



Republic of Mozambique

**Statement by the delegation of Mozambique at the General
Debate of the 69th Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee
of the High Commissioner's Program**
(General debate)

Madam Chair,

We wish to thank the High Commissioner, Mr. Filippo Grandi, for his inspiring opening statement, through which he has presented a review of the key drivers and features of today's global forced displacement, challenges to international protection as well as his vision on how the global compact on refugees can leverage more comprehensive, predictable and solutions-oriented engagement in support of the forcibly displaced and their hosts.

We align our intervention to the statement delivered by the African Group.

Madam Chair,

Having participated actively in the consultations on the draft global compact on refugees we look forward to its endorsement by the UNGA and its smooth implementation, for it represents a paradigm shift as the international community seeks to ease the pressures on host countries; enhance refugee self-reliance; expand access to third-country solutions; support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

Madam Chair,

We take note of the progresses made by the High Commissioner in pursuing UNHCR's strategic directions, on the basis of the 'core

directions' of "protect, respond, include, empower, solve", as articulated by the High Commissioner in the beginning of his mandate.

Therefore, we commend the High Commissioner for the positive impact of the strategic direction in major crisis; the outcomes of the traditional and non-traditional partnerships, as well as the use of innovation, in mixed flows, internal displacement, emergency preparedness and response, inclusion of displaced and stateless people in national systems and development programmes, amongst others

Mr. President,

We highly appreciate the activities undertaken by the UNHCR and partners, since the 68th Session of ExCom, as they sought to protect and assist persons of their concern.

We share the High Commissioner's concerns in regards to the worsening of forced displacement situation worldwide, at a time the available resources for their protection and assistance, on the ground, fall short of the needs.

We take good note of the current trends and future outlook of new and ongoing crises and protracted displacement, with a few prospects for definitive resolution, hence the importance of support to host countries and communities, amidst a fluid environment, preparing for future shifts, as articulated in the High Commissioner's statement.

We agree that sustaining protection in a complex political environment as well politicization of the refugee issue, within and between States, further complicate the mandate of UNHCR. Therefore, more needs be to done by the relevant UN organs, as to preserve the International Humanitarian Principles, for the sake of people of concern to UNHCR.

The International Community should also redouble its efforts in tackling xenophobia and intolerance, which run against the cardinal principles of International Human Rights Law.

On the other side, the International Community should foster creative supporting measures to States to deal with protection challenges, inter alia, large - scale influxes and mixed movements.

We agree that UNHCR's operating environment, protection challenges and pressure on hosting countries and communities tend to be trying, due to unprecedented mixed movements of refugees and migrants, as comprehensively addressed by the High Commissioner.

The fact that people keep on missing while seeking safety through dangerous sea journeys, including in the Mediterranean, in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, and in seas in Southeast Asia, reflects the magnitude of the humanitarian crisis the international community is faced with and deserve due attention.

Madam Chair,

It is our view that in addressing these crises, we should link humanitarian dimensions with assistance to development, as a strategy to deal with push factors such as poverty, lack of livelihood, deprivation and others.

We should redouble efforts to facilitate the safe, orderly and responsible mobility of people envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goal, if we are to effectively tackle, with resilience, the massive movements of people.

Amid funding insufficiency for UNHCR's operational activities, we can only appeal to UNHCR, humanitarian and other partners to continue their exercise aiming at expanding alternative sources of funding these activities.

We note with appreciation the World Bank contribution of \$2 billion, dedicated to middle income refugees' host countries, some of which CRRF countries, for the period up to 2019.

As for the revised program budgets, to be presented at this session, we subscribe to the adoption of draft decision on the revised program budget for 2018, which amounts to U\$ 8,220.5.

Madam Chair,

We acknowledge, without exception, all the UNHCR's important partners for their untiring support to the implementation of the mandate of the High Commissioner.

We pay tribute to the UNHCR's field staff who work in difficult and dangerous duty stations, risking their lives as they undertake their noble humanitarian activities.

To conclude, Madam Chair, we wish to commend the peoples and governments of refugee - hosting countries and communities worldwide for their solidarity and hospitality.

We join previous speakers in expressing our heartfelt sympathies to Indonesia for the loss of hundred of lives, recently caused by Tsunami and the earthquake.

We thank you for your attention!