



**REMARKS BY HON. JUMANNE ABDALLAH SAGINI (MP), DEPUTY  
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS DURING THE SEVENTY-FOURTH  
SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH  
COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME (EXCOM) TO BE HELD IN  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND 09<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

***Chairperson,  
Distinguished Delegates,***

At the outset, allow me to join previous speakers in commending you for your able leadership. We also commend the High Commissioner for Refugees and the UNHCR's staff on the outstanding work they continue to do in providing international protection to refugees and asylum seekers.

In addition, I would like to extend the sincere appreciation of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to the High Commissioner for his visit to Tanzania earlier this year.

***Chairperson,***

Before proceeding further, I wish to inform this august gathering that my delegation aligns with the statement delivered by the Republic of Congo on behalf of the African Group. That stated, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

***Chairperson,***

Tanzania has been hosting refugees for many decades, whereby currently we are hosting 256,309 refugees. This operation is facing a significant financial crisis, which undermines humanitarian assistance to the refugee community in the country. Health posts at refugee camps are being closed, food rations have been reduced to 50 percent and education has been affected due to insufficient funding, posing a serious risk to the refugee communities. This situation may cause tension between refugees and host communities as they scramble for resources; refugee children are likely going to become stunted due to undernourishment and will not sit for their final examinations in 2023. To make matters worse, UNHCR Tanzania ordered all implementing partners reduce their budgets by 30 percent amid implementation.

***Chairperson,***

Tanzania started receiving new asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the beginning of this year, forcing respondents in the refugee operation to use resources budgeted for the year 2023. This situation has created a significant gap in the services provided to refugees. Nevertheless, as of now, UNHCR Tanzania has notified us that, the situation does not constitute an emergency, and hence no more funds would be granted to Tanzania.

***Chairperson,*** As we approach a heavy rainy season, possibly elnino, Tanzania operations require special attention to avoid epidemic diseases.

The funding crisis has also adversely affected the durable solutions, that is ongoing voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in Tanzania. The Governments of Tanzania, Burundi, and UNHCR agreed to two convoys each week during the 23rd Tripartite Commission meeting, but UNHCR does not have the capacity to send two convoys every week due to funding limitations. I would like to make an appeal to you on this challenge to ensure that Burundian refugees return home in order to avoid a protracted refugee situation.

On the same note, the Government of Tanzania continues to urge UNHCR and the international community to support the cessation of refugee status for Burundian refugees hosted in Tanzania. There is no doubt that the current situation in Burundi warrants the return of the Burundian refugees. We acknowledge that UNHCR has good intentions and has an obligation to protect vulnerable people, but also we have obligation to prevent asylum space from being abused too, especially during these difficult times. We do not believe it is fair to both the Government of Tanzania and the UNHCR to provide protection and all necessary humanitarian assistance to individuals whose reasons for their flight no longer exist.

***Chairperson,***

Despite the challenges, the Government of Tanzania in close collaboration with the UNHCR Tanzania have achieved remarkable milestone achievement in attaining durable solution to 18,802 since January 2023, whereby 12,998 refugees were assisted to return to their country of origin and 5,804 were resettled to various countries.

***Chairperson,***

Lastly, I would like to reiterate Tanzania's commitment to all international instruments governing refugee issues, as well as national policy and legal

frameworks. Tanzania will continue to welcome refugees, provide protection, and search for durable solutions.

Thank you for your kind attention!