



Republic of Mozambique

**Statement by the delegation of Mozambique at the
General Debate of the 68th Session of the UNHCR
Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's
Program**
(General debate)

Honorable Ministers,

**Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. Chairman,

We wish, at the outset, to thank the UNHCR High Commissioner, Mr. Filippo Grandi, for his inspiring opening statement, through which he has provided an overview of the operational and policy priorities of his Office.

We praise the members of the Special Segment for their insightful interventions, indeed important contributions for the Global Compact on Refugees, in preparation.

We align our intervention to the statement delivered by the African Group.

We highly appreciate the activities undertaken by the UNHCR and partners, since the 67th Session of ExCom, as they sought to protect and assist persons of their concern.

We share the High Commissioner's concerns in regards to the worsening of forced displacement situation worldwide, at a time the available resources for their protection and assistance, on the ground, fall short of the needs.

We take good note of the current trends and future outlook of new and ongoing crises and protracted displacement, with a few prospects for definitive resolution, hence the importance of support to host countries and communities, amidst a fluid environment, preparing for future shifts, as articulated in the High Commissioner's statement.

We agree that sustaining protection in a complex political environment as well politicization of the refugee issue, within and between States, further complicate the mandate of UNHCR. Therefore, more needs be to done by the relevant UN organs, as to preserve the International Humanitarian Principles, for the sake of people of concern to UNHCR.

The International Community should also redouble its efforts in tackling xenophobia and intolerance, which run against the cardinal principles of International Human Rights Law.

On the other side, the International Community should foster creative supporting measures to States to deal with protection challenges, inter alia, large - scale influxes and mixed movements.

We have embarked on the implementation of the New York Declaration directives, in the search for a shift to a new

model of response, an exercise that will, hopefully, lead to the reaffirmation of the international protection regime, the principle of burden and responsibility – sharing; early experience in the application of the comprehensive refugee response framework, in light of changing nature of development cooperation and private sector involvement, apart from refugee inclusion in national systems, where possible and advisable.

Mr. Chairman,

We agree that UNHCR's operating environment, protection challenges and pressure on hosting countries and communities tend to be trying, due to unprecedented mixed movements of refugees and migrants, as comprehensively addressed by the High Commissioner.

The fact that people keep on missing while seeking safety through dangerous sea journeys, including in the Mediterranean, in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, and in seas in Southeast Asia, reflects the magnitude of the humanitarian crisis the international community is faced with and deserve due attention.

Mr. President,

It is our view that in addressing these crises, we should link humanitarian dimensions with assistance to development, as a strategy to deal with push factors such as poverty, lack of livelihood, deprivation and others.

We should redouble efforts to facilitate the safe, orderly and responsible mobility of people envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goal, if we are to effectively address, with resilience, the massive movements of people.

Amid funding insufficiency for UNHCR's operational activities, we can only appeal to UNHCR, humanitarian and other partners to continue their exercise aiming at expanding alternative sources of funding these activities. We note with appreciation the WB's contribution of \$2 billion, dedicated to middle income refugees' host countries, some of which CRRF pilot countries, for the period 2017 -2019.

We understand private sector fundraising is in tandem with the fact that UNHCR operation's budget is largely funded by donors. In this context, private sector fundraising is of great importance.

11 years on, private sector's fundraising shows encouraging results, for the amounts raised, so far, have systematically been on the rise.

We believe that the strategic direction set forth by UNHCR, is the right approach in the bid to realize its long term-goal, of raising U\$1 billion, per year.

As for the program budgets, to be presented at this session, we subscribe to the adoption of draft decision on the program budget for the biennium 2018 – 2019, which amount to \$7,508.4 million and \$7,352.3 million for 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Furthermore, we appeal to the Donor Community to adhere to the unearmarked voluntary contributions, so as to allow for UNHCR flexibility in allocation of resources to the different regional operations.

Mr. Chairman

We acknowledge, without exception, all the UNHCR's important partners for their untiring support to the implementation of the mandate of the High Commissioner.

We pay tribute to the UNHCR's field staff who work in difficult and dangerous duty stations, risking their lives as they undertake their noble humanitarian activities.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, we wish to commend the peoples and governments of refugee - hosting countries and communities worldwide for their solidarity and hospitality.

We thank you for your attention!