



**Statement by Sri Lanka  
at the Pledging Conference 2018  
of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
5 December 2017**

Mr. Chairperson, High Commissioner, and distinguished delegates

At the outset, Sri Lanka would like to thank the High Commissioner and the UNHCR for the informative presentation on the UNHCR's plan for the year 2018, and its financial requirements. We note that the Global Appeal 2018-2019 by the UNHCR presents the requirement of financial resources that amounts to USD 7.508 billion for 2018 and USD 7.352 billion for 2019, to protect and improve the lives of millions of people, including refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, stateless people, and others of concern. We acknowledge the compelling needs for enhanced financial resources in order to effectively service all the four-pillars of the UNHCR mandate related to refugees, stateless people, IDPs and reintegration of returnees.

We note that the majority of the budget requirements are for the field operations on providing for the basic humanitarian needs and essential services of persons of concern, including in providing health, nutrition, water, sanitation, shelter and education for them. In a context, that mass displacement across the world continues to grow, the challenges faced by the UNHCR in meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable communities and providing them with durable solutions, are further intensified. We understand that the responsibility entrusted to the UNHCR following the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants by the UN General Assembly to build a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework to develop a Global Compact on Refugees will also require substantial human and financial resources.

Sri Lanka appreciates the assistance it received from the UNHCR in the resettlement process of IDPs and returnees in the provision of shelter, livelihoods and basic household items and let me also value UNHCR's continued close cooperation with Sri Lanka.

In recognition of the valuable contribution of the UNHCR in ensuring the protection of people in need, on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I am pleased to pledge a modest un-earmarked voluntary contribution of USD 15,000 towards the UNHCR Global Appeal 2018-2019.

In conclusion, I wish to convey the appreciation of the Government of Sri Lanka for the tireless efforts and leadership of you Mr. High Commissioner, and your dedicated team, towards accomplishing UNHCR's mandate, and Sri Lanka assures you, its cooperation in your endeavours.

I Thank You.