



## **ZIMBABWE**

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE EDGAR MOYO (MP)  
THE MINISTER OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE  
OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

**AT THE 76<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (EXCOM)  
MEETING  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  
6 OCTOBER 2025**

**Chairperson,**  
**Your Excellencies,**  
**High Commissioner Mr. Filippo Grandi**  
**Distinguished Delegates**

Thank you for giving me the floor. Zimbabwe aligns with the statement delivered by Cote d'Ivoire on behalf of the Africa Group.

Chairperson, this year's ExCom meets at a critical juncture where the world continues to face rising geopolitical tensions, conflicts, wars and climate induced disasters among many severe challenges. The global humanitarian situation has been further compounded by the financial crisis that has hit the United Nations. The UNHCR has not been spared and while it had already been struggling with a widening funding gap in recent years, the situation we find ourselves in has become unsustainable with a catastrophic impact on refugees.

**Chairperson,** we also meet soon after the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly where world leaders unanimously agreed and reiterated the need to find lasting solutions to the global humanitarian situation. In particular, delegations including Zimbabwe called for

peace and an end to the many wars in the world today. We reiterate this call today because this is the only lasting solution that will ease the burden being shouldered by hosting states who have no choice but to open their borders to forcibly displaced persons fleeing the devastating effects of war.

**Chairperson,** as a hosting state, Zimbabwe has and will continue to play its part in promoting peace in the Southern African region. This includes spearheading joint diplomatic efforts between the Southern Africa Development Community and East African Community to bring lasting peace to the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

In addition to these efforts, Zimbabwe calls for the observance of the principles of burden and responsibility sharing by the international community. The recent down-scaling of operations by UNHCR, including the closure of the Southern Africa bureau will reverse the progress that had been registered in our region, with a negative impact on the general protection of refugees. We therefore call upon the UNHCR and financial donors to avail more unearmarked and flexible funding to support refugees and respond to fluid and evolving emergencies.

**Chairperson,** Zimbabwe has adopted a protection centered approach to refugee protection and we have laid the foundation for the amendment of the Refugees Act. This process will include undertaking benchmarking missions to learn from other jurisdictions and align the Refugees Act with international best practices and standards.

Furthermore, Chairperson, refugees have been integrated in education, health, sport and social protection interventions by leveraging resources and expertise through strategic partnerships with UNHCR, the private sector, non-state actors and refugee led organizations. At this point, we need now more than ever to strengthen our collaborative efforts. Zimbabwe commends the organizations that have been complementing Government efforts in our pursuit of an inclusive agenda seeking to transform Tongogara Refugee Settlement into a District Service Center.

In pursuance of this agenda, the Government of Zimbabwe will ensure that refugee issues are mainstreamed in all Government programs, particularly as we launch the second phase of the national economic blueprint, the

National Development Strategy 2. This will strengthen our ability to consolidate the realization of the Global Refugee Forum pledges we committed to in 2023.

**Chairperson,** in line with my government's national development philosophy of leaving no one and no place behind, refugees are enjoying access to civil documents such as birth certificates, national identity documents and passports. Additionally, the validity of the national identity documents was reviewed from 2 years to 5 years. This is an expression of our hospitality and generosity to refugees as a government.

**Finally, Chairperson,** Zimbabwe congratulates you and fellow members of your bureau on successfully leading ExCom in the past year. We also commend the tireless efforts and the able leadership of the High Commissioner Mr. Filippo Grandi since 2016. We wish you High Commissioner, success in your future endeavors and look forward to a smooth transition with the new High Commissioner in 2026.

As I close my remarks, the Zimbabwe delegation pays special tribute to the many men and women who have paid

the ultimate price and lost their lives in the line of humanitarian duty.

**I Thank You.**