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**Statement by the Government of Finland  
Delivered by Ms. Terhi Hakala, Permanent Representative of Finland,  
Geneva**

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Mr. Chair, High Commissioner, Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman.

Finland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Finland commends the UNHCR, its staff, and its partners for their continuing and tireless efforts in ensuring protection and seeking solutions for refugees and other persons of concern.

The global humanitarian situation remains critical and constantly reminds us of the remarkable **contribution of host countries and communities** in welcoming and accommodating the displaced. Once again, we would like to express our appreciation and recognition of their vital role, especially in protracted situations.

Finland is committed to the implementation of **the Global Compact on Refugees**. The first **Global Refugee Forum** in December is an opportunity for all of us to demonstrate support for greater burden sharing. As protection

and **resettlement** needs continue to grow, a greater commitment to ensuring the safety and security of refugees is needed. Finland welcomes the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways. In line with the strategy, Finland remains committed to its high-quality resettlement program and will increase the refugee quota for the coming years. We have a decades-long tradition of resettling refugees within our quota system, including emergency cases. We prioritize the resettlement of persons in vulnerable situations, such as families with children and single women.

In Finland, the state, together with civil society, plays an active role in integrating refugees. This multistakeholder and comprehensive approach, including community volunteers, is central and it can be considered best practice in facilitating the process. We are committed to further developing the program and ensuring that each individual is given an opportunity to access education and find work and this way benefit from greater social inclusion.

Finland is party to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. We also acceded to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons more than fifty years ago. We are committed to the prevention and reduction of **statelessness**; it is one of the aims of our Citizenship Act. Finland pledges to continue its efforts for the general avoidance of statelessness.

Finland welcomes the new policy on UNHCR's engagement in situations of **internal displacement**. We appreciate UNHCR's commitment to greater inclusion of internally displaced persons in its activities. Finland in particular wishes to highlight the guiding consideration of UNHCR being accountable

to all those that you serve, by using an **age, gender, disability and diversity** lens.

**Disability inclusion** is a priority for Finland. We welcome UNHCR's efforts to enhance inclusive humanitarian action and the appointment of a disability advisor.

Finland follows closely UNHCR's transformation process that includes the implementation of **decentralization and regionalization** approaches. We welcome the decision to move responsibility closer to the point of delivery. At the same time, we highlight the importance of **improving integrity and accountability** within UNHCR's operations. The complex environment in which many of the operations take place requires a high level of trust between the UNHCR and its partners. This includes proactive and timely information sharing about, among others, suspected cases of mismanagement.

Mr. High Commissioner,

UNHCR remains a valued partner for Finland and currently the biggest channel for our humanitarian aid. We recognize UNHCR's important work while both increasing needs and a difficult political climate add to the challenges we all face.

We are especially concerned about the growing violations of international humanitarian law. Attacks and deliberate violence on civilians and aid operations are hampering the distribution of humanitarian assistance in

many countries. This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. On this occasion, we want to highlight the importance of the safeguarding and enhancing humanitarian action and international humanitarian law. By doing so, we will continue to support the primary purpose of UNHCR to safeguard the rights and protection of refugees.

Thank you.