



**SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME**

10-14 October 2022 – Palais des Nations, Room XIX

DRAFT DECLARATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY

**MRS. MINATA SAMATE CESSOUMA
COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH, HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

the Continent. I would like to take this opportunity to renew the invitation to all of you to attend this important side-event.

Mr. President

One of the current African concerns remains the substantial decrease in funding to deal with humanitarian disasters and displacement in Africa where funding gaps have reached worrying proportions. As illustrated by the UNHCR report, the overall funding needs, as of 31 July 2022, for the regions of East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes was only 22% covered. The situation is the same for the Sahel region.

I would therefore like to take advantage of this forum to renew my appeal to the international community to support the humanitarian emergencies in Africa.

Mr. President

Ladies and Gentlemen

Following the established practice, allow me to express the support of the African Union Commission to the election of H.E. Ms. Kadra AHMED HASSAN, Permanent Representative of Djibouti, current First Vice-Chairperson of the ExCom, to preside over this august body for the year 2023.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to reiterate the African Union's appreciation to the High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi for his continued commitment to supporting States in Africa to deal with forced displaced populations.

I urge the international community to show more solidarity with Africa so that we can collectively deal with the plight of refugees and other humanitarian needs in Africa and the world at large.

I thank you.