

STATEMENT MADE BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA HON. KHAMIS SUEDE KAGASHEKI (MP) AT THE
MINISTERIAL MEETING TO REVIEW PROTECTION GAPS AND MEASURES TO
ADDRESS THEM HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND FROM ~~7~~TH – 8TH
8- DECEMBER, 2011. AM

Your Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to

Address this august assembly in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the
1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 50th anniversary of
The 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to take this opportunity at the outset to join other delegations in
congratulating the High Commissioner for this pledging initiative which will
undoubtedly further commit member states to the attainment of the aspirations
and goals of the UNHCR.

While commemorating the above two important milestones, the United Republic of Tanzania takes note of a number of developments, both positive and negative, within the country and the region as a whole which have fundamentally altered the landscape and the context of refugee protection. We are strongly persuaded that a review of existing policy and legal regimes is needed to reflect the realities and needs of the day. These issues include; the changing patterns of refugees seeking protection in Tanzania, the emerging phenomenon of mixed migratory flows, the drastic decrease in the number of refugees and its implication on the present protection approaches, the growing number of persons in stateless like situations, the East African integration process, and the adoption of the African Union Convention on Internal Displaced Persons.

Mr. Chairman,

In considering the above issues, my delegation would therefore make pledges in the following areas:

1. Review of the National Refugee Policy of 2003:

The review of the policy is very crucial, considering various developments which have occurred and protection challenges currently facing the country and the region as a whole.

2. Revise or repeal and replace The Refugee Act of 1998:

These activities will be done with a view to ensuring that the law adequately addresses the present issues in refugee protection in the country.

3. Ratify and domesticate the African Union Convention on Internally

Displaced Persons:

At the moment, the process of ratification of this convention is at the Cabinet Secretariat level. Hopefully by April, 2012 the ratification process will be completed before embarking on the domestication process.

4. Ratify and domesticate international instruments on statelessness:

The government plans to conduct an intensive research to ascertain the gravity of the problem in the country. This research will be conducted in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Forced Migration (CSFM) of the University of Dar es Salaam whose findings will chart out a road map towards the signing, ratification and domestication of the international instruments on statelessness.

5. Continuous registration and documentation of refugees and asylum seekers:

This is a very important activity which will enable the government to have reliable statistics of refugees and asylum seekers at any given time. Periodic review of these statistics will be conducted all over the country.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude my statement by assuring the High Commissioner of the continued cooperation and support of the government of the United Republic of Tanzania in his noble efforts and those of his Organisation.

Thank you for your Attention