



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

**STATEMENT BY THE
SECRETARY FOR HOMELAND SECURITY,
DR STEVEN W.S KAYUNI
AT THE
76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(EXCOM), 2025**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
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Thank you, Chairperson,

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honour for the Malawi delegation to participate in the 76th session of this esteemed Committee. I bring warm greetings from the Republic of Malawi and its people.

Malawi fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cote d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group and echoes the call for increased international support especially noting that the African region has been affected by the closure and scaling down of some of the UNHCR Offices, which were key in supporting government in the offering of protection services to the forcibly displaced persons.

Chairperson, as highlighted by previous speakers, the nature of displacement has grown increasingly complex. Refugees and migrants now move side by side along transnational routes, presenting multifaceted challenges and placing immense pressure on host countries. Malawi is no exception. We continue to receive displaced populations, yet our capacity to provide adequate basic services remains limited. These efforts are undertaken even as we strive to meet the needs of our own communities. We therefore

reiterate our appeal for equitable responsibility and burden-sharing in addressing these challenges.

Our communities have also witnessed a rise in irregular migration and transnational crimes committed by individuals claiming international protection. In response, Malawi has implemented stringent measures to ensure that protection is granted to those genuinely in need, while safeguarding national security. We are actively working to prevent the misuse of international protection and call for sustainable support to strengthen these efforts.

Chairperson, the Dzaleka Refugee Camp is severely overcrowded, leading to increased demand for essential services such as healthcare and education. To address this, the Government has secured 445 hectares of land in Chitipa District for the establishment of a new settlement. This initiative aims to decongest Dzaleka, and we urge UNHCR and all partners to provide robust support for the timely development of the Chitipa Settlement Site.

Malawi continues to promote durable solutions and complementary pathways. However, scaling up these efforts requires greater support. In collaboration with UNHCR, we have facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 155 individuals this year, with recent departures to Rwanda and Burundi on the 22nd and 24th of September, 2025. Malawi has assisted the voluntary repatriation

of 515 individuals since June 2023 . We extend our sincere gratitude to the Governments of Burundi and Rwanda for their cooperation and hope this support continues, as many more have expressed a desire to return home.

While resettlement remains a vital durable solution, it has also become a pull factor for new asylum seekers. We therefore appeal for increased resettlement quotas to ensure broader access to this pathway. We are deeply thankful to all states and partners who have supported us especially those who have created opportunities for refugee youth through complementary pathways.

Chairperson, Malawi has integrated forcibly displaced populations in the national development agenda. This inclusion fosters self-reliance and enables meaningful contributions to local communities and economies until such time as individuals can safely return home. We believe that upon return, they will continue to be valuable contributors to their societies and countries of origin. We call for sustained commitment and resources to support these programs. Notably, our responsible department is currently conducting a housing census in the camp to better understand population dynamics and inform future planning.

In closing, I wish to thank you, Chairperson, for your exemplary leadership, and express our appreciation to UNHCR and its

administration for the continued humanitarian support extended to Malawi.

The Government of Malawi reaffirms its commitment to building a robust framework for international protection and looks forward to deepening collaboration with UNHCR and other partners in pursuit of lasting solutions for displaced populations.

Thank you for your attention.