



UGANDA Solidarity Summit on Refugees

Translating New York Declaration Commitments into Action
22nd – 23rd June, 2017



Co-Chairs' Summary Report Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees Translating the New York Declaration Commitments into Action 22nd -23rd June, 2017

Introduction

The President of the Republic of Uganda hosted the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees held in Kampala on 22nd-23rd June 2017. The event was co-hosted by the United Nations Secretary General in the presence of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Summit was attended by Heads of State and Government and High-Level Representatives as well as other representatives from national, regional and international organizations. Delegates pledged political, technical and financial support and demonstrated solidarity with the people and Government of Uganda who are providing protection and assistance to refugees in the midst of great challenges.

Ahead of the high-level Summit on 23 June, the co-chairs facilitated, with support from the Office of the Prime Minister and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), four field visits to refugee hosting areas on 22 June to give delegates a firsthand perspective of Uganda's approach to hosting refugees. In parallel, delegates and other stakeholders were invited to six thematic side events to discuss a range of issues around Uganda's refugee policy and the opportunities and challenges generated through its implementation.

On 22nd June, 2017, six thematic side events and four refugee site visits took place on the margins of the Summit. The scope of each Side Event / Field Visit and the key observations and recommendations that ensued there from, are summarized below.



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Report on Side Events

The Role of Humanitarian and Development NGOs and Civil Society in Addressing the Humanitarian Development Nexus in Supporting Refugees and Host Communities:

This event, which was spearheaded by the Uganda Red Cross Society with the support of Save the Children and OXFAM, attracted around 90 participants. The objective of the discussion was to explore ways to strengthen host communities, local humanitarian actors, Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations (NGOs & CSOs) with a view to developing their capacities to respond to the impact of the large scale refugee movement unfolding in Uganda.

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) highlighted the successes of the Ugandan refugee model which were owed to effective national refugee laws and the application of inclusive development frameworks which jointly underpinned the country's open door refugee asylum policy. It was noted that the model had experienced gaps which could best be addressed through ensuring greater access to sustainable and predictable funding for refugees and their hosts. The importance of empowering local and national actors through strategic investment and implementing the localization agenda was emphasized. The representative of Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD), a national NGO, outlined the pivotal role played by Civil Society Organizations and challenges they faced in establishing partnerships linking them to international actors and access funding support.

The role of host communities as first responders who receive and assist refugees and the need to include them at the inception of programming was underscored. The Country Director of Save the Children shared additional perspectives on how to reinforce resilience. She cautioned that failure to scale up support to Uganda would prove detrimental to the goal of establishing a viable Global Compact on Refugees as



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called for by the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Participants underscored the role of host communities as first responders who receive and assist refugees and the need to include them at the inception of programming. The Country Director of Save the Children shared additional perspectives on how to reinforce resilience. She cautioned that failure to scale up support to Uganda could prove detrimental to the goal of establishing a viable Global Compact on Refugees; as called for by the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted by the UN General Assembly.

The event called for increased funding to be disbursed through local and national actors. The event also highlighted the need for twinning for purposes of mentorship between local and national NGO actors with International NGOs and other International Organizations. National actors, for their part, committed to establish fora to proactively engage with the international community, strengthen their accountability systems and enhance their internal coordination mechanisms. Access to flexible, multi-year funding at the country level was viewed as a key enabler for equitable partnership; and as a means to avoid competition for funding. Participants identified the systematic mainstreaming of the needs of women, children, youth as well as people living with disabilities into planning and programming as a key strategic priority.

Enhancing Development Approaches for Resilience and Self-Reliance of Refugees and Host Communities: Strengthening the Capacity of Local Governments in Uganda:

This event was organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNDP and was attended by over 150 participants. Participants noted that in order to enhance the resilience and self-reliance of both refugees and host communities, there was a need for better coordination from the onset of the emergency phase, towards integrated service delivery to both refugees and host communities. The Side Event provided space to identify and discuss the challenges and opportunities in



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strengthening the capacity of local governments to deliver on development-oriented approaches; whilst supporting the co-existence of refugees and host communities and ensuring that the protection of refugees is assured.

It was also observed that the political commitment and leadership to host refugees was embedded in Uganda's frameworks from the national to local levels. This was reflected by the hospitality displayed by host communities, particularly in refugee affected districts. The structures put in place by the National Development Plan II (NDP II) have provided an enabling environment to pursue the development agenda in a humanitarian context for Uganda that explicitly include refugees support and the implementation of Uganda's refugee laws. In order to ensure asylum space for refugees in Uganda, and to make refugee response programmes sustainable, services, livelihood and infrastructure gaps need to be bridged through providing more, high quality, integrated services. It was recognized that hosting refugees offers economic opportunities. While much has been done by the Government of Uganda despite pre-existing development challenges, local governments still face capacity challenges in implementing integrated services and development programmes which fully incorporate the refugee factor into their planning and budgeting processes.

Against this backdrop, the Side Event recommended that a comprehensive response at the district level needed evidence-based responses to be developed; so as to better understand the impact of refugee hosting on, natural resources and the environment. Scaling up of primary service delivery, enhanced conflict resolution mechanisms and support to better land use and planning, were seen as key areas to be addressed. The imperative to expand livelihood and employment opportunities for the youth in particular, through proven interventions, was also underscored.

The context requires development and humanitarian actors to work together in refugee-hosting settings from the onset of the crisis, to work more closely and innovatively that will entail changing the mind-set and approaches to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus. Participants acknowledged that displacement is a development issue as well as a humanitarian imperative, with its inherent set of challenges, requiring



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new partnerships and increasing coordination. Realizing a sustainable and comprehensive refugee response warrants better coordination from the onset of the emergency phase, towards integrated local development.

The Side Event concluded that local governments need capacity building to fulfil their planning and coordination functions, as well as additional financial resources to ensure inclusive and integrated service delivery and enhanced local development.

Enabling the Private Sector to Support Refugees and Refugee-Hosting Communities:

The event was organized by the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) and attracted 86 participants from a wide array of the private sector. At the outset of the meeting, participants acknowledged that although hosting refugees in Uganda comes at a high cost, it also generated great opportunities for investment. An expected outcome of the Side Event's deliberations was the launch of a dialogue on how the private and public sectors can jointly design and implement innovative concepts and programmes that can contribute to the livelihood of refugees. Additionally the event sought to create opportunities for participants to make pledges towards refugees and host community initiatives in Uganda.

The Side Event agreed that the potential areas for investment were many-fold. The need for the private sector to invest in decreasing vulnerability, through sustainable development, was seen as essential. Access to financing for development infrastructure and investment in refugee hosting districts was seen as a recurrent challenge; but it was acknowledged that the Government is working hard to find solutions. For instance, roads have been constructed in and power extended to most refugee-hosting areas. Uganda's refugee policy was characterized as 'smart' because it ensures that refugees benefit from and contribute positively to local economic activity and growth.



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One challenge raised was the lack of clarity on policies regulating how refugees can access investment capital and the need to explore digital solutions to access financial services. Limited access to education and financial literacy were identified as major hurdles. It was also stressed that capacity building for refugees should aim at developing their employable skills. Engaging political leaders openly on refugee issues while changing the media's negative perception and portrayal of refugees were seen as critical factors to create an enabling environment for private sector engagement and investment. Uganda's production opportunities are vast; but are hampered by lack of capital for refugees. A unique investment climate can be fostered if the private sector joins hands with the Government and NGOs as one developmental force.

Participants confirmed that the Government of Uganda does not perceive the increasing number of refugees as a mere burden; but as an opportunity for growth. The Government has a very conducive policy for investment and businesses involved with the refugees confirmed that they had good profit margins. The Side Event recognized that refugees possess untapped potentials; which could be unleashed by giving them greater opportunities. Northern Uganda was considered by some as a potential area that can yield high returns on investment. Nevertheless, participants felt that Uganda's story had not been well conveyed by the media, including by Uganda's representations in foreign countries, and there should be more effort to present a strong business case for investments in refugee communities as well as public private partnerships. Instead of just being given hand-outs, the private sector was of the strongly-held view that refugees should be offered business and employment opportunities instead.

By way of recommendations, the Side Event proposed that investment opportunities in refugee and host communities are areas that should be capitalized on. Some private companies are already working in tandem with UN Agencies and local government on developing projects in refugee-hosting areas. Encouraging financial inclusion; collaboration between different segments of the private sector on projects involving the refugees; and investment in production of agricultural products by host-communities (such as areas in Arua as pledged by Amri Farms Ltd.) were all presented as good



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practices. World Vision committed to enabling multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships in increasing production and value addition. The Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU) has established a desk to provide financial literacy to refugees and refugee-hosting communities. While the East African Humanitarian Private Sector Partnership Platform (EAHPPP) pledged to set up a sister platform to EAHPPP in Uganda together with PFSU, specifically to support the refugee response. The Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) undertook to ensure that support needed among refugees and host communities are sustained through agriculture, industry and services. Private sector actors called on Government, UN and NGOs to form more partnerships with private sector for support of refugees and host community areas.

Young People are an Asset for Inclusive Sustainable Development of Refugee and Host Communities:

This inter-agency Side Event was initiated by UNFPA and attended by 101 persons. The discussion was driven by youth participation on the panel and by refugee youth sharing their personal testimonies, and sought to showcase gender-sensitive approaches and models on how a youthful refugee and host-population can be turned into an asset for resilience and included in sustainable development for both refugees and hosting communities.

At the conclusion of the event, a Joint Communiqué was presented by refugee youth, the Government of Uganda, humanitarian and development partners; and other relevant stakeholders entitled: '*Young people are an asset for inclusive sustainable development of refugee- and host-communities*'. The Communiqué articulates commitments with respect to refugees and host-communities and to facilitating their access to education, health, economic empowerment and youth participation in peace building. The Joint Communiqué is accessible in its entirety through the following website dedicated to the Solidarity Summit on Refugees:

<http://solidaritysummit.gou.go.ug/content/turning-youthful-refugee-and-host-population-asset-inclusive-sustainable-development-refugee>



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Solidarity: A Route Towards Education for All:

The thematic discussion, which was organized by Save the Children and chaired by Uganda's First Lady and Minister for Education & Sports, Hon. Janet K. Museveni, attracted approximately 80 participants. The Minister for Education & Sports affirmed Uganda's long record of welcoming refugees and the country's progressive and inclusive refugee policy. She further acknowledged the challenge that hosting large refugee populations poses for development in general and for delivering educational services in particular, and called for further support from the international community in order to realize the Government's policy of Education for All.

The Side Event pointed to the fact that nearly 60% of refugees in Uganda are children and that they, along with children from host communities, have a right to education. Refugee children spoke about the importance of education for themselves and their communities as a way of securing prosperity and peace, both for Uganda and the countries from which the refugees fled.

Representatives from Save the Children, UNHCR and DfID Participants acknowledged Uganda's generosity as a refugee-hosting country. They affirmed the critical importance of the international community increasing its support for Uganda, in line with the principle of responsibility sharing agreed in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

During the Side Event discussion, interventions from representatives of Government departments and development partners acknowledged Uganda's commendable approach to refugee management; affirmed the challenges which Uganda faces, especially in delivering quality education. The challenges include inadequate infrastructure, insufficient and unpredictable funding, and the large and growing number of refugee arrivals. Speakers and participants strongly supported the call for significant additional resources to deliver education for both refugee children and children in host communities.



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The Participants characterized the situation in refugee-hosting communities throughout Uganda as nothing short of an “education emergency” with overcrowded classrooms; pupil-teacher ratios commonly in excess of 150:1; few children having access to text books; and, where tents are used, these were excessively hot and dark making them unsuitable as spaces for study. The Side Event stressed that refugee children and communities prioritize education, while refugee children talked about the importance of education in sustaining hope, rebuilding their lives and laying the foundations for prosperity and peace.

The Government of Uganda has responded to the refugee crisis with extraordinary generosity, delivering on its side of the Global Compact to support a more effective response to refugees, including by making education, along with other public services available to refugees. At the same time, the international community’s response to the crisis in Uganda has been inadequate, unpredictable and short term. By way of example, the 2017 Regional Refugee Response Plan for the South Sudan situation has received only 17% of its required funding support at mid-year, and funding for education has been derisory. This scenario has left government and host communities to shoulder the responsibility alone.

The international community was urged do more to deliver on the commitments made in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants; which promises access to quality education to refugee children within a few months of their arrival. Delivering quality learning opportunities to refugees and host-community children was considered as an essential element of the response in Uganda and that sufficient, long-term, and predictable funding must be provided to Uganda as a matter of urgency. This support would be critical to support pre-primary, primary and secondary educational opportunities along with second-chance learning, technical and vocational education and access to Higher Education. *‘Restoring Hope and Rebuilding Futures; A plan of action for delivering universal education for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda’* (a



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blue print which was shared at the Side Event), provided an indication of the level of ambition and support required to achieve this goal.

The participants underscored the urgent need to develop and agree on a strategy to ensure that refugee and host community children have immediate access to quality education. This strategy must be underpinned by a commitment to sufficient, predictable long term financing. The Side Event urged the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait, bilateral donors and the philanthropic and private sectors to commit to fund this strategy. Without the necessary funding, implementation of Uganda's Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy would remain a challenge. Similarly, the promises made in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants would remain unfulfilled; and the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*) would be put at risk.

Building Resilience of Conflict - Affected Communities through Women and Girls' Empowerment:

The Side Event was organized by UN Women and chaired by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, and registered a record number of 125 participants, including the Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda and Assistant Director-General from Norway. The event featured testimonies from youth representatives through an interactive panel discussion with members of the refugee settlements and host communities; including three women and two men.

Several heightened protection risks, associated with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) affecting women, men, girls and boys, were raised. These included the need to recognize that while SGBV affects women and girls disproportionately, men and boys are also affected. Other challenges arising due to SGBV include the lack of access to justice due to lack of physical proximity to courts; related health services; addressing trauma and providing psycho-social support; sexual exploitation and abuse accentuated by lack of livelihood opportunities; child and forced marriages; lack of



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access to education, and the high-rates of High School drop-out among girls, in particular.

Other Participants also highlighted the limited services to address high levels of trauma; lack of opportunities for livelihood creation; limited access to start-up capital and initiatives focused on long term livelihood development; low levels of women's involvement in decision-making; the need to work closely with host-communities; creating opportunities that are sustainable and beneficial for both categories; while the shortage of resources and funding are major challenges across the board. Food security in particular was highlighted as an existential challenge, notwithstanding the willingness of both host communities and Government to assist the refugees.

The panelists identified the following possible solutions: finding a sustainable political solution by addressing the root-causes of conflict; urgently empowering women and girls as an investment for the future; taking a holistic approach to SGBV; recognizing the potential of refugees as peace agents; encouraging investment in innovative and local solutions; identifying positive impacts of refugees and socio-economic transformation; creating opportunities for sustainable livelihood for women and girls; strengthening peaceful co-existence between refugee and host communities and amongst the refugees themselves; the need for integrated service delivery that includes both refugee and host communities; promoting the involvement of men and boys in addressing issues facing women and girls; promoting positive masculinity; taking a longer term, more holistic approach to humanitarian responses; ensuring women's participation in decision-making and leadership at all levels and at all stages by addressing barriers and building capacities; and providing access to education at all levels as key to addressing many issues such as self-reliance, empowerment and protection, the importance of implementing existing international commitments, such as the SDGs; the New York Declaration, including the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF); and related UN Security Council Resolutions.

Report on Field Visits to Refugee and Host Community Sites



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The field visits were led by the Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR in collaboration with national and international partners on the ground

Arua District (Imvepi Refugee Settlement)

The Prime Minister of Uganda, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, the Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E. Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Executive Director of WFP and senior-level delegates from the European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway and United States of America, and high ranking Government of Uganda Officials, accompanied by journalists visited Arua District and had consultations with over 500 refugees. The sites visited included Inyau Primary School, Longaameri Primary School and Imvepi Reception Center. The guests also witnessed food distribution in Imvepi Refugee Settlement and visited several refugee and host community families living in the settlement.

The Field Visit identified a number of significant challenges being faced by the District, including the fact that the area is water – stressed; the need to address key root-causes of environmental degradation; the lack of adequate health facilities and schools; the poor state of the settlement and host-community roads; as well as congested classrooms and the lack of scholastic facilities.

The highlights of the mission included observations shared by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister who pointed out that the Government of Uganda would continue working with all the UN Member States in a bid to address the root causes of the conflict in South Sudan, while the UN Secretary General indicated that he would boost diplomatic efforts to help address the conflict in South Sudan. He further noted that the UN would help mobilize support to assist the refugees and the host communities in Uganda. In addition, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, noted disturbing shortfalls emerging in critical areas of assistance for refugee hosting areas such as food, shelter and education.

Adjumani District (Ayilo Refugee Settlement)



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A delegation led by the 1st, Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business in Parliament, Gen. Moses Ali, and comprised of representatives from Turkey, the World Bank, the Lutheran World Federation, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Hospital in Kampala (IHK), and UNHCR visited Ayilo Refugee Settlement in Northern Uganda.

At the settlement, all organizations operational in Adjumani district and supporting refugee and host-communities were present and briefly updated the visiting delegation on livelihood initiatives supported by their respective organizations. The delegation then visited Adjumani Referral Hospital; Liberty Primary School (Ayilo 2); Ayilo 1 Health Center and Water treatment system; as well as Ayilo 1 market place where they interacted with beneficiaries of income-generating projects run by both refugee and host communities. They also met refugees and local households that are engaged jointly in agricultural activities. The Field Visit observed food and cash-for-food under cash-based distribution intervention processes and, at the school site and base camp, the delegation was greeted by songs, dances and poems performed by school children; as well as by refugee and host community dance groups as part of demonstrating the kind of peaceful co-existence cultural activities that partners are supporting in the settlement.

The delegation heard about the protection and assistance challenges refugees face, including: food shortages due to ration cuts; the lack of a secondary school; inadequate supplies of scholastic materials for ensuring quality education; limited number of teachers and their accommodation; idleness among children / youth completing primary school which, as a result of the lack of a secondary school, forces them to opt for negative coping mechanisms. Other areas of concern in Adjumani resulting from the refugee influx, that were reiterated by the Adjumani District Chairperson, Adjumani District Local Government include environmental degradation; water shortages; inadequate health services including shortage of medicines; dilapidated hospitals; and limited livelihood / income-generating opportunities due to funding shortfalls.



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The Field Visit highlighted the importance of strengthening interventions with a view to increasing access to secondary education through construction of secondary schools; provision of scholastic materials and books; securing enough teaching personnel; strengthening the capacity of health facilities through qualified health personnel; provision of equipment and medicines; improving road infrastructure to facilitate access to services; developing and implementing sustainable food security and livelihood programs benefiting both refugees and the host communities; improving the water supply system; and the need to introduce irrigation as a mechanism to improve agricultural production to improve prospects for self-reliance.

Isingiro District (Nakivale Refugee Settlement)

UNHCR and humanitarian and development partners in Nakivale Settlement facilitated the visit. The multi-entity delegation included representatives of the Government of Uganda, led by the Hon. Minister of State for Internal Affairs, state parties representatives included Austria, Australia, Somalia and UAE, UN representatives from UNHCR and FAO, as well as delegates from the OECD, Cyan Foods International, and district officials. The delegation visited Nakivale Refugee Settlement, including the secondary school, the Government Bio-Metric Refugee Registration Centre, a food distribution point and the Vocational Training Centre (VTC).

Findings from the Field Visit revealed that many refugees were not receiving food vouchers and had concerns about food ration cuts; that there was an inadequate water supply; and that the road network servicing the host community and refugee settlement was poor. The high refugee population is exerting pressure on limited available resources and services, leading to competition and challenges to peaceful co-existence. The priority interventions identified as responses include tarmacking of roads and improving small access roads in the host-community and the settlements; providing water for agricultural irrigation to boost food security; increasing funding to address water and food challenges; and funding for alternative livelihoods and other social services and secondary school education.

Kampala Urban Refugees



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The delegation that took part in a visit to urban refugees was comprised of representatives from 15 countries including Canada, DR Congo, Denmark, Ireland, Finland, Rwanda, South Korea, Spain, Uganda, UAE and Zambia, together with delegates from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), PLAN, WFP and UNIDO. The delegation was received by the Minister of State for Kampala and Local Government officials. They visited Nsambya Primary school in which 20 percent of students are refugees and refugee children are educated alongside children from the Ugandan host community as part of their inclusion in Uganda's Universal Primary Education (UPE) policy. They also visited a refugee community centre, where they witnessed a range of refugee livelihood and social service activities. They interacted with refugee groups, including community leaders, business leaders, community associations and the youth. Delegates were highly impressed by Uganda's inclusive refugee policy.

It was recommended that in order to sustain such an inclusive refugee environment, more resources were required to ensure that refugees live dignified, productive lives whilst living in asylum. The lack of livelihoods and job opportunities in Kampala, compounded by poor living conditions, placed urban refugees at heightened protection risks. Financial assistance was deemed to be required urgently; in order for refugees to make the most of their freedom to work and start businesses as enshrined in Uganda's refugee policy. The delegation heard that more refugee community centres should be established to support urban refugees.

High-level Summit

On 23rd June 2017, the Summit was officially opened with a short video on Uganda's progressive refugee model¹, a presentation of "refugee voices" by refugees living in Uganda, and a cultural performance by a Ugandan dance group.

¹The video is available on the UNHCR Uganda Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNHCRuganda/videos/154755915069892/>



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The Opening Ceremony was chaired by **Hon. Sam KahambaKutesa**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda. In addition to the co-hosts, **H.E. Mr. FilippoGrandi**, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, **the Rt. Hon. Dr. RuhakanaRugunda**, Prime Minister of Uganda, **Mr. James Leku**, District Chairperson of Adjumani District, Local Government representing Refugee-Hosting Districts and **Ms. HindiyoAbdulkadir**, a Refugee Representative addressed the Summit.

The Opening Session of the Summit

Hon. Sam KahambaKutesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda and moderator of the main event, recalled that on 19 September 2016, World Leaders agreed the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants that expresses political will to save lives and share responsibilities for refugees. He noted that Uganda has shouldered this duty towards refugees over the last 50 years. He observed that the visit of the UN Secretary-General was a sign of solidarity, and hoped that it could translate into tangible support towards addressing the plight of refugees and host communities in Uganda.

Mr. James Leku, District Chairperson of Adjumani District, Local Government representing Refugee-Hosting Districts, noted that the country is managing one of the world's largest refugee crises despite limited international support, while maintaining Uganda's progressive and generous refugee policy. The scale and pace of the influx has resulted in a number of challenges including food insecurity; limited livelihood opportunities; environmental degradation; increased pressure on existing social services; and deteriorating infrastructure in refugee hosting areas.

He called for urgent interventions to expand investments in new and existing social services, support for short and long term infrastructural development, as well as financial and logistical assistance to local Governments hosting refugees. Other interventions should include environmental restoration, support for integrated food



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security and livelihood programmes, and integrated approaches to conflict prevention, resolution and peace building in the Great Lakes Region. He reiterated the commitment and willingness to receive refugees in the hosting Districts.

Ms. Hindiyo Abdulkadir, a seventeen year old refugee representative, stressed that children are the most affected among the refugees in Uganda; with an alarming number of over 700,000 out of the over 1.2 million refugees currently hosted in the country. She hailed Uganda's refugee policy for enabling children to feel safe and discover hope through education. This was being provided to them free of charge at primary level, while limited scholarships are available to enable them to access secondary, vocational and tertiary education levels.

Nonetheless, she said that the education provided was costly and there were inadequate classrooms, teachers, learning and teaching materials and other supplies needed to provide good quality education. She therefore called upon the international community not to sacrifice refugee ambitions, but secure their future and destiny by extending support to Uganda in her pro-refugee efforts.

The Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister of Uganda, noted that the Solidarity Summit was being held at a time of increasing numbers of refugees in Uganda but decreasing resources to cater for their social and economic needs and those of host communities.

He said that in spite of the constraints, Uganda had maintained an open refugee policy because 'no one chooses to be a refugee, but one is forced to run from danger'. He reminded everyone that "Today it is them, tomorrow it could be us," and reiterated the need for international support to enable Uganda to shoulder this responsibility.

He stressed that the Summit provided an opportunity to make commitments for the implementation of the New York Declaration, and informed the audience that Uganda has launched a comprehensive refugee response framework to implement the



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Declaration. The Rt. Hon. Rugunda stated that Uganda would work with partners to translate the framework into reality.

H.E. Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, praised Uganda for its long history of welcoming refugees and assisting them alongside host communities, and said that it was fitting that Uganda became the first country to apply the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework agreed to by Member States in New York in September 2016.

He went on to highlight the displacement of thousands of South Sudanese refugees in the region – now the fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world - bringing the total number of refugees generously hosted in Uganda to over 1 million and nearly 2 million in the region; with a similar number of people displaced internally in South Sudan. He said this meant that about a third of the entire population of South Sudan has been uprooted by the conflict.

The High Commissioner informed the audience that he had just visited Juba and Bentiu in Southern Sudan and spoken with displaced people, and talked with South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and Northern Uganda, and they had one message - “make peace.” He stressed that addressing the South Sudan crisis required decisive political action, and called upon the region, the international community and the leaders of South Sudan to address the political conflict.

He also commended the Government of Uganda for keeping its borders open and thanked the host communities for their extraordinary generosity in helping refugees, although international financial support was not matching this effort. For example, only 16 percent of the Regional Refugee Response Plan for South Sudan has been funded so far. He cited some of the critical challenges, including alarming malnutrition rates among refugees, declining WFP food rations; and overcrowding in classrooms.

The High Commissioner noted that many elements in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, annexed to the New York Declaration on Refugees and



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Migrants, draw on Uganda's innovative and forward-leaning refugee policy in allowing freedom of movements, access to land, and the inclusion of refugees in the National Development Plan. However, the High Commissioner cautioned the audience that the we cannot take such progressive and generous approaches, nor the hospitality of local communities for granted, and urged that international support must be stepped up to support Uganda and other host countries in responding to the refugee crisis to show that such a model can work.

He stressed that translating principles into action through a comprehensive refugee response would require new models and a broad range of partnerships. This will include the resources and approaches of development partners to support both refugees and host communities in areas such as social and economic inclusion, infrastructure and the environment, while efforts continue to resolve the root causes of displacement in South Sudan and elsewhere.

H.E. Dr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, noted with concern that South Sudan was the biggest exodus that Africa has experienced since the Rwanda Genocide of 1994. He reiterated the urgent need to undertake all efforts to end the war in South Sudan, and commended H.E. President Museveni's role in this regard.

He applauded Uganda for hosting refugees in settlements and not in camps, and for sharing social facilities of host-communities with refugees.

The Secretary-General noted that Uganda remained a symbol of the refugee protection regime that was, unfortunately, not respected in other parts of the world. He added that the international community must recognize this exemplary policy.

He urged the International Community to reinstate respect for refugees and also support Uganda in this challenging situation; noting that international solidarity was a matter of justice and not a matter of generosity.



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He said from the field visits, some of the challenges reported include a student-teacher ratio of 160:1; limited hospital beds; feeding refugees; an overwhelmed labour market; negative environmental impact on host-communities; and climate change impact resulting in drought and food insecurity.

H.E. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, welcomed all delegates to Uganda and this important Summit. He recalled that the people in the Great Lakes Region had been dealing with refugees for millennia. He said that their concept of handling refugees was dynamic and not static like it is today, noting that the idea of permanent refugees is a relatively modern concept.

He contextualized the current refugee situation in the Great Lakes Region from a historical perspective. He noted that it was not difficult for Uganda to absorb or for Ugandans to co-exist with refugees from Africa, because the whole of Africa was comprised of only four linguistic groups that are similar or linked.

Nevertheless, he noted that the large number of refugees presented the following challenges to Uganda: feeding, shelter, energy, water, education and skills acquisition, health, immunization and treatment. He observed that if the international community helped Uganda cope with these challenges, Uganda would be able to manage. The President noted that in order to avoid conflicts with host communities, Uganda's refugee policy discourages migration of refugees away from the gazetted areas, particularly in rural areas where there is a lack of economic diversity. However, refugees who have skills or assets are able to live in urban areas, which are more cosmopolitan than the rural parts of the country.

He stressed that host districts should be rewarded for their generosity through, for instance, construction of social facilities and infrastructure like roads. To that end, he urged UNHCR to work together with the Government of Uganda to lobby for funds for



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construction of humanitarian roads in these communities such as Atiak-Adjumani to Moyo-Yumbe-Koboko in Northern Uganda, and Kabingo-Rugaga-Rakai and Kyegegwa to Kamwenge roads in Western Uganda.

The President informed the delegates that IGAD had been handling the conflict in South Sudan and President Salva Kiir has mandated him to handle some aspects of resolving the crisis. He further noted that the EAC was handling the problem of Burundi, and called upon the leadership of Burundi to be cooperative since the EAC was the guarantor of the Arusha Agreement.

On Somalia, he noted that the Somali leaders must take greater responsibility since the international community has done a lot, and urged the Government there to form patriotic armies to defeat terrorism with help from the international community

He noted that the ideology of sectarianism had to be condemned in Africa, noting that in the 1960s, Uganda rejected the ideology of identity and promoted the movement of patriotism, embraced pan-Africanism against parochialism, which helped to rescue Uganda.

SUMMARY OF PLEDGING STATEMENTS MADE BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS DURING THE SUMMIT ON REFUGEES

1. H.E Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon

H.E. Ali Bongo thanked President Museveni for the excellent opportunity given to him and the warm welcome to Uganda to participate in the Summit. He paid homage to the UN Secretary-General for his achievements on humanitarian support since he assumed his position. He appreciated the people of Uganda, especially H.E. the President, for their generous contribution towards the refugees. He observed that people move because of both man-made and natural calamities like the climate change factors; adding that Africa was fragile and that the situation could worsen in the absence of timely interventions. He advised that, one way of addressing the root causes of



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displacement was through combating climate change, and that it was time to put in place strategies to address this threat. Gabon had made modest contributions as a host country for refugees due to natural calamities; and had also been involved in conflict resolution. He called upon the International community to support the efforts of Gabon as well. He said there was need for mechanisms and International laws to address conflicts in the world; including a monitoring system for conflicts.

2. H.E. Edgar ChaguaLungu of Zambia

H.E. Edgar Lungu expressed his gratitude to the Government of Uganda, the UN Secretary-General and UNHCR for initiating and organizing the Summit. He noted that the Summit presented a great opportunity for expressing solidarity with the refugees and also sharing experiences through a high-level dialogue. Zambia recognized the sacrifices made by the people of Uganda and applauded the model adopted by Uganda to welcome and support refugees. He therefore counseled that Uganda should not be left in this alone; as it requires huge resources to sustain it. Zambia, on her part, reaffirmed its commitment made during the adoption of the New York Declaration to maintain an open door policy for refugees. He called upon the international community to support Uganda. He informed the audience that Zambia was home to 300,000 refugees and was prepared to find durable solutions to the challenge of refugees. He therefore pledged Zambia's support to Uganda through sharing of experiences in handling refugees including in relation to local settlement of protracted refugees. President Lungu informed the delegates that Zambia had enacted a new law, the Refugee Act of 2017, based on the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees, which guarantees a wide range of rights for refugees.

3. H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia

H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi thanked H.E. the President of Uganda, Yoweri K. Museveni, and UN Secretary-General for co-hosting the Summit. He said he had met with the Somali business people living in Uganda who had assured him of the freedoms they enjoyed and the contributions they were making to the Ugandan economy which is a success and a reflection that the refugees are being taken care of in Uganda. He



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observed that Uganda has provided access to social services to refugees and that the same services were also enjoyed by the citizens for which they were grateful, and urge all refugee-hosting countries to grant refugees the same access to social services that their own citizens enjoy, and give refugees a chance to develop themselves.

President Abdullahi acknowledged that Uganda was at the forefront of peacekeeping in Somalia and remained highly indebted to Uganda. He further acknowledged that hosting more than 1.2 million refugees was not easy; and that Uganda was striving to fulfill her international obligations would be difficult to maintain without international assistance. Finally, he said that Somalia intends to fulfill its pledge and commitments made towards rebuilding Somalia.

4. H.E. Alexander De Croo, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium

The Deputy Premier said that he was happy to be part of the Solidarity Summit that is intended to assist Uganda and its people who have not closed their doors or built walls along its borders but rather welcomed refugees. He noted that this was a real humanitarian gesture that needed to be applauded. He therefore wished to share three thoughts with the Summit:

Firstly, that standing in solidarity with refugees who move away from home due to brutal Governments, like Uganda has done, increases costs on Government and there is need for the international community to support the efforts of Uganda. He said that to this end, Belgium through the EU has already committed about 44,000 Euros as support to refugees.

Secondly, delivering humanitarian assistance alone is not sufficient and there is a need to address the root-causes of conflicts in countries like South Sudan. The Government of South Sudan and the opposition should be committed to ending the conflict. In addition, there is a need for the region to play its role and apply pressure on the parties to facilitate and foster real peace and tackle the prevalent impunity as a matter of



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urgency. He called upon the Government of South Sudan in particular to end the conflict so as to bring peace in the country.

Finally, Belgium applauded the generosity of Uganda and called upon the international community to support Uganda's efforts. He called upon the Government of South Sudan to end the conflict so as to bring peace in their country.

5. H.E. Hasabo Mohammed Abdelrahman, Vice President of the Republic of Sudan

He The Vice President expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Uganda, the UN Secretary-General and UNHCR for backing Uganda in supporting refugees; adding that Uganda was a good example on the African continent. He said that Africa was experiencing challenges due to both natural and man-made calamities including political conflicts, and reiterated the need to build peace in Africa. He added that countries should draw from the example of Uganda, change attitudes and welcome and support refugees in their countries. Sudan has been assisting many refugees from Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan, and would remain committed to supporting them within the comprehensive refugee response framework. He called upon the parties in South Sudan to immediately stop the conflict, negotiate and listen to one another because peace could not be brought about through war but through negotiations. He pledged that Sudan would keep its solidarity with Uganda.

6. Rt. Hon. Gaudencio Mohaba Messu, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Equatorial Guinea

H.E. The Rt. Hon. Mohaba Messu conveyed the apologies of the President of Equatorial Guinea who was unable to attend the Summit and pledged to remain committed in solidarity with Uganda and refugees fleeing their countries due to different factors. He hailed the Ugandan refugee model as a very good example for others to emulate. He also advocated for the need to address the root-causes of displacement in Africa. He made a pledge of US\$ 5 Million and also requested the World Food Programme (WFP) to use part of the US\$ 30 Million donation from Equatorial Guinea for human security to



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support the refugees in Uganda. In addition, he pledged the support of Equatorial Guinea towards the short and long-term challenges in managing refugees.

7. H.E. James Wanilga, Vice-President, Republic of South Sudan

H.E. Wanilga conveyed apologies from H.E. President SalvaKiir who was unable to attend and thanked the Government of Uganda for welcoming and hosting the people of South Sudan. He said that he appreciated the challenges of hosting such a large number of refugees, and acknowledged the fact that the conflict in South Sudan has created unprecedented suffering, displacing an estimated 5.5 million people who are in dire need of humanitarian support. He lamented that the South Sudan Peace Agreement had not yielded peace as intended. He informed the Summit that the Government of South Sudan has formed a High-Level Humanitarian Committee composed of political and civil leaders; with a view to addressing the conflict through addressing the challenges of the August 2015 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. He highlighted the major constraints faced by refugees as being poverty, limitation of freedoms and deterioration of the economy of the host country. He suggested the following actions in support of solutions: the need to build the skills of refugees, increase access to loans, utilizing the human resources as assets, improving quality of healthcare services, voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity, and providing legal protection. The Vice-President also called upon the international community to support Uganda in its efforts to assist refugees.

8. H.E. Joseph Butore, Second Vice-President, Republic of Burundi

He The Second Vice-President conveyed apologies from H.E. President Pierre Nkurunziza to the co-hosts of the Solidarity Summit on Refugees. He thanked Uganda for showing solidarity with refugees from Burundi whom he invited to go back home. He informed the Summit that Burundi was now a stable country and castigated detractors who had continued to portray Burundi as a violent country with an imminent threat of genocide. He said that it was important to give refugees accurate information and to enable them to freely decide whether to return home. He said he also hoped that the dialogue mediated by the President of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Museveni, would yield



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peace for Burundi. He appreciated the support from UNHCR towards the refugees and thanked the Summit organizers for the presentation on the voices of refugees.

9. Hon. Abdelkader Messahel, Minister of Foreign Affairs, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs pledged the support of Algeria in supporting refugees who seek asylum in Algeria like Uganda has done. He observed that it was urgent for Uganda to obtain the support of the international community. He noted that Algeria was also a transit country for many refugees and hoped that the solidarity would also be extended to Algeria to be able to provide decent services to the refugees. He reiterated the need to stop conflicts in Africa so that people can live peacefully in their home countries. He appealed to the international community to avail adequate resources to support refugees.

10. H.E. Reem Ibrahim Alhashmy, Minister of State, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Hon. Reem Ibrahim Alhashmy said that the Ugandan model of responding to the plight of refugees was highly commendable and should be emulated. He added that the UAE was deeply concerned about the plight of refugees in the world and pledged US\$ 5 Million in support of Uganda's response to refugees.

11. Rt. Hon. Lord Bates, Minister of State for International Development, the United Kingdom (UK).

The Rt. Hon. Lord Bates expressed the gratitude of the United Kingdom to Uganda for hosting the Summit. He noted that the UK has been supporting Uganda since the 1980s and had so far remitted financial aid of \$122 Million and has recently committed \$15 Million more towards support to refugees. In addition, the UK was currently designing a multi-year programme to support refugees in Uganda. He stressed the need to bring an end to violence and called upon the regional bodies like IGAD to condemn man-made violence in South Sudan that had displaced millions of people and to simultaneously address the root-causes of the conflict through genuine dialogue in



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South Sudan. Lastly, he said that the UK stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Uganda and the UN in supporting refugees and in the pursuit of peace.

12. H.E. XuJinghu, Special Representative of China on African Affairs

H.E. XuJinghu said Uganda's open door policy on responding to refugees needed to be applauded and welcomed the positive contribution of the comprehensive refugee response to the crisis. He stated that China admired Uganda for that and pledged to continue supporting Uganda including through the comprehensive refugee response framework. He observed that the ultimate solution to the plight of refugees is to promote peace and solidarity because the refugee crisis had posed several development challenges to Uganda. China pledged to provide US\$ 500,000 to Uganda for refugee responses. In addition, China pledged to set up a mechanism for corporation in Uganda through which China jointly with the Uganda government shall identify possible humanitarian areas of intervention.

13. Hon. NabuoKishi, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Japan expressed its deepest appreciation to Uganda and the UN Secretary-General for the co-hosting the Summit. He said that Japan is also grateful to Uganda for accepting to host many refugees despite her numerous challenges. Hon. NabuoKishi asserted that Japan places importance on development cooperation and observed that emphasis should be placed on creating self-reliance among refugees while encouraging repatriation to reduce the long-term costs of assisting refugees. He added that Japan has supported Uganda in training refugees.

The Minister reminded the audience that infrastructure development should be key in addressing refugee challenges like the construction of roads and provision of clean water sources, schools and health centers; and that Japan is still consulting on how best to support Uganda in these areas.



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Furthermore, he said that Japan had been supporting local Governments in capacity building and would continue providing such support through their development aid arm, JICA to maximize synergies, and JICA, and had also promoted rice development projects in Uganda. Japan has already provided US\$4 Million and would extend an additional US\$ 10 Million and a medical grant aid. Japan would also ensure steady implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), and support Uganda at the Conference on the Global Compact in 2018.

14. H.E. Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management

H.E. Christos Stylianides stated that the EU held Uganda in humble adoration for the way they handled refugees and that they would continue to support Uganda's efforts towards its refugee response. He observed that while the EU had its own challenges on migration, they were actively supporting Uganda and had previously supported Uganda with over US\$ 800 Million; making the EU a genuine partner regarding support to Uganda. He added that the EU and its Member States had funded over half of the humanitarian aspects of Uganda's needs and that the overall assistance stood at about US\$ 210 Million.

H.E. Christos Stylianides informed delegates that the EU had visited the Invepi Refugee Settlement in West Nile and they were impressed with the response to refugees through the efficient registration system and education, and pledged continued support to Uganda. He said that the EU would launch a development protocol for Uganda since they had re-opened their EU humanitarian development office in Uganda. The EU called upon all parties to respect the outcome of the South Sudan Peace Agreement; adding that the National Dialogue that had been launched had to be transparent and involve all parties. The EU pledged US\$ 85 Million towards the refugee response in Uganda.

15. Hon. Augustine Mahiga, Minister of Foreign Affairs, United Republic of Tanzania



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Hon. Augustine Mahiga noted that the world had now moved from sharing responsibility to solidarity; and that Tanzania wished to borrow a leaf from Uganda in responding to refugees because Tanzania has also been hosting over a million refugees. He said that Tanzania would continue to support Uganda in the form of local capacity building. He appreciated the UN for supporting and standing shoulder to shoulder with Uganda.

16. Hon. Seraphine Mukantabana, Minister for Refugees, Republic of Rwanda

The Rwandan Minister for Refugees, who represented H.E President Paul Kagame, observed that Uganda had a long history of providing asylum to Rwandan refugees with dignity. She observed that hosting the refugees was not an obligation but a duty. She also stated that Rwanda had kept its borders open for all those seeking asylum in Rwanda and currently had about 169,000 refugees. She noted that Rwanda had invited all Rwandan refugees who wanted to return to do so before cessation clause is invoked at the end of the year.

17. Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary for Water and Environment, Republic of Kenya

Hon. Wamalwa appreciated UNHCR for their efforts in supporting refugees in Africa. He saluted Uganda for receiving and supporting refugees with the attendant adverse impact on its resources and environmental degradation caused by the high population numbers; responsibility cannot be shouldered by Uganda alone. He urged the international community to recognize the contribution of Uganda. He declared that in the spirit of the New York Declaration, and in solidarity with Uganda, Kenya pledged to contribute US\$ 200,000 towards the refugee response.

18. H.E. Amb. Deborah Malac, Ambassador of USA to Uganda.

Ambassador Deborah Malac observed that the refugee crisis of South Sudan had reached crisis proportions and needed to be addressed immediately. She said that there was a necessity to address the needs of the refugees themselves in dignity and to support host communities to cope with the increasing numbers of refugees. She



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further observed that a large number of displaced people saw their dignity being affected which called for an immediate stop to the conflict in South Sudan as the main driver of the crisis, adding that this was an imperative that the Government of South Sudan needed to commit to.

Ambassador Malac noted that the international community needed to do more than donors ordinarily do to respond to the humanitarian issues. She said that the US remained committed and intended to announce more resources in the coming months, and called on other donors to meet their unmet funding requirements.

She underscored the need for increased security in the refugee settlements since that was meant to promote their freedom of movement. There is also a need for a lasting political solution to the conflict in South Sudan and she appealed to the influential neighbours of South Sudan to work towards peace in the region. Lastly, she observed that the Summit must not be an end in itself, but rather a continued effort towards addressing the plight of refugees.

19. H.E. Amb. George Schmidt, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Uganda

Ambassador George Schmidt recognized that the Ugandan model of responding to refugees was amazing because, from the German experience, it was indeed difficult to single-handedly shoulder the burden of accommodating a large number of refugees. Uganda's framework was a potential game-changer and Germany stood in support of the process and would stand in solidarity to provide humanitarian assistance for the refugees in Uganda. He noted that Germany had already supported Uganda with over 19 million Euros, with development coordination of 80 million Euros. In addition, Germany was in preparations to support the comprehensive refugee response framework with 40 million Euros and another 30 million Euros would be remitted next year. For the solidarity summit, German pledged 50 million Euros and called upon all to do more to end the crisis in South Sudan.



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20. H.E. John Feakes, High Commissioner of Australia Resident in Nairobi, Kenya

H.E. John Feakes saluted the Government of Uganda for their open door policy in responding to refugees. He pledged the support of US\$ 5 Million from Australia to the UNHCR to assist in their efforts towards effective refugee response and implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework.

21. Ms. HelleThorning Schmidt, CEO, Save the Children

The CEO, Save the Children, applauded the Government of Uganda for having the courage to receive refugees with their compassionate policy and committed to support Uganda. She observed that Uganda has established the conditions to implement a comprehensive refugee response successfully, and if the international community cannot make that work in Uganda it will not make it work anywhere. She observed that funding for education support has been short term and unpredictable, and called on the international community to do better and step up funding. She said that Save the Children is developing a comprehensive plan to further the restoration of hope of refugee children in Uganda; especially the most vulnerable. Lastly she reiterated the need to stop war and seek peace as a solution in South Sudan.

22. H.E. RivoalStephane, Ambassador of France to Uganda

The French Ambassador warmly welcomed the Solidarity Summit as a real opportunity to join forces and address the refugee challenge. She appealed for a sustainable solution to the South Sudan conflict and also recalled the need for a change in mindset. She said that France would work towards creating a conducive environment to ensure participation of the private sector. She observed that the South Sudan conflict was both a political and humanitarian problem and hence the need for peace efforts beyond political level to bring stability in the region. Peace, she said, was not an option. She indicated that she would announce France's contribution as the brand new government settles in.



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23. Amb. Tariq Bin Al-Ansari, Director, International Cooperation, Qatar

Qatar appreciated the efforts of the UN Agencies in addressing the problem of refugees and committed to supporting those efforts. **Ambassador Tariq Bin Al-Ansari** said that Qatar had been providing humanitarian support to Syrian refugees in Belgium and supports all efforts to stop the phenomenon of refugees in accordance with international laws. He said that Uganda deserved more support towards refugees and also appreciated the efforts of Uganda in bringing peace in the region. He noted that Qatar has supported Uganda since the 1970s and so far had provided financial resources amounting to US\$ 20 million. He reaffirmed to the Summit Qatar's commitment that beginning this year, it would start implementing a number of projects in Uganda in the areas of education and infrastructure; which support would total US\$ 12 million.

24. Mrs. Gessouma Minata, Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union (AU) Commission, Addis Ababa

The Commissioner appealed for the need to be inspired by humanity and open our doors to our brothers and sisters in need of a peaceful place to call home. She underscored the fact that the AU had, in 2016, adopted a new approach to humanitarian response to make it more relevant and effective. She informed the Summit that later this year the AU would convene a conference on humanitarian response. The AU pledged to support Uganda's refugee response with US\$ 100,000.

25. H.E. Domenico Fornara, Ambassador of Italy to Uganda

Italy commended the efforts of Uganda in responding to the refugee crisis and noted that the Ugandan model was good. He called upon the humanitarian community to continue to provide humanitarian aid to Uganda for effective refugee response. Italy pledged support of 5 Million Euros of which 2 million Euros would be channeled to UNHCR to provide humanitarian aid in refugee settlements in Arua. They also pledged to provide a soft loan for improvement of healthcare in West Nile region. Italy called for sustained political and diplomatic efforts towards ending the conflict in South Sudan.



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26. H.E. Sara Hradecky, High Commissioner of Canada Resident in Nairobi, Kenya

Canada pledged support to Uganda to the tune of US\$ 36.9 Million, of which US\$ 15 million would be remitted in 2017. H.E. Sara Hradecky clarified that the support would be for improving the livelihoods of refugees from South Sudan and the host communities in Uganda.

27. H.E. Abdullah Fahd Ali Alkahtani, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Uganda

commended Uganda's work with refugees and pledged humanitarian assistance towards providing humanitarian support to intended refugee beneficiaries. Saudi Arabia highlighted the need for sustained peace in Uganda to protect the refugees. The Ambassador underscored the fact that Saudi Arabia has been providing support globally to refugees in Pakistan and Sudan and that, in addition, they were host to close to 2 million Syrian refugees who were not encamped; but had been allowed to join the labour market. Saudi Arabia had previously provided support of US\$ 9 Million to UNDP. They appreciated H.E. President Museveni for hosting refugees and pledged to stand with him in the cause of refugees.

28. H.E. Per Lingarde, Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda

H.E. Ambassador PerLingarde noted that Uganda's refugee response model should be inspirational to others and that more focus was needed on how the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF) could be applied in Uganda. He noted that 86% of the refugees were women and children and they needed to be assisted with interventions that could cater for their specific needs. He called for a political solution to the conflict in South Sudan. Sweden pledged US\$ 27 Million for 2016/2017 to be channeled through UNHCR for humanitarian assistance.



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29. Ms. Kjersti E. Andersen, Director-General for Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Ms. Andersen noted that Uganda's model on refugee response was an excellent model and commended Uganda for it. She noted that the growing number of refugees poses a lot of challenges to Uganda and that South Sudan should be committed to a cease-fire and to find a lasting solution to the conflict. That in response, Norway would contribute US\$ 5 Million to the UN system through the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHope) programme, and pledged support to the refugee solidarity worth US\$ 4 Million towards Refugees in Uganda.

30. H.E. Andreas Melan, Ambassador of Austria to Uganda

H.E. Andreas Melan said that the refugee situation contributes a huge burden to Uganda and Austria, having had a long-standing partnership, and Austria would continue to provide refugees in crisis with assistance in the areas of water and hygiene under the EU support to Northern Uganda. He called on all parties to put an end to the man-made displacement crisis and cautioned that those responsible for human rights violations ought to be held responsible. Austria pledged to support the refugee solidarity appeal with 2 million Euros.

31. H.E. Stephan Schoneman, Director-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

Denmark noted that Uganda has provided a home to refugees from South Sudan and other countries and called for all efforts to make peace in South Sudan. H.E. Stephan Schoneman said that the challenges faced by host communities in Uganda were many, and there was a need to address the plight of refugees together with host communities through a comprehensive refugee response. Denmark had channelled humanitarian support through different international organizations and pledged to devote US\$ 40m over the next year to Uganda. The Director-General called for an immediate end to the conflict in South Sudan.

32. H.E. Henk Jan Bakker, Ambassador of The Netherlands to Uganda



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The Netherlands pledged support worth 5.5m Euros towards refugees in Northern Uganda and expressed their full support to the comprehensive refugee response and the UN's "new way of working."

33. H.E. Park Jong-Dae, Ambassador of South Korea to Uganda

South Korea pledged support of US\$6.5m through UNHCR for improving access to education for girls education. This support was in addition to other support previously extended to Uganda. They pledged to stand in solidarity with Uganda and to continue to provide humanitarian support to Uganda to respond to the plight of refugees.

34. H.E. Ravish Ankar, High Commissioner of India to Uganda

India recognized the steps taken by Uganda in supporting refugees from South Sudan and remained committed to extending support to Uganda to be able to respond to humanitarian needs for refugees and the host communities. India pledged US\$ 1 million for the cause needed to support Uganda's open door refugee policy as the right approach to refugee assistance and wished Uganda peace and prosperity.

35. H.E. SedefYavuzal, Ambassador of Turkey to Uganda

Turkey pledged continued support through overseas development assistance worth US\$ 6.2 Million. The Ambassador also said that Turkey is currently providing protection to over 3.3 million Syrian refugees who are not forced to live in camps. H.E. SedefYavuzal noted that countries sheltering refugees should not be left alone. He added that Turkey had over the last 6 years, provided support to assist refugees in Uganda and that Turkey would continue supporting Uganda's open door policy by opening an office in Uganda. He called upon the Government of Uganda to clear the Memorandum of Understanding so that Turkey can provide humanitarian support to Uganda. Turkey was ready to welcome Ugandan delegations in Turkey for capacity building and experience-sharing on refugee management.



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36. H.E. Javier Garcia de Viedram, Ambassador of Spain to Uganda Resident in Nairobi, Kenya

Spain called for a global response for distinguishing between migrants and refugees; adding that Uganda had provided a model of freedom of movement regardless of nationality. Spain too was one of the EU member countries supporting UNHCR and has allocated 15.3m Euros, with 1.1 million Euros on the bilateral conference on refugees. He noted that abuses of human rights were at the forefront of challenges faced by refugees.

37. H.E. Donal Cronin, Ambassador of Ireland to Uganda

Ireland joined other colleagues to support the Summit on refugees and pledged support worth 9.2m Euros this year and committed an additional 2.3m Euros to Uganda this year in solidarity.

38. Ms. Ramses Malaty, Deputy Head of Mission of Finland

Finland pledged 2.2m Euros towards support for refugee children and persons with disability living in the refugee settlements.

39. Ms. Diarietou Gaye, Uganda Country Director, World Bank

Ms Gaye noted that the Government of Uganda had persistently provided support to refugees; with many host communities giving them parts of their farmland. She applauded the UN agencies in supporting refugees. She noted that administrative systems and capacities in the refugee hosting communities had already been stretched to the limit and hence the need for additional support. She further observed that the World Bank is already implementing a comprehensive refugee response Framework policy and has continued to contribute billions of dollars specifically for the host communities. She said that the World Bank would contribute significant support and the first in line to access this support would be refugee-hosting communities aimed at containing the shocks. The World Bank pledged its continued support to the refugee cause.



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40. Mr. Gabriel Negatu, Director-General, East African Region, African Development Bank (ADB)

The ADB committed to provide support to the poor, vulnerable groups and the youth over the next 3 years. Mr. Gabriel Negatu noted that previously, US\$ 300m had been provided to Uganda for support in the agriculture sector and recently the ADB had approved a project worth US\$ 1.1 billion for 6 countries. He said that the ADB planned to disburse US\$ 3.6 million to support South Sudan and Somali refugees, and planned to engage further on the implementation of the Kampala Declaration on Refugees.

41. Mr. WimVanhellputte, CEO, MTN - Uganda

Mr. WimVanhellputte said MTN had been supporting the refugees with Mobile Money services in camps and more sites would be connected for refugees to communicate. MTN pledged UGX 1 billion towards immunization of children in the refugee settlements.

42. Mr. DaoudEsmail, CEO, Cyan Foods

The CEO said that he had visited the refugee settlement in Nakivale and found out that the Uganda model was working well. He said that Cyan Foods would place emphasis on skills development and vocational training for refugees. Furthermore, Cyan Foods would work to develop and implement an institution to provide technical training to refugees and host communities with a view to producing high quality products.

Closing Remarks by H.E the President of Uganda after the Pledging Session

President Yoweri K. Museveni said that he was grateful for the pledges made so far, (totaling US\$ Dollars....., summarized in the attached table). He thanked each of the countries that had pledged to contribute and hence save lives because the funds would be used to purchase food, medicine, improve the infrastructures etc. He reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Uganda to continue to open up space for refugees from the neighboring countries. He underscored the fact that Uganda's



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population was rapidly growing and hence the need for increased resources to support the population. He reiterated Uganda's commitment to the open door policy but noted that, the International Community should play their role of availing additional resources to what Uganda as a country can provide to the refugees and the host communities to assure a conducive environment for hosting the refugees.

The Solidarity Summit on Refugees then adopted the Kampala Declaration on Refugees by consensus. H.E. the President noted that the Summit had been very big success since delegations had generously contributed to the Summit appeal and called on those who did not announce their appeal to go ahead and register their contributions to the secretariat in the due course. This he noted was just the beginning of the long journey of standing in solidarity with Uganda in hosting refugees. He expressed his sincere gratitude to all countries and the UN Secretary-General for sparing their valuable time to come and demonstrate their solidarity with Uganda to address the challenging needs of refugees and the host communities. H.E invited all the delegations to stay longer and visit more parts of Uganda if they could to appreciate the beauty of Uganda.

H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni declared the Summit closed at 3:20 P.M.