



MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR ET DES OUTRE-MER

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High-level Forum on legal pathways to protection

Session 1: Resettlement and humanitarian admission - Working together for providing protection in times of crisis and building resilient programmes

➤ Intervention by Mrs Clémence OLSINA, Director of Asylum, Ministry of the Interior, France

- Mrs Commissioner, Mr High Commissioner, Ministers,
- Thank you very much for giving me the floor today on behalf of the French Minister of Interior, Mr Darmanin, who expresses his deep regrets for not being able to attend this Forum today. I would like to emphasize the primary importance the French government attaches to the development of legal pathways to protection in the context of growing needs in this regard.
- The French high authorities, including our President, had the honour of recently receiving Mr Grandi in Paris and recalled their strong attachment to their close partnership with HCR and their commitment in developing different types of legal routes to our territory.
- The Resettlement program remains of course a priority in this regard. This year, in the context of the war in Ukraine and the return to an unprecedented level of asylum applications, we are proud to have resettled more than 2,500 refugees and to have welcomed, since the takeover of Kabul, other 10 000 Afghans in urgent need of protection. Next year, France will remain fully committed through the resettlement of 3,000 refugees while being mobilised also in the implementation of the European solidarity framework Member States agreed last June under the French Presidency and with the important support, of course, of the European Commission.
- In addition to these commitments, France has remained fully mobilized through its national asylum visas scheme, which over the last 10 years has benefited to more than 15,000 people, and in particular during the last years to Syrian and Afghan people.
- France is also working at developing complementary pathways. We have renewed last year humanitarian corridors for Syrian refugees with Lebanon in partnership with the Community of Sant Egidio, and we launched, this year, a new university corridor scheme, in partnership with HCR, in order to allow young refugees to pursue their university studies in France.
- Last but not least, France is particularly honoured by the perspective of co-sponsoring, with other countries of different parts of the world, the next World Refugee Forum that will be held by HCR next year. It is of course an illustration of our attachment to global solidarity to vulnerable displaced people, and also an important occasion to promote the diverse forms of legal pathways as an important component of a more resilient migratory policy, at national and European level.
- Thank you very much for your attention.