



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**76TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S
PROGRAMME (UNHCR ExCom)**

STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM 3: GENERAL DEBATE

6TH – 10TH OCTOBER, 2025

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



Thank you, Chairperson,
The UN High Commissioner for Refugees,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

1. Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group.
2. Kenya has hosted refugees for over 35 years and currently accommodates over 860,000 persons of concern. This long-standing commitment reflects Kenya's continued role in regional stability and humanitarian response. However, the scale of displacement globally, now exceeding 120 million, highlights the urgent need for the international community to address the root causes of forced displacement.
3. Despite the challenges, Kenya has taken significant steps to strengthen its asylum system and promote refugee inclusion. Key developments include:
 - a) **Development** of the 2025 SIM-Card Registration Regulations allowing refugees to use their identity cards to register for mobile phone and financial services, thereby promoting digital and economic inclusion.
 - b) **Education Integration** Refugee learners are progressively being integrated into Kenya's National Education System.
 - c) Refugees enrollment into the Kenya Social Health Insurance Fund benefiting on **Universal Health Coverage packages**.
 - d) **Skills Development** for thousands of young refugees from vocational training and employability programs.
 - e) **Decentralized Support** where Refugee-hosting areas have been designated as Special Municipalities thus set to deliver inclusive services to both host communities and refugees.



- f) **Addressing Statelessness** by taking concrete steps to address statelessness e.g. naturalizing formerly stateless communities of the Pemba, Shona and Makonde. The country also joined the Global Alliance to End Statelessness in 2024.
- 4. Building on these gains, in early 2025, Kenya launched the **Shirika Plan**, a comprehensive, development-focused framework aimed at enhancing resilience and self-reliance among refugees and host communities. Although the plan is currently in a transition phase, its success hinges on strong technical and financial backing from the international community on the understanding that shared global responsibility must translate into real, actionable support that strengthens national systems.

Excellencies,

- 5. The 76th Session convenes at a moment of extraordinary strain marked by worsening global displacement context, compounded impact of protracted conflicts, reduced resettlement opportunities, and significant aid funding cuts. These challenges are felt in Kenya. For instance:
 - a) Refugee protests have already emerged due to reduced food rations and the implementation of differentiated assistance models, signaling rising frustration and vulnerability.
 - b) Critical sectors like education, water, health and sanitation have been affected. Cuts in education support, in particular, increase the risk of recruitment of refugee youth by criminal or terrorist groups. These developments not only harm refugee wellbeing but also pose long-term risks to public health and regional stability.
- 6. It is therefore crucial, even amidst the ongoing humanitarian reset and the UN80 Initiative that we entrench coordinated and durable solutions. Kenya therefore urges for better coordination among humanitarian,



development, and peace actors. In particular, Kenya's emphasis is on two pillars for achieving sustainable refugee responses:

- a) **Support to Countries of Origin:** Investment in socio-economic infrastructure and governance reforms to enable safe, dignified, and voluntary return of refugees.
 - b) **Support in Host Countries:** Empowering refugees through inclusive, resilience-building programmes guaranteeing meaningful participation in local economies and communities.
7. Kenya reiterates that refugee protection is not only a humanitarian obligation but also essential for sustaining peace and security in host regions. Therefore, Kenya appeals to partners to invest in infrastructure development within host countries and countries of origin as well as provide technical support and enhance the capacity of national institutions responsible for refugee management.

Excellencies,

8. We emphasize the importance of meeting the objectives of the **Global Compact on Refugees**, particularly easing pressure on host countries, enhancing refugee self-reliance, increasing third-country solutions, and enabling voluntary repatriation. These goals require strengthened multilateralism, predictable financing and responsibility sharing.
9. Kenya looks forward to the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in December 2025, where it hopes to advance pledges made in 2019 and 2023. We affirm our commitment to collaboration and emphasize the need to reinforce the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Consequently, durable refugee solutions will be achieved through global cooperation and an integrated approach to shared challenges.



Excellency, High Commissioner,

10. On behalf of the Government of Kenya, I extend our heartfelt congratulations on your distinguished tenure and leadership at UNHCR. We deeply appreciate your advocacy and consistent engagement with Kenya over the years; particularly in relation to the Shirika Plan, which stands as a testament to your legacy.

11. In conclusion, Kenya reaffirms her unwavering commitment to the protection of refugees and stateless persons. The country urges the international community to match this commitment with practical and sustained support, grounded in solidarity and shared responsibility.

I THANK YOU!