



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

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**Statement by
His Excellency, Amadeu da Conceição,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in
Geneva
at
The General Debate of the 73rd UNHCR Executive Committee
Geneva, 10-14 October, 2022**

Mr. Chairperson ,

Mr. High-Commissioner,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

I am honored to express, on behalf of the government of the Republic of Mozambique, our gratitude to UNHCR for inviting my country to participate in this important meeting.

We commend the Chairperson and the members of the bureau for the excellent manner in which the proceedings of this Executive Committee meeting is being led and for this, we wish to reiterate our support to the UNHCR.

Our compliments are also directed to Mr. Filippo Grandi for the global leadership and commitment towards the assistance of forcibly displaced people around the world. We are exceptionally glad for the extension of his mandate as UN High Commissioner for Refugee.

Mozambique aligns itself with the statement delivered by Chad on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are witnessing a critical and unprecedented moment, characterized by a multiplicity of interconnected crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts in different parts of the world, humanitarian challenges, climate change and threats to the global economy particularly to the developing countries; terrorism and international organized crime having an impact in the worsening of food, energy and humanitarian crisis, and exacerbating forced displacement of people in many countries, including Mozambique.

In Mozambique, terrorist attacks have resulted in around 900.000 internally displaced persons, but thanks to the actions undertaken by Mozambique with the support and assistance of multilateral and bilateral cooperation partners, we have made progress in combating terrorism, and thus enabling the restoration of security and the consequent gradual return of displaced people to their areas of origin and the resumption of economic and social activities.

Mr. Chairperson,

Recently, our country has been cyclically and intensively affected by natural disasters characterized by tropical cyclones, floods and droughts that have caused loss of human lives, displacement of persons, extensive damage to infrastructure and disruption of socio-economic activities. Just, between 2019 and 2022, Mozambique was hit by cyclones Idai, Kenneth, Guambe, Chalane, Ana and Gombe. The negative impacts of these phenomena were mitigated by the joint intervention of diverse partners with special emphasis to the United Nations agencies, the UNHCR included, in particular for the support of local communities, refugees and other displaced persons.

Concerning the materialization of the Global Refugee Forum commitments, the Government of Mozambique has advanced significantly in the implementation of the pledges made at the 1st Global Refugee Forum, and the Government has finalized the Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR which will be the base for the implementation of a study on statelessness in Mozambique aligned with the **“I belong campaign” which was also emphasized earlier in the intervention of the High Commissioner**

Furthermore, the Government of Mozambique acknowledges that local integration, as durable solution provides opportunity for reconstruction of the lives of refugees combined with their contributions for economic growth of local communities as their skills and diverse knowledge are being applied for national development in the country of asylum.

Thus, the Government of Mozambique pledges to continue providing assistance and protection for persons fleeing persecution according to the Geneva Convention, as well as ensuring legal, social, economic and cultural integration.

Nevertheless, it is also important to visualize durable solutions in the context of voluntary repatriation as stated in the Global Compact for

Refugees, considered a preferred solution in the majority of refugee situations as it is currently happening in Mozambique.

Mr. Chairperson

We would like to highlight that the movement of refugees should be particularly addressed in a binary perspective of people fleeing persecution and returning home when conditions are favorable. Therefore, it's paramount to increase approaches that tackle the root causes of forced displacement, removes obstacles to return and enable conditions favorable to voluntary repatriation which includes socio-economic support and development assistance in order to achieve safety, peace and stability.

The Government of Mozambique will continue working with national, regional and international partners, especially with UNHCR, to ensure that the needs of refugees are met with safety, dignity and respect to human rights whether in an asylum country or on the way back home.

The world we live in today, is going through challenging times, and now than ever, it's time for countries to work together for increased solidarity and support to the people fleeing insecurity by upholding the principles laid down in the Geneva Convention.

Thank you. Mr. Chairperson