



# Republic of Rwanda

## Ministry in charge of Emergency Management

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**UNHCR: Seventy Second Session of the Executive Committee (4-8/10/ 2021)**

**Rwanda's Statement delivered by Hon. Marie Solange Kayisire, Minister in  
charge of Emergency Management**

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**Madam Vice Chairperson,  
High Commissioner,  
Heads of delegation,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased and honored to be part of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of United Nations High Commissioner's Programme for Refugees.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Burkina Faso on behalf of the Africa Group and commends the High Commissioner for his dedicated work and for his comprehensive report.

**Mr. High Commissioner**, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your visit to Rwanda in April this year, we appreciated fruitful discussion held and commitments made to improve the wellbeing of our people of concern as well as enhancing environmental protection in and around refugee camps.

**Madam Vice Chairperson,  
Mr. High Commissioner,**

Currently, Rwanda is hosting close to 127,000 refugees mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. 90% of them are living in refugee camps across the country and are depending on humanitarian assistance.

Despite the COVID-19 that has affected refugees' response and returnee's operations worldwide, allow me to highlight that Rwanda continued ensuring protection and assistance to refugees, opened its doors for asylum seekers and facilitated refugees to get durable solutions. In this regards, I would like to point out key highlights among many others.

- (i)** This year, the country has set COVID-19 response efforts by putting in place comprehensive preventive measures and vaccinating its residents including refugees. Currently 21% of the target population in Rwanda has been vaccinated and as we get more vaccines through various channels, this process will continue.
- (ii)** Since 2019, more than 29,000 Burundian refugees (29,297) have been facilitated to return to their country in safe and dignified voluntary repatriation and it will continue. To this end, we thank in particular the Government of the Republic of Burundi and UNHCR for continued collaboration in the matter.
- (iii)** Despite the cessation clause and COVID-19, in 2021, Rwanda received and reintegrated close to 1400 returnees (1396) mainly from DRC and doors are open for those willing to repatriate.
- (iv)** This year, 133 refugees and asylum seekers have been evacuated from Libya as part of Emergency transit mechanism established in Rwanda, (making a

total of 648 people received since 2019). Among them 408 (62.9%) have been resettled to third countries. We thank various stakeholders for their contributions. In line with this, I also wish to announce that Rwanda accepted to extend this Emergency mechanism for an additional 2 years and to increase the number received at any given time from 500 to 700.

- (v) With reduced food assistance funding, the Government of Rwanda in collaboration with WFP and UNHCR started the targeted assistance to most vulnerable refugees and enhanced livelihood program to improve their living conditions of refugees and for their self-reliance.

**Madam Vice Chairperson,**

**Mr. High Commissioner,**

I am pleased to announce that we have a good progress in implementing the Government commitments from 2016 Leaders' summit held in New York, on eradication of statelessness by 2024 as well as pledges made during the Global Refugee forum. However, more efforts are required to increase jobs as well other economic opportunities to cover unmet refugee needs and continue empowering them for their self-reliance.

As I conclude, I would like to thank the High Commissioner and UNHCR Leadership for its programme and achievements made this year. I also take this opportunity to reiterate Rwanda's commitment to ensure good collaboration in protection and improving the wellbeing of our people of concern.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**