



Statement

by

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Counsellor**

**at the
Third Committee**

**Item 64: “Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees,
questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons
and humanitarian questions”**

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***Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017***

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to thank the High Commissioner for his report and presentation. We share the deep concern expressed about new and protracted situations of forced displacement, and the disproportionate share of low and middle income countries in hosting more than 84% of the refugees worldwide.

In 2016 alone, more than 65.6 million people were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, or other situation of violence.

Let us be clear: this should not become “the new normal”, which requires an update of our methods of work, but this should rather always be considered as exceptional emergency situations that require our full mobilization and solidarity, no matter how big, protracted, recurrent, or widespread these situations are.

Mr. Chairman,

No country or region can address the current global forced displacement crisis on its own. We need to work together, while keeping at the heart of our response both refugees and host communities.

Burden and responsibility sharing remain fundamental principles in addressing the consequences of forced displacement while sustainable solutions to refugee situations need to address, first and foremost, the root causes of their displacement.

Furthermore, the specific context of each situation should be appropriately taken into consideration. For example, Lebanon as enshrined in its constitution cannot be a country for resettlement.

Lebanon reaffirms the need to make the return of displaced persons and refugees one of the chief priorities in the commitment for durable solutions.

Mr. Chairman,

With more than 1.2 million registered Syrian refugees, and more than 400 thousand Palestinian refugees living in camps across the country for more than seven decades, Lebanon remains the country with the highest ratio in the world of refugees both per capita and per sq./km.

This mass influx of refugees has affected my country at almost all levels, overstressing its already limited capacities, and threatening its social, economic, and financial stability as well as its security.

Based on our national experience, and the challenges we face, we cannot but reaffirm the need for a global shift in the humanitarian assistance approach.

As positively noted in the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the engagement of development actors in addressing displacement and its impact on host communities gathered pace, and there was indeed more focus on the need to strengthen national services such as health care and education in order to assist host countries in accommodating the basic needs of refugees.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, we are at a crossroads, as there is an increased global awareness on the need to turn into action our calls for burden and responsibility sharing, and transform expressions of solidarity into practical policies and mechanisms.

In conclusion, despite the immense challenges on its resources, stability and security, Lebanon reiterates its commitment to the principles of human rights and international humanitarian law.