Canada National Statement

ECOSOC HAS 2022
Mr. Chair / Madame Chair,

In 2021, we demonstrated the true value of multilateralism and strength of a unified international community. Through our collective efforts, we overcame multiple challenges and supported the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to 107 million crises-affected people.

This year is equally challenging, as the compounding impacts of conflict, large-scale forced displacement, climate-related disasters and COVID-19, continue to propel humanitarian need.

With the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945, millions suffer human rights abuses and widespread violations of international humanitarian law (IHL). From Ukraine to sub-Saharan Africa to the Middle East, attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure -- hospitals, schools, water and sanitation systems -- is causing death, injury, mental suffering and displacement. Women and girls face conflict-related sexual violence, exploitation and abuse.

Russia’s unjustifiable attack on Ukraine has had repercussions far beyond its borders and dealt a devastating blow to food security: the combined effect of food and fuel price hikes attributable to that war are straining the global humanitarian system – increasing the numbers of acutely food insecure people, severity of hunger and operational costs of humanitarian action. This is exacerbating the continued pressures of climate change, including drought and flooding.
Attacks on aid workers is directly affecting their ability to deliver life-saving assistance, while obstructions to humanitarian access is shrinking the space required for impartial humanitarian actors to operate safely and efficiently. In short, our shared responsibility to strengthen international norms and best practices for more effective and efficient humanitarian responses is as urgent as ever.

To address these, first, we must remain resolute in our advocacy for better IHL compliance. We owe it to those who have been killed, injured, and displaced by unlawful attacks, to take every practical measure to ensure that parties uphold their IHL obligations, to protect civilians and civilian objects, humanitarian workers and facilitate humanitarian access.

We must make every effort to leverage our trusted partnerships, including financial, military and diplomatic support, to encourage effective implementation of IHL by our state and non-state partners.

Perpetrators must be held to account, including through prosecution at institutions such as the International Criminal Court.

Second, the growing number of people in need requires us to reflect how to utilize our limited global resources in more effective and efficient ways. We must advance innovative ways of approaching humanitarian assistance. We must continue to invest in anticipatory action to blunt the effects of crises before they occur. We must ensure more coordination and complementarity with development and peace-building actors – to more effectively address the root causes of humanitarian crises and the sustainability of our interventions.
To support our efforts on climate change, Canada has doubled its international climate finance commitment to $5.3 billion over the next five years.

Third, embracing and expanding locally driven responses. We must promote feminist approaches, shifting power and leadership to local and national communities—specifically those led by women. In this regard, Canada has increased its investment in Country Based Pool Funds, which allow us to support local actors, and increase the representation of women led organisations in leadership positions. As 2021-22 co-chair of the Pooled Fund Working Group we have worked with OCHA and others to ensure the funds are fit-for-purpose and help us advance our shared priorities.

Fourth, in line with Grand Bargain and Good Humanitarian Donorship principles, we remain committed to providing predictable and flexible humanitarian financing that allows our partners to respond strategically to increasingly protracted crises, and effectively react to new and evolving situations.

In 2021, Canada provided 80% of its funding in flexible and quality humanitarian funding, to support humanitarian responses around the world.

Canada continues to engage diplomatic, bilateral and multilateral tools at our disposal to encourage scrupulous IHL compliance, including as part of the G7.

We are actively engaged in the promotion of reforms to the humanitarian system. For example, Canada participates in the Informal Advisory Group to the Grand Bargain Caucus on Quality Funding. Through international cooperation, we can achieve more. Canada stands ready.