



Statement

By

Hon. Hussein Mar Nyuot

Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management

Republic of South Sudan

**68th Session of Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's
Programme**

2nd- 6th October 2017

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Your Excellency, the Chairperson of ExCOM

The United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honor for me to address this August gathering on behalf of the Republic of South Sudan. I would like to express my profound gratitude to you Madam Chairperson and to the Honorable High Commissioner for the excellent organization of the 68th session of the ExCOM.

I highly appreciate the remarkable achievements made by UNHCR over the past one year. I also congratulate the High Commissioner on the positive outcome of his visit to South Sudan in June this year, the visit that has enhanced mutual understanding, confidence and expanded future areas of cooperation between my Country and UNHCR.

Hon. Chairperson,

This year South Sudan marks the sixth anniversary of its independence. I am pleased to say that South Sudan keeps an open door policy and hosts 280,000 Refugees from the neighboring Countries and has provided asylum to 10,000 people despite our own internal challenges.

I am glad to inform you that on 17th June, during his mission to South Sudan, the High Commissioner Mr. Filippo Grandi attended the signing of the Refugee Status Eligibility Regulations for implementation of the Refugee Act 2012.

The Government welcomes the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) following the last year's New York Declaration. It is worth noting that though South Sudan has not yet applied the framework it is already implementing it through best practices put in place including substantial allocation of agricultural areas for the refugees' livelihood activities and economic sustainability. In collaboration with UNHCR, my Government issued ID cards to the refugees living in camps and urban centers to allow them to enjoy their full rights in the Country.

Hon. Chairperson,

Our policy is to promote settlement of refugees in safer places and to encourage self-reliance among refugees to live in dignified conditions. Last year, I announced that the Government with the support of UNHCR established a new camp at Pamir in Ruweng State, which has capacity to host a large number of refugees including those from Yida settlement. The relocation of the refugees from Yida to Pamir remains our priority and will be completed as soon as possible.

The Government of South Sudan is committed to ensure the civilian character of all the refugee camps in its territory in accordance with the international refugee

law. Furthermore, it is important to note that the Government is fully committed to ensure peace and stability returns to the Country. In this regard, the Government launched the National Dialogue (ND) on 14th December 2016 with the aim to end all forms of violence, redefine and reestablish National unity and strength the social contract between the Citizens and the Government. It is important to emphasize here that the National Dialogue is an independent process and is not being controlled by the Government. In addition, the Government is committed to the High level revitalization process led by the IGAD in relation to the implementation of the Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS). In this connection, I appeal to the international, regional and donor communities to support the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) to enhance peace and stability in the Country.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Recently, we have witnessed voluntary return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their homes/villages. This process was supported by the Government, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies. We encourage more support to enable people living inside Protection of Civilian sites (POCs) to voluntarily return to their homes/villages as a durable solution.

Hon. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Republic of South Sudan, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the High Commissioner Mr. Filippo Grandi, for not only supporting the refugees and the IDPs in South Sudan but also taking the initiative to visit the sites of the refugees and IDPs. I also applaud the concerted efforts of UNHCR Country team, other UN agencies, NGOs, ICRC and donor communities that positively responded to the appalling humanitarian situation in South Sudan. Last but not least, my sincere gratitude and appreciation to our neighboring countries of Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo for hosting our citizens, providing corridors for humanitarian access and working for peace in South Sudan.

Thank you.