Director of the UNHCR New York Office**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York
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Mr. Vice-President, Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to present this oral report on behalf of the High Commissioner on the coordination aspects of the work of the Office.

Today, millions of people remain forcibly displaced due to war, persecution, and disaster, with poverty, fragility, and climate shocks compounding human misery. Solutions to their plight are ever elusive. Displacement is lasting longer. In a few days, UNHCR will release our annual Global Trends Report which will have further information on forced displacement around the world.

Against this backdrop, the scale of need is far outpacing resources. In the last 12 months alone, UNHCR has responded to over 43 emergencies. And brutal funding cuts in the humanitarian sector are putting millions of lives at risk. From the outset, I must thank host communities who have shown extraordinary generosity in responding to these growing pressures and those low and middle-income host countries that continues to welcome the majority of refugees.

Mr. Vice-President,

This new reality will require the scaling up of the search for sustainable solutions. One where humanitarian action, development investment and peacebuilding efforts go hand-in-hand and where displaced and host communities are not left trapped in cycles of dependency but are supported through nationally led, inclusive, and sustainable responses.

Central to this is the transition from parallel humanitarian support systems to the inclusion of refugees into national systems - bolstering access to legal identity, national education systems, financial services, and livelihoods.

In this context, working with partners within the UN, civil society, including refugee-led organizations and local actors and with international and national financial institutions is of

paramount importance. To this end, in 2024, UNHCR worked with more than 1,700 partners across 51 countries through eight regional refugee response plans. In 2024, 87% of UNHCR funded partners were local or national actors and 59% of partner funding was directed to local and national actors.

Mr. Vice-President,

UNHCR also remains steadfast in its support to internally displaced persons, maintaining a solutions-oriented approach from the start. Together with IOM and UNDP, UNHCR is a co-champion of the Steering Group on Solutions to Internal Displacement (which IOM leads this year). Alongside sister UN entities, national and local partners, UNHCR is supporting eight countries—Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Nigeria and Somalia—that have committed to placing 11.7 million internally displaced persons on pathways to solutions.

Mr. Vice President,

UNHCR will continue to engage on important UN reform initiatives such as UN80 and the Humanitarian Reset, working in close coordination with partners across the UN system and identifying further efficiencies. A notable example of working closely together, during its first year of implementation, the “United Nations Common Pledge 2.0 on Refugee Inclusion” — co-led by UNHCR, DCO, and OCHA — saw progress driven by working together with UN Country Teams under the leadership of Resident Coordinators. One important outcome: refugees were included in the national census and development plans in countries such as Morocco and Moldova, and in Namibia, a joint work plan was developed with the government to enhance coordination and accelerate refugee inclusion.

We continue to work closely with UNICEF to ensure access to education for refugee and forcibly displaced children and to strengthen child protection. WHO and UNHCR jointly led initiatives to integrate non-communicable disease care into humanitarian responses. Our partnership with UNDP continued with new initiatives launched in Afghanistan and Uganda. With IOM, our joint work on mixed movements continued in the Americas through the R4V Platform for Venezuelans, a best practice which can be built upon for other regions.

Mr. Vice-President,

Partnerships with international financial institutions are essential. Since 2017, the World Bank-UNHCR partnership has mobilized \$4.94 billion across 92 projects in 20 low-income host countries. Additionally, the Global Concessional Financing Facility has supported \$7.7 billion in concessional loans through \$976 million in grants. The World Bank-UNHCR *Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement* launched its 2024–2027 strategy with 41 global and regional activities, guiding over \$3 billion in development programme investments.

The IMF and UNHCR work together to advocate for inclusive policies that address the economic needs of displaced populations and UNHCR has continued collaboration with the International

Finance Corporation (IFC) to engage with private sector to invest in refugee-hosting countries. And we have also strengthened ties with regional development banks.

Mr. Vice-President,

In closing, our ability to respond to the growing and complex needs of displaced and stateless people rests on the strength and breadth of our partnerships. While challenges remain, cooperation, inclusion and hope are not only possible, but also necessary.

Thank you.