

## UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



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### STATEMENT BY THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA-URT DURING THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER (EXCOM) IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND OCTOBER 2025

**Chairperson,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the republic of Cote de vore on behalf of the African Group.

**Chairperson.**

You will agree with me that, the High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi's leadership has ensured that the plight of displaced persons remains visible and urgent, even in the face of these competing global demands.

**Chairperson,**

I also wish to extend our sincere appreciation for the recent visit of the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection to the URT. Her visit reiterated the importance of intensifying efforts to promote repatriation of Burundian refugees, and underscored the need for increased support to Burundi side to enhance reintegration programmes.

**Chairperson,**

As echoed by many delegations, we remain deeply concerned about the ongoing financial constraints affecting refugee operations. In the URT, this challenge has led to the closure of key humanitarian programs while the refugee population increases.

**Chairperson,**

We also face a persistent challenge, despite prevailing peace and stability in Burundi, many Burundian refugees continue to resist voluntary repatriation. The URT hosts more than 150,000 Burundian refugees', whereby from January to September 2025, only 1,640 individuals were assisted to return, despite the fact that the majority have viable durable solutions within Burundi.

**Chairperson,**

In our continued efforts to accelerate durable solutions for Burundian refugees, the 25<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Commission meeting held in December 2024 reached a decision to undertake a Comprehensive Protection and Solutions-Based Assessment (CPSBA) for this population. The objective of the assessment was to identify durable solutions that align with international protection standards and reflect the realities on the ground.

In collaboration with UNHCR, I am pleased to report the successful completion of the said assessment as of October 2025. Recommendations have now been formulated to guide durable solutions. We therefore call upon the international community to stand with us in translating these recommendations into actions, so that this population may finally access durable solutions.

**Chairperson,**

I would like to highlight that, extensive efforts have been made by the Government of the URT, the Government of the Republic of Burundi, UNHCR, donors, and stakeholders within Burundi and the URT for this group. At this point, it is evident that some of the refugees are deliberately resisting return. While we continue to assess the impact of ongoing promotions for voluntary repatriation efforts, if they prove unsatisfactory, Tanzania will be compelled to invoke cessation for this group.

We wish to reassure UNHCR and all partners that, any cessation process will apply solely to Burundian refugees hosted within the United Republic of Tanzania. Furthermore, this matter will be

formally presented at the upcoming Tripartite Commission meeting scheduled for late November 2025.

**Chairperson,**

In prioritizing solutions, we also wish to highlight the growing interest among Congolese refugees in the URT to voluntarily return to their country of origin. Some have expressed willingness to be supported in returning to alternative destinations within their country. In response, we plan to convene a Tripartite Meeting in December 2025 to explore modalities for safe and dignified return in collaboration with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and UNHCR. We are committed to ensuring that, this process reflects the aspirations of those seeking to rebuild their lives at home.

**Chairperson,**

Tanzania remains committed in its humanitarian tradition. For decades, we have welcomed those fleeing persecution and conflicts, offering protection and pursuing durable solutions in partnership with UNHCR and the international community. As we look ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to continue receiving those in need, providing protection and to pursue durable solutions that restore hope and dignity to the forced displaced population.

Thank you for your kind attention.