



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
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PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA**

**AT THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES' DIALOGUE ON PROTECTION
CHALLENGES ON THE THEME OF PROTRACTED
REFUGEE SITUATIONS
GENEVA, 10TH DECEMBER, 2008**

Check against Delivery

Your Excellency, Mr. António Guterres,
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
Excellencies;
Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Distinguished Delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me begin my remarks by thanking you, Mr. António Guterres, and your entire Management Team for inviting me to give a keynote Address in this very important Meeting. I am told that this is the Second Meeting of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges and the theme for this year is ***on Protracted Refugee Situations.***

Mr. Chairman;

When I got the invitation, I accepted it not because I am an expert on Refugee issues but rather because the moral obligation on the issues at hand pushed me to do so. This Dialogue is important because it is about the lives of People, our fellow human beings. It is about the Homeless, the Suffering, the Injustices occasioned by man to his fellow man without concern for their very basic human rights; the right to food, the right to shelter and the right to dignity. It is about People who are forced out of their homelands and communities to seek refuge in other Countries in order to escape persecution, torture, death or starvation. The innocent major groups that suffer most when situations trigger the influx of Refugees are three, namely, the elderly, women and children. These are the groups that most of the time can not defend themselves during political upheavals. When we all think the same way that, this Meeting is about the lives of innocent People, we will be able to participate in the Dialogue objectively and with a human face.

Mr. High Commissioner, I thank you for choosing the United Republic of Tanzania to deliver a Keynote Address to this Dialogue. Tanzania has a long history of harbouring Refugees. She is among the few Countries worldwide that has experienced the largest and prolonged influx of Refugees.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF REFUGEES INFLUX IN TANZANIA

Mr. Chairman;

In order to understand the magnitude of the of Refugee situation in Tanzania, you must understand where Tanzania is coming from, where it is now and the prediction of where it might be in the future in terms of hosting Refugees. Allow me to take some few minutes to give a brief historical background of the influx of Refugees in Tanzania.

The history of Tanzania hosting Refugees goes way back to the 1950s. By then, Refugees were friendly to the environment, to Citizens, and therefore were treated as Members of the Local Communities. During this period, the Government applied an Open Door Policy whose elements have been described as a liberal admission of all those in flight. This Policy allowed Refugees the enjoyment of socio-economic rights to the fullest extent possible, including the right to engage in economic activities, and for the Tanzania Government commitment to continue to host Refugees until the conditions in their Countries of Origin were right for voluntary repatriation. I must admit that this policy was unsustainable, particularly with the large influxes which followed in the 1990s. It was from this fact that, in the 1990s, the Government adopted a new Policy, which focused on the temporary protection for Refugees, with a view to voluntary repatriation as conditions would allow in the Country of Origin. The main characteristics of this Policy included restricting Refugees' freedom of movement, limited engagement in self-reliance activities and active pursuit of rapid repatriation of Refugees.

Mr. Chairman;

The dire Refugee crisis in Tanzania began after the abortive coup d'état against President Melchior Ndadaye of Burundi on October 21, 1993, following which an estimated 250,000 Burundian Refugees fled to Kigoma and Kagera Regions in Western Tanzania.

This was soon followed by another extraordinary influx of more than **600,000** Refugees who fled to Kagera Region from Rwanda in 1994. The influx was triggered by the genocide in Rwanda and it was estimated that **170,000** Refugees entered Tanzania via Rusumo border within 48 hours on 28 and 29 April 1994. This is considered to be the largest single influx ever witnessed before in the history of Tanzania and as far as we are aware, the largest single influx on the African Continent. This influx marked the beginning of Refugee Camps, that later came to be known as the Great Benaco Camp of Kagera Region, which at its peak hosted more than **600,000 Refugees** from Rwanda and Burundi. The rate of influx continued from April at an average of 3,000 persons per day until December 1994.

The situation was alarming, as the population of Refugees in the Great Benaco outnumbered the entire resident population of Ngara District, which at that time was estimated to be 180,000. The situation was further aggravated by a new influx from former Zaire (the Democratic Republic of the Congo – DRC), which began on 2 November 1996.

IMPACT OF HOSTING REFUGEES

Mr. Chairman;

The influx of more than one million Refugees at one time in Western Tanzania brought by political instability in Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC had consequential effects on human sufferings; over exploitation of natural resources; the straining of social services

such as health, water, education and other facilities; environmental degradation; spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons; increased insecurity; and the wide spread of communicable diseases in and around Refugee Camps. I will elaborate on a few impacts to indicate the extent of damages to the Recipient Countries.

Deforestation

Acceleration of deforestation was inevitable due to cutting and clearing of forests and indigenous trees as well as destroying wild life species. A study conducted in 1997 showed that during that year an average of 300 metric tons of fuel wood was consumed per day and that areas up to 20km from the camps had been seriously affected in terms of deforestation, leading to serious soil depletion. Due to high demand of fuel wood and the absence of alternative energy sources, an estimated 96,000 hectares of land in Benaco area was completely destroyed or deforested.

Game Reserves

Game reserves were destroyed and rampant killing of wildlife species was carried out after the arrival of refugees. For instance, Burigi Game Reserve was severely poached because of its proximity to the Great Benaco Refugee Camp. Over 3,000 Poachers were arrested in a 12 month period in the Burigi Game Reserve alone, and over 60 percent of the arrested Poachers in Ibanda and Rumanyika Game Reserves were Refugees. Rough estimates indicate that 100 wild animals were killed every day.

Crime

Criminality within and around Refugee Camps increased with the coming of refugees. Due to this, Kagera Region has been characterised by the use of weapons, especially firearms in crimes. It has been noted with great concern that Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation in this Region has been directly associated with the influx of Refugees. There is a wide spread of dangerous weapons such as sub machine guns, pistols, G.3s, AK 47s, RPGs and hand grenades.

Since history is a powerful tool that tells about the past, the present and the future and based on the trend of Refugees' influx to Tanzania, and due to unpredictable and unstable political climate in the Great Lakes Region, it is undoubted that the influx of Refugees to Tanzania is a cyclical problem. The conclusion drawn from this situation is that Tanzania is not yet safer from the influx of Refugees. I am of the opinion that, as a Country, we will only be safe if the Great Lakes Region's political situation stabilises and Intra-State and Inter State conflicts and wars come to an end.

Although, we may not all believe in the principle that, "one size fits all", but however on the **IMPACT OF HOSTING REFUGEES**, I hope this principle applies to all Countries that have hosted Refugees. All Host Countries experience the same effects, but with different magnitudes and intensities. Therefore, by outlining some of those effects, confidently I can say, I am speaking on behalf of many Countries that have experienced influxes of Refugees and Protracted Refugee Situations.

Protracted Refugee Situation

Mr. Chairman;

As I said earlier on, Tanzania has the experience of both large influxes as well as cases of Refugees who have remained in the Country for prolonged periods of time. As I deliver this Keynote Address, Tanzania still hosts Refugees who have been in the Country since 1970s. If one goes by the definition of what is a Protracted Refugee Situation, then Tanzania currently has two categories of Protracted Refugee Situations as follows:

- i. The 1972 Burundian Refugee caseloads residing in the three old settlements of Mishamo, Katumba and Ulyankulu. These Refugees have been there for more than 30 years; and

- ii. the post 1990's caseloads of Burundian and Congolese Refugees who are currently residing in Refugee Camps in Kigoma Region. They have been living there since 1993 and 1997 respectively.

We cannot honestly talk about finding durable solutions to the problems of Refugees in Tanzania, and indeed, we cannot find durable solutions to the problem of Refugees elsewhere in the World if we do not tackle the serious issues that warrant, and deal decisively with the causes which force people to flee their Homelands, Communities and Countries. All Refugees are entitled to their fundamental human rights, to live in dignity, and in peace in their Native Countries. However, these rights and others are constantly being violated by perpetrators of political violence and internal strife. As a matter of fact, Refugees are not the problem, but rather, the victim and outcome of Intra-States and Inter-States conflicts and wars, social calamities, human tragedies such as genocides and other situations created by conditions of extreme failure in State Governance and Institutions intended to safeguard and deliver on Democracy with Social Justice.

Mr. Chairman;

It has been a perpetuated tendency that when we talk of Good Governance, Rule of Law, Democratic Principles, Human Rights etc, the Group of Countries and Institutions that are targeted are those from Developing Countries, Developing Countries and Africa in particular, are accused of being underdeveloped and poor due to the serious lack of Principles of Good Governance, Rule of Law, Democracy and Human Rights. As a result, the African Continent is classified as a Continent of unending conflicts and wars, henceforth, the major causes of influxes of Refugees in the Region. One would argue that this is justified by the largest presence of the UN Peacekeeping Operations being in Africa. For example, the UN Peacekeeping Operations in the DRC are considered to be the largest ever in World history. But deficiencies of Good Governance, Rule of Law, Democracy and Human Rights are also found in Developed Countries, UN, International

Organisations, Multinational Companies, just to name a few. However, these are not frequently spoken as when they are referred to developing countries.

Mr. Chairman;

We must ask, what would be the share of the Developed Countries and Multinational Companies in recurrence of political instability in the African Continent that always triggers the influx of Refugees and Protracted Refugee Situations? **It is a mere truism that African Countries do not have the ability and technology to manufacture sophisticated war weapons.** Take an example of the Great Lakes Region; none of the Countries have the ability, technology and industries for manufacturing weapons.

While the African Continent agrees with the blame that it is characterised by wars and conflicts, there are questions that have never been asked and answered by the International Community or UN or Developed Countries. **Where do Rebel Groups in Africa get weapons (war tanks, war jets, sub machine guns, AK 47s, RPGs, etc)? Who supplies the weapons to the Rebel Groups? Who finances the Rebel Groups? Where do Rebel Groups get their day to day supplies?**

These are some of the questions that this Dialogue ought to respond to. If these questions and many others are not answered genuinely, finding a durable solution to the influx of Refugees and their prolonged suffering in the Countries of Refuge will just remain a daydream. Under this uncertain situation and many unanswered questions, we should not expect that influx of refugees with the associate problems of protection will end soon. We must know that there are some big Nations that have turned Africa to be a place of lucrative weapon business and probably, a place to test the efficiency of the new manufactured weapons.

As we meet here today, the political situation in the DRC is not stable at all. Rebels, under their Leader, General Laurent Nkunda are still intensifying fighting in the Eastern part of the DRC. Thousands of people, particularly elderly, women and children have been forced out of their homelands. If the UN will not act, and act fast, to bring to an end the fighting in the DRC, Tanzania will soon experience another big influx of Refugees. That is why I said the problem of Refugees in Tanzania is cyclical. The same situation of political instability is happening in Somalia, Darfur – Sudan, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Iraq. There are no miracles here of preventing people from running away except through ending of wars, conflicts, persecution, killings, rape etc.

COMMITMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. Chairman;

The United Republic of Tanzania has continued to fulfil her International Obligations in the Protection of Refugees. A clear indication to that commitment includes:

- i. Security Package Programme under which 20 Policemen and Women are deployed inside and around every Refugee Camp in order to ensure law and order;
- ii. Refugees are allowed to engage in small income generating activities such as gardening, handicrafts, livestock keeping and small scale entrepreneurship so as to enable them to acquire extra income which will empower them to better sustain their lives;
- iii. The Government in collaboration with UNHCR has initiated various Programmes which address some salient problems such as Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in the Camps through the engagement of Social Workers and Lawyers in counselling, awareness raising and prevention;

- iv. Informal Schools have been established in the Camps under which programmes such as “the Right to Play” for Refugee School children are conducted. These Schools use the curriculum of the Countries of Origin;
- v. While conducting Voluntary Repatriation exercises of Refugees back to their Countries of Origin, the Government ensures that these exercises are conducted fairly based on human dignity and safety. Under the Tripartite Commissions, various matters involved in the exercises are discussed between the Governments of Tanzania and those of Burundi and DRC and UNHCR. These exercises started in March, 2002 for Burundian Refugees and October, 2005 for Refugees from DRC; and
- vi. The exercise of naturalization and locally integrating the 1972 Burundian Refugees is underway and it will be conducted in accordance with the Citizenship Act No. 6 of 1995.

EXPERIENCE OF TANZANIA

Mr. Chairman,

As I said before, Tanzania has been harbouring Refugees before and after Independence. Many have been naturalised and the Government is working on others who qualify to be granted citizenship. There are many also who are still in the Refugee Camps. For the case of Tanzania, the peculiar and key element that has attracted prolonged stay of Refugees in the Country is the presence of peace, stability, harmony, tranquillity and good hearted Tanzanians. The availability of land and the permission to engage in socio-economic activities is yet another important factor. Since people are running away from economic difficulties, political persecution and instability and other calamities, it is impossible for them to return soon to their Country of Origin in the

presence of such calamities. In the absence of such calamities, Tanzania becomes their place of sanctuary.

Hatred, suffering, torture, rape and murder, have been the primary factors that have discouraged the return of Refugees to their Country of Origin. Although, it is said that those Refugees who have overstayed in Host Countries and do not wish to repatriate lose their freedom, dignity and human rights, but still this is a lesser evil compared to the injustices they went through before deciding to flee. If we, the International Community are sincere about finding durable solutions to the problems of refugees, not only in Africa but Worldwide, we must work together to heal the deep wounds of hatred and mistrust of the past, while we are resolving to take appropriate measures to address the causes.

We must work together to deal with those men and women who are responsible for fomenting internal conflicts, driven by sheer raw greed for power and control of natural resources. I agreed to come and address this august audience, because I have faith that the International Community is serious in its intent to find, resolve and implement durable solutions to the protracted and unattended problems of Refugees in Tanzania and elsewhere in the world. However, faith alone will not bring progress to achieve the goal, but rather it must be coupled with firm determination, political will and action. For as it was observed by one writer: **A world seething with hatred is an intolerable place to live in. But we can not reach the goal by hypocrisy or wishful thinking. We can only do it by honest thinking, honest talking and honest living.**

Let me borrow some words and state that, the World today, seething with hatred and intolerance which foments instability, chaos, conflict and terror, has been indeed an intolerable place to live, and many people have been forced to flee their Countries, Homeland and Communities to find sanctuary in Neighbouring Countries. In the Great

Lakes region, Tanzania has been their sanctuary! In order to find durable solutions, however, we cannot achieve the goal by hypocrisy or wishful thinking. We can only succeed to reach the goal of finding durable solutions to the plight of Refugees by honest thinking, honest talking and positive action.

Mr. Chairman,

Whenever we have political turmoil, we have had two categories of people who are running away from their homelands and communities, namely the common people and the Rebel Leaders. The common people are the ones called Refugees and they end up in Refugee Camps, whereas, the Rebel Leaders are people in exile and they end up living in luxurious Cities and mansions in Developed Countries. The Rebel Leaders are paid allowances and other benefits to attend Mediation Meetings. We can share our experience with others in this area because Tanzania mediated and facilitated the negotiations between the Governments and Rebel Groups in Burundi, Rwanda and the DRC. The Rebel Leaders were flying from abroad to attend these Meetings in Arusha – Tanzania. This kind of luxurious life will never make Rebel Leaders feel that Refugee life is full of pain, torture and suffering. The Rebel Leaders do not know the suffering the Refugees go through in the Camps and therefore they have no hurry to participate in the Mediation Meetings leave alone concluding the negotiations. The challenge before the International Community and the UN in particular is to make the Rebels realise and feel the suffering the Refugees go through in and outside the Camps. Under humane reasons and the sufferings the Refugees encounter, it is tempting for one to suggest that the Rebel Leaders should also stay in Camps in the Developing Countries.

Mr. Chairman,

After the tragedies in Burundi and Rwanda in the early 1990s, Tanzania decided to fully participate in the Peace Processes in both Countries. The late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania mediated the Burundi peace process that began in Arusha in June 1998 until his death in October 1999. The parties in the Burundi conflict signed the Arusha Peace Accord on the 28 August 2000. This culminated in the formation of a 3-year Transitional Government in November 2001. Subsequently, a democratically Elected Government was inaugurated under the leadership of H.E. President Pierre Nkurunziza. Despite the achievement, Tanzania continued to engage in the Burundi Peace Process and on the 7 of September 2006 facilitated the signing of the Comprehensive Cease-fire Agreement between the Government of Burundi and the PALIPEHUTU-FNL, the rebel group that refused to accept the Arusha Accord. Tanzania has continued to facilitate the Peace Process in Burundi.

On 4 December 2008, I represented His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the President of United Republic of Tanzania in negotiations in Bujumbura, Burundi during which, the PALPEHUTU-FNL agreed to work towards the change of its name so as to avoid the name that denotes tribalism which is against the Burundian Constitution, and accordingly the Burundian Government agreed to provide FNL with 33 positions within its Government. Our earnest hope is to see a peaceful coexistence of Burundians that will guarantee the returning of the remaining Refugees to their homelands.

Likewise, we mediated the Peace Process in Rwanda, which facilitated the election of H.E. Paul Kagame as President of the Transitional Government in 2000 by the National Assembly. He was then elected democratically in 2003. Tanzania is a host to the International Criminal Court for Rwanda (ICTR), the Court that tries those suspected of taking part in the 1994 genocide.

Needless to say, many parts of Burundi and Rwanda are now enjoying peace and political stability which enabled many refugees to return home voluntarily.

Hosting and facilitating the negotiations for Burundi and Rwanda was a costly exercise, but the outcomes which resulted in the two countries returning to peace and stability, and finally led to a huge voluntary repatriation of Refugees were and still remain good memories for the Government of Tanzania.

Mr. Chairman,

As a matter of positive action in sharing the burden of hosting Refugees by the UN Members, Tanzania has the right to expect the International Community to provide adequate resources, not just as a token, which will be directed to the Communities in the Refugees hosting areas in order to assist our people in their socio-economic development programmes. Concurrently, we must engage in honest assessment of the prevailing situation in Burundi, Rwanda, the DRC and elsewhere in the World, and agree on strategies and positive action to deal with the protagonists and sponsors of internal conflicts. The International Community including, Developed Countries and Multinational Companies must find out and bring to justice all those who are supplying Rebel Groups with weapons. Tanzania has too much to lose, and there will be much more suffering of our people following protracted stay of Refugees. Based on the principle of shared responsibility and the UN Charter, the International Community and the UN in particular, must act, and act hastily, to help resolve global political crises in order to avert the influx of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as well as creating a conducive and attractive environment for Refugees to repatriate willingly. Durable solutions to the influx of Refugees and protracted suffering in the Refugee Camps will only be found by bringing peace, tranquillity, political stability and an end to the internal conflicts in the Countries of Origin. **Angelina Jolie**, an American Film Actor and a Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Refugee Agency, had this to say about the situation of Refugees, and I quote:

“In countries where people have to flee their homes because of persecution and violence, political solutions must be found, peace and tolerance restored, so that refugees can return home. In my experience, going home is the deepest wish of most refugees”. End of quote:

As it was mentioned before, durable solutions to the influx of Refugees and protracted Refugee situations is a shared responsibility and if each party plays its role, there will be no Refugee Influx, and of course no prolonged refugee situation.

But if there are influxes, the protracted situation can be alternatively dealt with in two ways, namely local integration and resettlement in a third country. It is unfortunate that problems of refugees are mainly problems of developing countries. So when one decides to take either option - Local Integration vis a vis Resettlement in a Third Country, a number of factors must be considered. Developing Countries are still very poor and their economies and social facilities such as water, health, education, etc are inadequate for the local communities. Thus adding more population from outside worsens the provision and availability of economic and social services. Addressing the Arusha Meeting of the OAU Secretariat and Voluntary Agencies involved in Refugee Assistance in Africa, on 21 March 1983, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the First President of the United Republic of Tanzania said, and I quote:

“If 10,000 or a 100,000 Refugees are spared the trauma of living in temporary camps because the local population helps them from a spirit of kinship, this is surely an advantage for both the Refugees and the Aid Agencies. It is, however, still a burden to the local government. Schools and medical facilities, and food supplies, which were adequate for the local population, will no longer be adequate – because of the Refugees.” End of quote.

What Mwalimu was saying is that, in spite of the generosity of the local communities but still with the coming of Refugees, economic and social services are always overstretched.

Moreover, the population in Developing Countries is growing faster than the economy. In spite of these facts, still local integration seems to be most preferable to UNHCR and Developed Countries than resettlement to a Third Country.

We must promote and encourage resettlement. This option takes the Refugees far away that even those who are thinking of regrouping and revenging against the Government and/or other tribes find it difficult to do so because of distances involved. I strongly believe that if these two ways, particularly the **RESETTLEMENT IN THE THIRD COUNTRY** are used with open heart and mind, we will be able to get away from Protracted Refugee Situations and their associated problems. Resettlement to Third Countries should be seen as an equal option and not a fall back option to local integration, Developed Countries should be obliged to accommodate a certain minimal percentage of Refugees, similarly as it is an obligation for Host Countries, where once people cross borders for any reasons of persecution or economic hardships not to expel them – the Non-Refoulment Principle.

May I reiterate our appeal once again, that for local integration to happen in Countries like Tanzania, adequate funding is vital. I therefore urge UNHCR, Developed Countries, and the Donor Community to provide the required funds to facilitate smooth and speedy local integration.

Mr. Chairman,

Tanzania is a Least Developed Country (LDC) and what she has done to Host Refugees is beyond her ability. Hosting more than 600,000 Refugees at once means over stretching the meagre economic and social facilities available for its people.

Mwalimu Nyerere, the First President of the United Republic of Tanzania addressing the issues of refugees in 1938 said, and I quote:

“Unfortunately, as the number of Refugees has increased, the capacity of African States to receive and succour those Refugees has, if anything actually decreased. Every African Country is now in the grip of major economic problems, which make it difficult even to maintain existing services for its citizens. When basic services, and even food, are in shortly supply – as they now too often are – it is extremely difficult for African Governments to ensure that even the bare minimum gets to the new Refugee areas”. End of quote.

Mwalimu Nyerere stated this fact 25 years ago. Today, it is an undeniable reality that Developing Countries are facing shortages and higher costs of social services such as food, water, health and educational facilities. Thus, any influx of Refugees creates more pressure on those facilities which ultimately increase the unbearable burden that can not be accommodated by the Host Country. The economic interpretation of this is that Refugees and Local Communities will continue to be denied their basic rights not because Countries do not want it but because of the global economic realities.

INSTRUMENTS RELATING TO THE STATUS OF THE REFUGEES

Mr. Chairman,

Tanzania is a party to various International and Regional Instruments relating to the Status of Refugees. Tanzania is a State Party to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. Tanzania is also a State Party to the 1969 Organisation of African Union (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Equally, Tanzania has its Internal Instrument i.e. the

Refugee Act No. 9 of 1998, which establishes different the provisions including provisions on how the Refugee Status and Asylum should be determined.

Once a Country has acceded to these Instruments it becomes difficult and sometimes quite impossible to stop receiving Refugees or to repatriate them unwillingly to their Country of Origin regardless of the damage they may have done particularly environmental degradation to the Host Country. I am of the view that in order to deal fairly with the problems of Refugees and Refugee Protracted Situation, there is a need for reviewing these Instruments so that the responsibilities are fairly apportioned among the **HOSTING COUNTRIES, COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, UNHCR AND OTHER GLOBAL ACTORS**. It is only through the review of these Instruments that the burden to the Country of Refuge will be lessened. Equally important, the Instruments must and should take into consideration issues of environment during huge and unexpected influxes such as the one to Tanzania in 1994 after the genocide in Rwanda.

I commend you, Mr. High Commissioner, and your Team, for the excellent initiative of convening this Dialogue which addresses the plight of Refugees from different angles. I hope this kind of Dialogue will one day address a topic on International and Regional Instruments relating to the Status of the Refugees, so as to see if there is a well defined and balanced responsibility among Countries of Origin, Host Countries, UNHCR and other responsible Global Actors. As they are now, the Host Countries seem to be shouldering more responsibility, particularly when they are tied up with the Non-Refoulement Principle, which precludes the returning of any Refugee to the Country from which he is fleeing or has fled. These Instruments are silent on the many damages that are done during unexpected influxes. Take an example of damages done on the environment in its broadest sense. It is catastrophic. It is difficult and takes time to recover. The attention must now be seriously paid to the role of Countries of Origin. I am of the view that, the International Law and especially the International Refugee

Instruments must include provisions that state responsibilities of the Country of Origin to protect its citizens failing which, appropriate actions should be taken.

Mr. Chairman, Dear Friends, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I repeat what I said at the beginning. I am not an expert in this area, and you are the experts. My job was very simple, to give a Keynote Address which always accords the Speaker an opportunity like the one provided to the creatures in the ocean to swim from one end to another. In spite of how diplomatic or undiplomatic I may have been, I am convinced that I have provoked discussion that will lead to fruitful discussions, recommendations and conclusions for adoption. These may be in form of a Chair's Summary, or a Resolution, that may be used in future so as to guide the Protection of Refugees; facilitation of smooth Repatriation, Resettlement and Local Integration; and finally address the issue of Protracted Refugee Situations. In doing so, the Rights of Refugees will be protected; the psychological, mental and physical suffering minimised; and assurance to life which every human being deservingly aspires for.

Before concluding my remarks, let me join other World Leaders in strongly condemning the barbaric and hooligan terrorists attack in Mumbai, India in November 2008. We express our sympathy and condolences to the Government and the People of India and especially those families that lost their beloved ones in that tragedy. We further pray for quick recovery for all those who were maimed and for the dead may the Almighty rest their souls in eternal peace.

With these remarks, I thank you all for your attention.