



PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL STATEMENT

High-Level Side Event

Commemorating 75 Years of the 1951 Refugee Convention

Wednesday, 23 September 2026, 10:00-11:30 AM (New York time),
ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Excellencies, colleagues,

The Philippines joins delegations in commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. We commend UNHCR, States, partners, for their continued efforts to advance protection, assistance, and durable solutions.

We remain deeply concerned by the scale and persistence of displacement affecting millions worldwide. These crises reaffirm the centrality of international cooperation, solidarity, and responsibility-sharing in sustaining the refugee protection regime.

Since 1923, the Philippines has upheld a proud tradition of providing refuge. Our historic “open door” policy reflects a century-long commitment to international solidarity. For us, refuge must go beyond providing safety: it must empower refugees to rebuild their lives with dignity, self-reliance, and pursue their aspirations.

We continue to translate this tradition into action. Through the Complementary Pathways Program (or CPath Program), now in its fourth year, the Philippines, together with UNHCR, Pathways Pilipinas, and other partners, provides young refugees with opportunities to pursue higher

education and build new futures. This reflects our whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to refugee protection.

It is in this spirit that the Philippines is proud to co-sponsor this High-level Panel Discussion.

The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to the Refugee and Statelessness Conventions, and stands ready to work with UNHCR, States, and partners to advance a protection regime that delivers protection, dignity, and credible and durable pathways toward lasting solutions.

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