

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Delegates,

Thank you so much for joining us here today for HAMUN 52. Your time at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Committee has begun! My name is Zahraa Awad, and I am your Chairperson for HAMUN 52.

I found my love of Model UN through my interests in International Affairs and in how government decisions impact people across the globe. With Model UN, I have come to understand just how important a person's perspective can be. A single crisis can be viewed entirely differently depending on which country a delegate represents, the resources that country may or may not possess, and, most importantly, the lives of the individuals whose decisions were made for their benefit. One reason I was extremely interested in serving as Chair of the UNHCR Committee this year is that we will focus on two major components of the Global Refugee System. We will focus on strengthening the international response to the Sudan refugee crisis and addressing the humanitarian funding crisis that is currently limiting humanitarian organizations' ability to protect refugees. These two resolutions pose many difficult questions regarding responsibility. Who is accountable for ensuring the safety of over a million displaced people? In addition to accountability, many questions remain about how to distribute the burden among countries equitably. Finally, what happens when humanitarian organizations cannot provide sufficient services to the populations they are attempting to assist due to a lack of funds?

When participating in this committee, I would like you to go beyond merely speaking from your government's position. I encourage you to consider why your country is taking a particular stance; what level of responsibility it is willing to assume in helping resolve these crises; and, finally, where compromises may exist within the realities of international politics and the human implications thereof.

Finally, please remember to enjoy yourself during this experience. It is okay to speak out even if you feel nervous; make new friends and take risks with your ideas. I am looking forward to meeting each of you and observing where you take this committee!

Sincerely,

Zahraa Awad,

Chairperson of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Committee,

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