

**Signing Ceremony of the  
Tripartite Agreement between the Government of the Republic of  
Kenya,  
The Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia,  
And the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
(UNHCR)  
Nairobi, Kenya, 10 November 2013  
Venue: Hotel Intercontinental**

Speech by Mr. Raouf Mazou  
Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
Refugees in Kenya

Excellency, Honourable William Ruto, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya

Excellency Madam Fawzia Yusuf Adam, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia

Ambassador Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Mr Joseph Ole Lenku, Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government

Honourable Members of the Kenyan Parliament

Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic corps accredited to Kenya

Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic corps accredited to Somalia,

Ambassador Sahle Work Zewde, Director General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi

United Nations Resident Coordinators for Kenya and Somalia,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

Allow me first to acknowledge the presence of my colleague Ms Alessandra Morelli, the UNHCR Representative for Somalia. It is through our strong collaboration and partnership that we have been able to provide the necessary support to both the Somali and Kenyan Governments thus far. I am sure that Her Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister and the entire Somali delegation will agree with me that Alessandra has been a very strong driving force in mobilizing development, humanitarian and security actors in the search for durable solutions for Somali refugees.

Honourable Deputy President, Excellency Madam Deputy Prime Minister,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Tripartite Agreement we are about to sign is the fruit of long hours of discussions and negotiations involving colleagues from the three parties. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their flexibility, commitment and foresight that has resulted in this document. The Agreement acknowledges that after more than twenty years of conflict and insecurity in Somalia, the political, socio-economic and security environment is changing. It does not purport a perfect situation but is based on the premise that with the efforts made by the International community, including through IGAD, the African Union, Ethiopia – with Kenya playing a crucial role as part of AMISOM - parts of the country are becoming safer which allows some refugees to go back home by themselves.

We would like to recognize that the Government and People of Kenya have tirelessly provided protection and assistance to Somali refugees for two decades. We however do not see the present agreement as a sign that Kenya is no longer willing to do so. On the contrary, we see the presence of the three parties here today as a call to the rest of the international community to commit more vigorously for viable and sustainable solutions for the victims of a conflict that has lasted too long. There is a dire need to ensure the availability of basic services such as health care, education, water and sanitation as well as support in livelihoods inside Somalia. This will ensure the sustainability of the return of those who have, in the past few months, decided to take their destiny into their hands. Pledges made recently in Brussels in the context of the New Deal and the “compact” ought to be transformed into actual resources targeting main areas of return.

Honourable Deputy President, Excellency Madam Deputy Prime Minister,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Tripartite Agreement clearly and unambiguously outlines the responsibilities of the three parties. The Government of Kenya will support the voluntary repatriation process while continuing to protect those who have not yet found a durable solution. The Government of Somalia will ensure the security and access to basic services of all those who will opt to return. Our role as UNHCR will be to support both Governments and lead the way in resource mobilization. We will also ensure that the present approach fits in the overall regional durable solutions strategy for Somali refugees. In this regard, allow me to make reference to the Global Initiative on Somali Refugees launched earlier in the year by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr Antonio Guterres. It is an over-arching process to rally the international

community around addressing the most challenging questions, problems and imperatives of the Somali refugee situation. Next week, a group of international experts and eminent persons, some of whom have been nominated by Governments in the region, will gather in Geneva on the invitation of High Commissioner Guterres to seek and devise new and innovative approaches to finding solutions for the Somali refugee situation.

More important though than the individual responsibility of each of the three parties will be the work that the Tripartite Commission, established under this agreement, will undertake as a unified body. Through regular visits to the camps, consultations with refugee leadership, and visits to areas of return, the Commission will monitor the return movement while removing obstacles, ensuring that the return is voluntary; and taking place in conditions of safety and dignity. We are in the process of mobilizing resources to start assistance to spontaneous refugees on a pilot basis in the days to come. One of the first tasks of the Tripartite Commission will be to define the modalities of this exercise and ensure its success.

Honourable Deputy President, Excellency Madam Deputy Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

While return movements take place, the needs of refugees remaining in exile should not be forgotten. A few days ago, as food rations for the month of November were reduced due to lack of financial resources, WFP and UNHCR have had to launch an appeal to the international community. Inadequate assistance should not be used as a way of pushing refugees to return. Instead, ensuring the availability of basic services in Somalia and offering the prospect a normal life should be the objective of all those who care about the well-being of Somali refugees.

Honourable Deputy President, Excellency Madam Deputy Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to conclude by reiterating the personal commitment of High Commissioner Guterres in finding durable solutions to the Somali refugee situation, one of the longest, most complex and most compelling the world has had to face in the recent past. The Tripartite Agreement we are about to sign is definitely a first step towards finding durable solutions for all Somali refugees in Kenya.

Thank you for your attention.