

Country: Switzerland

Committee: (UNHCR) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Promotion and protection of human rights in the situation of human trafficking

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Honorable delegates,

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an agency that plays a crucial role in ensuring the protection and well-being of millions of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, and other forcibly displaced individuals worldwide. Switzerland recognizes the critical importance of the work undertaken by UNHCR and is committed to supporting its efforts in every possible way.

Switzerland has a long-standing tradition of providing protection to refugees, dating back to the 19th century when it offered asylum to political refugees fleeing persecution in Europe. Today, Switzerland remains committed to upholding its obligations under international law and to providing protection to those in need.

As a founding member of the UN, Switzerland supports the work of UNHCR and recognizes its unique mandate to protect refugees, stateless persons, and other forcibly displaced individuals. Switzerland has been an active participant in the work of UNHCR, providing financial and technical assistance, hosting refugees, and supporting the agency's efforts to find durable solutions to the challenges faced by refugees.

Switzerland recognizes the importance of providing refugees with access to education, healthcare, and other basic services. In this regard, Switzerland has supported UNHCR's efforts to provide education to refugee children and to ensure that refugees have access to healthcare services. Switzerland has also supported the UNHCR's efforts to promote self-reliance among refugees, by providing vocational training and livelihood opportunities.

Switzerland is committed to working with UNHCR to find effective solutions to the challenges facing refugees and other forcibly displaced individuals. This includes supporting UNHCR's efforts to find durable solutions, such as resettlement, voluntary repatriation, and local integration. Switzerland recognizes that the global refugee crisis requires a collective response and is committed to working with the international community to find solutions.

Switzerland has also provided financial support to UNHCR, both through direct contributions and through its support for the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). In 2021, Switzerland provided CHF 161.6 million to UNHCR, making it one of the agency's largest donors. Switzerland has also provided funding to UNHCR's emergency response efforts, including in response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

In addition to its financial support, Switzerland has hosted refugees for many years. As of 2020, there were approximately 130,000 people of concern to UNHCR in Switzerland, including refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons. Switzerland has a well-established asylum system and provides protection to those who need it. Switzerland also provides

temporary protection to individuals who cannot return to their country of origin due to conflict or other situations of violence.

Switzerland recognizes that the global refugee crisis requires a comprehensive and coordinated response, and is committed to working with UNHCR and other partners to find solutions. Switzerland encourages other countries to join in this effort and to support UNHCR's work in every possible way.

In conclusion, Switzerland recognizes the critical importance of the work undertaken by UNHCR and is committed to supporting its efforts in every possible way. Switzerland will continue to work with UNHCR and other partners to find effective solutions to the challenges facing refugees and other forcibly displaced individuals. We encourage all countries to join in this effort and to support UNHCR's work in every possible way.

Thank you.