



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

82nd Session of the Standing Committee of UNHCR Agenda Item: 6 Programme Budgets and Funding

Statement by Ms. Farhat Ayesha, Minister
(16 September 2021)

Honourable Chairperson,

We thank UNHCR team for providing an update on Programme budget and funding.

It is encouraging to note that UNHCR management continues efforts to mobilize resources to meet the growing needs of refugees.

Given the growing humanitarian needs, constant endeavors are needed to expand the donor base. Mobilizations of funds from the private sector are producing satisfactory results.

Despite these efforts, there is a persistent and huge gap between the needs of refugee and the financing available. It remains a matter of concern, especially for large refugees hosting countries.

We note that the basket of earmarked resources continues to grow, which results in limiting the operational flexibility of the organization. We are cognizant that earmarked resources bring necessary finances in certain refugee situations. However, this may result in deprivation of essential services in other situations.

Un-earmarked resources enable the organization to respond swiftly and flexibly in line with the principles of objectivity, neutrality and humanity, which are essential elements of humanitarian operations.

Therefore, we encourage donors to make generous and un-earmarked contributions for the organization. Timely and adequate finances are essential for predictable and robust response from the organization.

Chairperson,

It is worrisome to note that, many refugee situations remained underfunded in 2020. It is disappointing to note that COVID appeal was least funded. We call for robust support for the host countries in their refugee inclusive vaccination campaign. We continue to urge UNHCR to give due attention to the large unmet needs of protracted refugee situations by allocating sufficient resources.

The debilitating economic impact of COVID-19 outbreak has been severe for developing countries, wiping off development gains, high unemployment, poverty and hunger. It has decreased their fiscal space to provide protection to refugees. They need to be supported by sharing their burden.

We commend the UNHCR for mobilization of international support for COVID-19 related assistance to refugees across the world. However, the scale of economic fall-out on developing countries, especially those with large populations of their own and substantial number of refugees, has stretched their protection capacities.

They require greater international support and solidarity in several ways.

We encourage the UNHCR to enhance its advocacy for grants under IDA refugee sub-window. Instruments of concessional finance for refugee hosting countries undermine the principle of international burden and responsibility sharing.

I thank you.
