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## **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

### **Executive Committee**

**71<sup>st</sup> session**

### **Item 3. General Debate**

#### **Statement**

**delivered by Amb. Vaqif Sadiqov, Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

**5 October 2020**

Distinguished Chair,

Honourable High Commissioner,

I have the honour to deliver this Statement on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The NAM Member States express their support to the UNHCR for its global humanitarian role, within the context of its mandate, in addressing the problem of refugees with a view to achieve durable solutions, including through their voluntary return in safety and with dignity.

We acknowledge the activities of UNHCR in protecting refugees and assisting the Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities.

The NAM Member States reiterate their deep concern over the rising number of cases involving flow of refugees. This concern was also expressed at the Summit of Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku last year, when the Heads of State and Government of NAM took a specific focus on the global problem of refugees through addressing different conflict and disaster-driven displacement cases around the world and urging the international community to shoulder its responsibility and to render assistance to refugees and hosting communities.

In the presence of large-scale refugee movements and protracted refugee situations around the world, the NAM Member States are of the view that the measures to alleviate the sufferings of refugees and forcibly displaced persons must be accompanied by dedicated efforts of the international community, in particular at the time of current challenges posed by global pandemic of Covid-19.

In this connection, we would like to inform that the Task Force in response to Covid-19 was established at the NAM Summit held on 4 May this year in Baku. The goal of the Task Force is the elaboration of the database on basic humanitarian and medical needs and requirements of NAM Member States, for submitting them to donor countries, international humanitarian organizations and other related entities. At that meeting, NAM Member States recognized also that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic. In this regard, the database of the NAM Task Force is expected to serve the most urgent needs of the Member States and by doing so to contribute also to refugees and hosting communities in those countries.

Mr. Chair,

While refugees continue to be the cornerstone of the work of UNHCR, we recognize the Agency's engagement and assistance for the protection of internally displaced people through coordination with concerned States. The NAM reaffirms that States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons in situations of armed conflict, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity and to ensure respect, protection, fulfilment and restoration of their human rights. In this regard, any measures that prevent the expelled population from returning to their homes, in particular illegal settlement policies and practices should be avoided.

Mr. High Commissioner,

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement I would like to reassure you of the support of the NAM to the noble work carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its readiness to explore options for further development of cooperation with the UN Refugee Agency.

I thank you.