



Republic of Zambia

STATEMENT ON TOWARDS A GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES:
THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS TWO TO FIVE

Thank you, Co-Chairs for giving me the floor,

Speaking on behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank the presenters for bringing out some of the issues needing our attention. We are happy to see the results of the works of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and renewed global commitment from member states to address large movements of refugees and migrants.

Chair, having stated the above, am now inclined to make an attempt to answer the questions that have been put before the meeting. However, I must commend the UNHCR for its inclusion of the voice of refugees through Ms. Mugisha Willent, a Youth delegate from the Democratic Republic of Congo who has highlighted the priority areas in her statement; among them free movement within host countries; easy access to international travel documents and to have these documents recognized by all member states; more opportunities to attend university, by paying the same school fees that nationals pay and an expansion of scholarships to refugees by the NGOs and international institution; that refugees are assets to the countries hosting them as they have skills, knowledge and need access to labour markets; as well as need to support refugee-led

projects and providing them with access to financial services like credit and loans.

Co-chairs, these are important areas of focus for both host Communities and the donor community to consider.

I also wish to agree with the Co-Chair, the Assistant High Commissioner (Operations) Mr. George Okoth-Obbo, that even relative portions of human movement, in particular refugees, would also require international solidarity.

Co- Chair, in answering the question on the thematic discussion panel one: on how we can ensure better preparedness for and rapid responses to large movement of refugees?, I wish to allude to the fact that not too long ago Zambia received over 4000 Congolese refugees, however, despite having a contingency plan in place, the challenge was that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees could not fully attend to the needs due to insufficient funding which was below the budget that had been presented and other United Nations agencies could not help because the numbers were low.

We thus emphasize that there is need to mobilize resources and recommended that funding be made in full irrespective of the numbers so that we can save lives as these people have immediate needs and if we are to attend to the needs of refugees, resources must be readily available.

Co-Chair, regarding thematic discussion panel two on how States can be supported to receive large numbers of refugees in a safe and dignified manner?

Our submission is that receiving States must be ready. However, they can only be ready if they have the necessary human resource to deal with the caseload in terms of screening and registration. It is in this regard that there is need for

capacity building in receiving States on how to respond to emergencies. Further, Governments need to provide and put protection measures in place so as to better protect refugees in times of crisis.

Co-Chair, regarding the thematic discussion panel two on how can we mobilize more resources for humanitarian and development assistance to host States?

Considering that there is heightened political will as evidenced by the New York Declaration, yet the resources at national level may not be enough, there is need to expand on the donor community base. Similarly, the private sector that is both humanitarian and development actors would be key, there is need for additional development funding in order to support refugee hosting countries by funding projects aimed at improving the livelihood of refugees.

Co-Chair, on thematic discussion two panel two on how the inclusion of refugees in national systems and services can be supported?

Our submission is that there is need to incorporate refugee matters in the National Development Plan.

Co-Chair, as to thematic discussion two panel three on how can we enhance economic inclusion and promote livelihood opportunities for all refugees in a way that benefits host countries and communities?

Our submission is that refugees should have access to financial information and that banks should come up with strategies of reaching out to them as many are unbanked.

Lastly but not the least regarding the thematic discussion two panel four on how

can we bring innovation to humanitarian assistance to achieve greater efficiency, effectiveness and accountability?

Our submission is that refugees come with skills and there is need to enhance the skills and businesses and also link them to markets. Similarly, should be assisted with a revolving fund that will help those that are unable to get loans from banks to start up business ventures within their communities.

I THANK YOU

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