

PIDC Regular Annual Meeting National Security and Refugee Protection

‘Protecting Human Rights and State Interests Together’

UNHCR Multi-Country Office Canberra

Thursday, 27th June 2024

UNHCR's Mandate and Role

- UNHCR was **founded by states**.
- Respect for state sovereignty and **national security** is embedded into UNHCR's role.
- UNHCR works to **protect and assist** asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless people.



The Character of Asylum



- Access to asylum is **life-saving** for refugees fleeing persecution, conflict and insecurity.
- Asylum is of a **humanitarian, peaceful and civilian character.**
- Maintaining the **integrity** of asylum systems is essential to protect those in need.

Achieving National Security & Refugee Protection

Refugee protection and national security are **complementary**.

**Case
Processing**
Screening
Registration & RSD

**Refugee
Convention &
Other Legal and
Procedural
Safeguards**

**International
and Regional
Cooperation**

Good Practice Examples

- Fiji continues to enhance its **asylum system**.
- Fiji upholds **key protection legal standards** in a spirit of hospitality and friendship while also safeguarding **national security**.



Good Practice Examples

- **Solomon Islands** is expanding its asylum framework.
- Solomon Islands is taking **preparedness** measures to integrate protection considerations into a robust and comprehensive border management system.



Recap

- Refugee protection and national security are **complementary**: effective asylum and immigration systems integrate both.
- Asylum is of a **humanitarian, peaceful** and **civilian** character.
- UNHCR remains available **to support State measures** to ensure their national security, while extending protection to genuine refugees.



Refugees are fleeing persecution, conflict and violence: they are survivors, not perpetrators.



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Tagio Tumas!