



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

Statement

90th Session of the Standing Committee of UNHCR

**Agenda Item 3 (a) : International Protection -
Note on International Protection**

(2 July 2024)

Thank you Chair,

We thank Assistant High Commissioner for presenting the Note on International Protection.

For more than four decades, Pakistan has consistently been a major host country.

Currently there are 1.4 million registered Afghans determined as refugees by UNHCR. Another 0.8 million are Afghan migrants carrying Afghan Citizenship Card issued to them under a project to facilitate their access to flexible visa regime.

The illegal migratory inflows are another challenge for Pakistan. There are thousands of foreigners living in Pakistan as entirely undocumented and in contravention of national laws and policies.

Pakistan is engaged in improving management and governance with due consideration to security, socio-economic, cultural and people-to-people linkages with source countries.

As regards refugees and documented migrants, Pakistan is working on protection and solution-oriented policy responses.

Chair,

While Pakistan is enduring a double stress of cross-border inflows and climate induced displacement, the waning international assistance for Afghan refugees and host communities in the country has added another layer of complexity to our situation.

However, despite our challenges, we continue to support programmes providing targeted assistance to refugees and migrants in sectors, health, education, livelihoods, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services (WASH), agriculture and others.

Consistent with **object 2, and 4** of the Global Compact on Refugees, different vocational and skills development programs have been launched for Afghan men, women, and girls which need training in trades such as embroidery, tailoring, computing and IT, masonry, electrical and mechanical trades among others.

Pakistan is contributing to human resource development for reconstruction of Afghanistan by annually granting fully funded scholarships to Afghan refugees under Allama Iqbal Scholarships Scheme.

In December 2023, Pakistan launched another tranche of 4500 Scholarship for Afghans, with nearly half number reserved for women and girls to pursue higher education in various disciplines including Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, and Management and Computer science, to name a few.

Chair,

Pakistan appreciates the role of the Core Group of Support Platform of the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) under leadership of Qatar, and vice-Chair Netherlands.

A follow-up on pledges and commitments made at the second GRF is important.

Countries that promised resettlement to Afghans must meet their commitments.

Furthermore, Pakistan underlines the need for enhanced engagement through bilateral and regional platforms of tripartite and quadripartite Steering Committees within the framework of SSAR.

Now that conflict has ended in Afghanistan, we hope that the concerted efforts of international community will cease the opportunity to support conditions for returns, and reintegration of refugees in Afghanistan through political and financial solidarity.

Finally, we look forward to the visit of High Commissioner Filippo Grandi to Pakistan in the next week.

I thank you.
