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Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

OIC Statement

Agenda Item 3: General Debate
77th Session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR
(12–16 October 2026)

Chairperson,
High Commissioner,
Distinguished Delegates.

Pakistan is delivering this statement on behalf of the OIC in Geneva.

The OIC appreciates the High Commissioner for Refugees *(Mr. Barham Salih)* for his leadership of UNHCR during these exceptionally challenging times.

The OIC reiterates its support for UNHCR's important mandate.

Excellencies,

The scale and complexity of forced displacement globally is not just deeply worrying; it is alarming.

Protracted and emerging conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and erosion of respect for international law and norms, among other factors, continue to drive displacement, testing multilateralism and international cooperation like never before.

Environmental challenges and impacts of climate change are adding to the severity of displacement crisis.

The human suffering resulting from displacement challenges, as documented by UNHCR and the wider UN system's reports, is unprecedented, including in situations of foreign occupation.

Consequences for peace, stability, and development are catastrophic. Some regions are more affected than others.

The OIC also condemns the forced displacement of Palestinian from their homeland and calls upon international community to support efforts support for the establishment of a sovereign, independent, contiguous Palestinian state on the 1967 lines with East Jerusalem as its capital and that two-State solution is the only viable solution to reach peace and stability in the region for all. We reaffirm that there is no alternative to UNRWA's mandate in providing assistance and support to Palestinian refugees and stresses the importance of ensuring adequate and sustainable funding to enable the Agency to fulfil its responsibilities.

Chairperson,

While millions displaced around the world are in need of humanitarian assistance, the gap between needs and available resources is widening.

The UNHCR's budgetary trends over the past few years are not encouraging. Nor is the reported suspension or decline in third country resettlement programmes and complementary pathways.

The OIC believes that low and middle-income countries, including the OIC member states, which host 68 % of the world's refugees, continue to bear the main brunt of displacement challenges, shouldering a disproportionate share of the responsibility - often at a huge socio-economic and financial costs to their own societies and national systems, sometimes for decades.

This is not sustainable.

Excellencies,

The OIC, therefore, remains of the firm view that it is imperative to strengthen meaningful international cooperation, based on the principle of burden and responsibility sharing, taking into account different capacities, circumstances and challenges faced by host countries. Words and commitments must be matched by practical actions at all levels.

UNHCR should also make every possible effort to strengthen and scale up its response to support the people of Syria and Lebanon.

On Sudan, while the OIC welcomes the return of more than 5.4 million people to their areas of origin and to Sudan, the largest return influx globally, amid improved security and restored stability in large parts of the country, the OIC calls for increased and long-term development support to sustain these returns. The OIC also reaffirms its support for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sudan.

Expressing deep concern over the deteriorating plight and continued persecution of the Rohingyas, we call upon the international community to create conditions for the safe, and voluntary return of all forcibly displaced.

The OIC would like to emphasize five priorities:

- First, the international community must intensify efforts to address **the root causes of displacement,** including by investing more and meaningfully in preventing and peacefully resolving conflicts, and addressing other underlying drivers of forced displacement, including foreign occupation, economic inequality and the impacts of climate change.

- Second, we call for more and practical **support for and solidarity with refugee transit and host countries.**

- Third, international efforts must be redoubled to advance **durable solutions to displacement,** including dignified and safe return of displaced people, as well as expanded access to third country resettlement. Such ongoing efforts must be facilitated by sustainable reintegration and meaningful international support to countries of origin, including in Afghanistan.

- Fourth, the international community must **provide adequate, predictable,** timely and flexible resources to UNHCR, as well as to other humanitarian organizations.

- Fifth, the **relevant reform and efficiency efforts**, including those under the UN80 and the Humanitarian Re-set, should strengthen UNHCR's ability to deliver on its mandate more efficiently and effectively. It is equally important to ensure equitable geographical representation in the staff composition of UNHCR.

The OIC also takes note of the High Commissioner's 50 by 35 vision and hopes that it would promote durable solutions to displacement in a manner that does not place additional burden on host communities and countries.

Thank you.