

**NATIONS UNIES
LE HAUT COMMISSAIRE
POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS**



**UNITED NATIONS
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES**

Case Postale 2500
1211 Genève 2
Suisse

5 December 2018

Sir/Madam,

As you may know, a High-Level Segment on Statelessness will be held on 7 October 2019, during the seventieth annual session of UNHCR's Executive Committee. This will mark the mid-way point of UNHCR's #IBelong campaign to end statelessness within 10 years.

Statelessness is a problem which affects millions of people around the globe. Women and children are particularly impacted, with their lack of nationality leaving them in extremely vulnerable circumstances. Through the #IBelong campaign, we have seen significant progress towards identifying, preventing and resolving cases of statelessness. However, we need to step up our collective work if we are to reach the goal of the campaign.

The High-Level Segment on Statelessness provides an important opportunity to take stock of achievements and good practices to date, and to secure concrete, time-bound pledges towards ending statelessness by 2024. The High-Level Segment will also serve to allow States to deposit instruments of accession to one or both of the statelessness conventions at a special treaty event.

I would like to appeal for the strong engagement of your Government in making the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness and, more broadly, the #IBelong campaign a success. UNHCR offices in the field, together with the Statelessness Section of the Division of International Protection and the Special Advisor on Statelessness, Ms. Carol Batchelor, are at the full disposal of governments in this regard and will be seeking opportunities to take this initiative forward in the lead up to this landmark event.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Filippo Grandi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Filippo Grandi

All Member States and non-Member Observer States
to the United Nations Office at Geneva