



**Statement of Ambassador Nassima Baghli
Permanent Observer of the OIC
at the 70th session of the UNHCR Executive Committee
9 October 2019- Geneva**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The world is witnessing these last years unprecedented movements of forced displacements due to several factors notably conflicts, occupation, rejection of minorities, natural disasters, climate change, ...

OIC countries have the particularity of often being countries of origin, destination and transit.

They are generously hosting huge numbers of refugees despite their modest resources and their own domestic challenges.

During the last OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abu Dhabi in March 2019, the Ministers "called upon the international community to ensure that equitable burden-sharing is achieved on the ground, particularly since most of refugees in OIC countries are hosted by low-income countries".

The OIC value very much its cooperation with UNHCR.

Both institutions organized a workshop in Amman in April 2018 on the Comprehensive Response Framework in the lead up to the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees.

The OIC supports the Global Compact on Refugees and hopes that its first meeting due to be held in few weeks in Geneva will constitute an efficient platform to demonstrate the international solidarity through concrete actions.

Mister Chairperson,

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is also doing its best to bring its contribution to alleviate the hardships faced by refugees.

It has always underscored that there is a need to address the Humanitarian and Development nexus. Climate change has made this nexus even more complex.

The OIC Ministers of Environment who met last week in Rabat noted that "Historically the share of OIC countries in greenhouse emissions and global warming has been negligible, still, the countries are among the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change".

In the Horn of Africa in general, we are witnessing the impact of climate change on already precarious situation.

In Somalia, the OIC is reinforcing its office there in order to better organize its humanitarian activities and support the 2020 Road Map for Peace, Stability and Security in this country.

In Niger, the OIC is in the process of transforming its Humanitarian Office into a regional one to better embrace the multifaceted and cross regional realities this region is facing.

In Yemen, in coordination with the Yemeni government, OIC is seeking to resume the work of its humanitarian office to provide assistance to IDP's. Regarding this same country, OIC is planning to provide grants to some Yemeni students to pursue their studies in OIC Member States.

As to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, the Islamic Solidarity Fund is providing them food and non food items besides the donations made by the OIC Member States on an individual basis.

Mister Chairperson,

On the issue of Statelessness, the efforts deployed by UNHCR are commendable. We just saw during this Excom session the interest States are according to this matter and the actions some of them are already taking to reduce the number of stateless people in the world.

The "I belong campaign" has been very efficient and we hope that by 2024, it will deliver its promise.

On this same issue of statelessness, we cannot but think about the Rohingya people and other minorities in Myanmar who were forced to flee their own country because of the violence and blatant discriminations they were subjected to.

The issue of statelessness is at the root of the plight that they are enduring for many generations.

We hope that the government of Myanmar will repair this injustice inflicted to large part of its population and take swiftly the necessary actions to allow them to return to their country.

I thank you.