

OFFICIAL COVER FOR STATEMENT



KENYA

**69<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME**

**1<sup>ST</sup> TO 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2018**

**PALAIS DE NATIONS**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

✓ *Mr.*  
**Chairperson,**  
✓ *Madam Deputy*  
**Your Excellency, the High Commissioner,**

**Honorable Ministers,**

✓ **Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honored to join you at this 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the ExCom meeting.

\* Let me begin by commending you on your able stewardship of this 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee. I assure you of our full support.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Honourable Minister of the Republic of Uganda on behalf of the African Group.

**Chairperson,** *Mr. Chani*

Our meeting is taking place no less than a month away from the envisaged adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees.

We are hopeful that this Compact, once adopted will provide better responses, solutions as well as a new lease of life to the millions of refugees worldwide, many of whom have been caught in protracted situations for decades.

We have heard, the statistics from the High Commissioner of the growing number of refugees, globally. This trend is no different in Kenya.

For instance, in April this year, Kenya was hosting 461,000 refugees. Despite the voluntary returns to Somalia, the number had increased to approximately 470,000 refugees by the end of August 2018, a growth of about 9,000, coming primarily from South Sudan, but also from our neighboring and nearby states.

We remain deeply concerned that voluntary repatriation, which is the most durable solution, has not been successful in reducing the overall number of refugees we are hosting in Kenya, nor lessening the burden on our country.

The importance of the Global Compact on Refugees, which for the first time in history will focus attention on the creation of conducive conditions in the countries of origin is therefore critical in ensuring that refugees can return in safety and dignity.

### **Chairperson,**

Guided by the fact that we are a “**champion for change**” as was stated by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta in his address to the General Assembly a few days ago, Kenya together with other IGAD member states came together to sign the Nairobi Declaration whose import is a regional approach aimed at easing pressure on the host countries, enhancing the self-reliance of the refugees, expanding access to third country resettlement and supporting conditions in countries of origin, in conditions of safety and dignity. This is a clear demonstration of the commitment of the IGAD member states towards providing solutions for the Somali refugees, in essence setting in motion a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) for the region.

Additionally, allow me to provide an update on the strides we have made since our announcement last fall, of our decision to apply the CRRF. The National Technical Working Group on the CRRF, through a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach developed the Draft National Implementation Plan for the CRRF. This draft plan, will also provide the roadmap for the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration. The Draft Plan is currently under consideration at the policy-making level.

*Chairperson,*

The focus of our CRRF is on supporting and empowering host communities and refugees, while striving to achieve durable solutions. In that regard, financial resources from the

international community remain crucial for the realization of our CRRF.

Furthermore, recognizing the importance of refugee education, and its crucial role in providing knowledge and skills to refugees to enable them have a productive life, Kenya has been at the forefront of ensuring that refugees in the country access education. To this end, an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Refugee Education has been working to draft the National Guidelines on Refugee Education, as part of the implementation of the Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education.

Also, our consistent and constructive engagement during all six sessions of the formal consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees was a demonstration of our resolve to contribute towards a better framework for the management of refugees globally, whose focus would be to ease the disproportionate burden, borne by countries such as ours. While the final draft may not be perfect, we support the envisaged periodic reviews aimed at making its implementation as fit for purpose as possible.

### **Chairperson,**

Kenya takes note of the increasing role of development partners in the quest for enhancing the responses to refugee situations. Both the GCR and the CRRF speak to this growing reality. The humanitarian-development nexus, strongly advocated in both, should be carried out with cautious optimism to ensure that there is no additional burden occasioned on the host countries.

Similarly, economic opportunities for livelihood support are likely to take long to realize as our economies are not creating the opportunities at the same rate at which the population is growing. With an additional population of refugees, it becomes even more difficult, given intensified competition over limited opportunities.

**Chairperson,**

Kenya reiterates that refugees remain the responsibility of the international community. In this regard, we are deeply concerned by the reduction of resettlement places in third countries and the increasing anti-refugee narrative in various parts of the world.

Resettlement is not only an effective durable solution, but also an important tool for burden and responsibility sharing. Countries which offer resettlement should therefore do more to increase available resettlement places. Additionally, we call upon these countries to consider, first and foremost, the more vulnerable cases. We note with concern that current resettlement practice tends to prioritize skilled refugees who in any case are able to support themselves even within the places with limited opportunities.

In conclusion, **Chairperson,** we re-emphasize that the ultimate solution to forced displacement lies in addressing the root causes of conflict. We welcome concerted efforts in this regard.

***I thank you.***