



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA AT THE 68TH SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR
REFUGEES**

***HON. ENG. HILARY ONEK
MINISTER FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND
REFUGEES 2ND OCTOBER 2017***

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee

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

All Protocol observed.

Chairperson, regards from Uganda and H E the President of the Republic of Uganda who has requested me to extend appreciation to H E the UN Secretary General, the High Commissioner for Refugees and all those who attended and contributed generously towards the Solidarity Summit in Kampala that took place in June this year.

The Government of Uganda would like the humanitarian support momentum generated in Kampala during the solidarity summit sustained and expanded because the unfolding refugee crisis in the region, leading to a refugee population in the country of over 1.35 million refugees, of which 1 million are from South Sudan with 80% of these being women and children.

Uganda will continue to maintain an open door policy for those running away from danger. This however should be matched with requisite resourcing by the International Community. The current spending of **0.4%** of a dollar per refugee is appalling and needs urgent reviewing to meet the needs of refugees in the country.

Chairperson, Uganda despite the high numbers exerting pressure on a small developing economy still maintains a big success story in hosting refugees due to good laws and hospitable host communities across the country. Government is committed to ensuring that this success story is maintained and even improved further, through existing structures of government. We should avoid advancing positions of creating new implementation structures. The success applauded now is due to the

existing structures which should be improved with skills capacitation, not competition.

In this regard, Uganda is in the final stages of validating and documenting the Refugee Policy 2016.

Madam Chair,

The new global support mechanism namely the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) is not new to Uganda. CRRF has been in practice in Uganda for over 50 years. Uganda today is customizing the global CRRF without creating parallel structures to manage CRRF. The CRRF must support the Settlement Transformation Agenda (STA) as outlined in the National Development Plan II and so should all other initiatives.

Madam Chairperson, Uganda is committed to promoting global aspirations under CRRF and the doors are open to all those who want to come to Uganda to learn how CRRF works. Uganda is at hand to render expertise to those countries who need it to ensure that CRRF meets its intended objectives. Tanzania, Ethiopia and Malawi have already undertaken benchmarking visits to Uganda to study our approach to refugee management.

Madam Chairperson, now that the global humanitarian support mechanisms have recognized the strategic importance of investing in refugee hosting communities as way to assure asylum space in hosting countries, there is need to urgently pay attention to host communities to lessen the burden they have carried with meager resources for a long time. The ReHOPE initiative has remained largely on paper and needs significant funding beyond normal country programming by UNHCR and other stakeholders.

Madam Chairperson during the last EXCOM Uganda reported on efforts to roll out the World Bank loan project in support host of communities. I am happy to report that the loan project has commenced and we are sure it will improve our asylum environment in Uganda.

The Registration of Persons Act, places registration of Refugees with the Office of The Prime Minister. The Ministry has put in place Refugee Information Management System (RIMS). With this, 80% verification of Refugees has been completed, together with UNHCR a project to enhance the features of the system has been embarked on.

Madam Chair and the High Commissioner, its Uganda's wish that the ongoing conflict in South Sudan and others in the region come to an end. We should all rally behind the IGAD and African Union to get to a peaceful resolution of this and other conflicts in the region.

Uganda remains committed to finding a lasting solution for Somalia through both the IGAD initiative and the Nairobi Declaration on durable Solutions for Somalia of March 2017 and the Burundi initiatives through the East African Community sponsored talks.

Madam Chairperson Uganda calls on the International Community to contribute to the regional efforts to bring peace to the region.

For God and My Country

Eng. Hilary Onek

Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees