

**STATEMENT BY DR. KOFI V. ANANI, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, GHANA  
REFUGEE BOARD AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 69<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF  
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME  
(EXCOM) OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES  
HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND 01<sup>ST</sup> – 05<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

Your Excellency Chairperson of EXCOM

Ghana aligns itself with the statement made by Uganda on behalf of the African Group and makes the following additional comments in our national capacity.

Let me begin by commending the Chairperson for <sup>her</sup> his-able manner with which <sup>she</sup> he has conducted this session so far. You can count on the support of Ghana towards the success of this session.

### 1. DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Activities leading to the Local Integration of ALL refugees in protected situation have been advanced. <sup>protected</sup>  
<sup>under the CRPF</sup>

#### ➤ Customised Convention Travel Document (CTD)

<sup>GRB</sup>  
The Government of Ghana is working with the UNHCR-Ghana and the authorities of countries of origin towards obtaining permanent solution with respect to the legal aspect of *Local Integration*. Refugees who have opted to locally integrate will be issued customised CTDs to obtain residence permits. This step will overcome the long-standing stalemate associated with affected refugees obtaining national documents. Parallel efforts will continue with the authorities of the countries of origin to secure the required national documents within the duration of the residence permits.

#### <sup>GRB</sup> ➤ Jobs and Livelihood Opportunities

<sup>in the spirit of CRPF</sup>  
Ghana believes that true durable solutions require the optimum contributions to enhancing host country absorptive capacity for generating new job and livelihood opportunities. In this regard, the Ghana Refugee Board GRB is partnering with the <sup>FIs and</sup> G20 Compact with Africa (CwA) Zones of Good Economic Governance (ZGEG) Initiative. The focus of this initiative is on the reforms, public investments and actions (enabling environment) required in each Compact with Africa country to attract private investments for exports in pioneer sectors. A core element of contextual relevance of the initiative is a proposed package to subsidize employment in the zones with a scheme that provides subsidy to selected unemployed youth, women rejoining the labor force and **refugees**.

Firms currently exporting goods and services from, for example, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mauritius, Morocco, Thailand and Vietnam are targeted to figure out the

package of reforms and investments in the zones that would induce them to expand to Ghana, Senegal and or other Compact countries. Expectations of the task group are that Germany, as the co-chair of the compact, would take the lead to mobilize assistance from the EU and other interested G20 members and with support from the IMF, the World Bank Group, AfDB and other IFIs to develop an initiative that partners with relevant agencies to have pilots with Ghana, Senegal and other Compact countries to deal with refugees.

It is of utmost importance that we receive the necessary advocacy support from the UNHCR to ensure the successful implementation of this strategy.

➤ **Issuance of National Identification Cards to all Refugees**

The Government of Ghana has made the policy decision to issue its recently approved “Ghana Card” to all refugees in the country to enhance daily transactions and service delivery. Work is ongoing with the National Identification Authority (NIA) and the Ghana Refugee Board to ensure that this operation is undertaken and completed in a timely manner.

**2. STATELESSNESS**

The Government of Ghana is working assiduously towards the country’s accession to the two Statelessness Convention. A Memorandum submitted to the Hon. Minister for Interior is under review for onward transmission to the Cabinet and Parliament for the ratification of the two Statelessness Conventions. With a strong collaboration among the UNHCR, Birth and Death Registry and the Ghana Refugee Board, civil documentation continue to be issued to all refugee children born in Ghana in order to avoid any statelessness situation in the future.

**3. VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION**

Ghana is working through the Tripartite arrangement towards encouraging Ivorian refugees who can return home to do so. The Ivorian Government has recently announced an AMNESTY for over 800 people and released some persons serving prison sentences as a reaffirmation that a conducive environment to encourage voluntary return is being created. To this end, the two Governments have held consultations at Presidential level. We are anticipating an increase in voluntary return shortly; and working with the UNHCR, the Ivorian authorities and the refugee leadership to provide as much information as possible on conditions in the country of origin.

**4. CONCLUSION**

Ghana remains open to discuss with UNHCR all priorities of mutual interest including the issues mentioned above.