



GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI

STATEMENT BY

**THE SECRETARY FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES, MR. KENNEDY A.L. NKHOMA**

**AT THE 72ND SESSION OF THE UNITED
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Chairperson, first and foremost, I bring best wishes and warm greetings from Malawi, *the Warm Heart of Africa*. I would like to thank the Government and people of Switzerland for the great hospitality accorded to my delegation.

It is pleasing to highlight that Malawi is attending this meeting as a full EXCOM member for the first time. We have attended these meetings as observers for many years. We therefore appreciate the opportunity of being accorded full membership of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme as the 107th member, in February 2021.

We would like to align ourselves to the statements made by Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Group.

Chairperson, the opening statement of the High Commissioner, highlights the many challenges facing the world, especially the COVID 19 pandemic, the climate emergency, and persistent conflicts that continue to affect refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, and stateless persons across the globe.

Malawi has not been spared from these challenges. The country has a protracted caseload with a current population over 51,000. I am however, pleased to report that the Government of Malawi has adhered to the Principle of *Non-Refoulement* by maintaining open borders even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Malawi has ensured biometric enrolment is done for all asylum seekers upon registration. Reception, Quarantine and Isolation

facilities have also been put in place at the point of entry and in the designated refugee camp. In addition, refugees have been included in the Government's national vaccination programme and over 3,200 refugees have been vaccinated.

In line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the Government of Malawi has taken deliberate steps to promote the inclusion of refugees into National Development Plans, but also to build the resilience amongst the population of concern. This is also in line with the Malawi Vision 2063 that calls for an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation.

Furthermore, legal reforms have been prioritized to ensure a favourable legal environment for all Persons of Concern and to enhance inclusion and harmonious coexistence between the refugees and the host community.

I am very pleased to announce **Chairperson**, that Malawi is currently working on the Review of the Immigration and Citizenship Acts and plans to review the National Registration Act. The review has accommodated Stateless persons in line with the pledges that were made at the Global Refugee Forum. Furthermore, the country will soon be acceding to the **1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness**.

Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates; on another note, the Malawi Government notes the potential the country has to improve in the area of shelter construction, health, education and access to livelihood programmes. This is however a challenge due

to inadequate funding. Although as an achievement the Government has allocated funds in its budget for refugee affairs, I invite UNHCR and all donor agencies to support the refugee operation in Malawi.

In a special way, allow me to thank the UNHCR for the excellent humanitarian operations in Malawi. It is therefore the wish of the Malawi Government that the good work will continue in the coming year despite the multiple emergencies and complex and protracted displacement crises.

Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates, let me at this juncture commend UNHCR for renewing its five Strategic Directions, for another five years. In conclusion; let me reiterate Malawi's commitment to the global strategic priorities for the effective management of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in the country.

I thank you all for your attention.