



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

Statement

By Delegation of the Republic of Mozambique

At

The High Level Officials Meeting, 2021

Panel on Priority 2 : Advancing implementation of pledges and initiatives

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

We wish to start by thanking you, Mr. President, for giving to my delegation the floor and for the excellent manner in which you are leading the proceedings of this important meeting, which aims to share information on the progress made and work towards achieving the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugee.

We would like to commend the UNHCR, in person of the High Commissioner, and the Secretariat, for their tireless efforts in the preparation of this meeting and for their hard work to guarantee adequate emergency response to

support refugees and internally displaced persons, particularly in this period that the world is faced by COVID-19 pandemic.

We take good note of the unprecedented challenges the Refugee Protection Environment is facing since the outbreak of COVID-19, which led to several countries to partially or totally shut their borders and limit movement of people, depriving a number of persons to seeking asylum and others to risking *refoulement*.

In the same vein, we understand that the full implementation of the international protection principles of responsibility and burden - sharing, as reaffirmed in both Global Compact on Refugees and Global Refugee Forum were seriously compromised, delaying the achievement of relevant goals in the protection of refugees and other persons of concern.

Meanwhile, we are encouraged by the resolve of UNHCR and humanitarian partners' organizations to turn the tide and overcome the challenges brought about by COVID-19.

On this note, we commend the UNHCR for its approach, through the launch of *emergency responses to COVID-19* in refugees hosting areas.

Mr. President,

Notwithstanding its multifaceted challenges of cyclical environment disasters and terrorist threats, Mozambique is home to about 28 thousand refugees and asylum seekers and has been doing its utmost to provide them the protection they are entitled to in light of international Refugees' Law and national legal

provisions, providing access to education, health and other social and economic services alongside with local host communities.

Regarding the Global Refugee Forum and the Pledges made by Mozambique, it is with satisfaction that we inform that the Government of Mozambique has made considerable progress towards the implementation of a Study on Statelessness which we intend to finalize by the first quarter of 2022 with the support of UNHCR, as we have already finalized a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of the study. This study will allow the Government of Mozambique to map the situation of statelessness in the country and design the needed intervention to address the issue in line with the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness by 2024.

Concerning the local integration for refugees, the government of Mozambique has increased access to education, health and work for refugees and asylum seekers. In 2020, the Government of Mozambique finished the construction of a Secondary School in Maratane Refugee Camp, and for the first quarter of 2022, additional classrooms will be constructed in order to allow enrolling of higher percentage of refugee children alongside with hosting communities.

Mr. President,

To conclude, we reiterate the Government of Mozambique commitments towards the achievement of the goals established in the Global Compact for Refugees and other initiatives undertaken towards the support and protection of refugees, and we thank UNHCR for the assistance and support in these endeavors.

We thank you very much for your attention