



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

Statement

**By Mr. Cremildo Abreu, Director-General of the National Institute for Refugees
of the Republic of Mozambique**

At

**The General Debate of the 72nd Meeting of the UNHCR Executive Committee,
Geneva, 4-8 October, 2021**

Mr. Chairperson,

We wish to start by thanking you, Mr. President, for giving my delegation the floor and for the excellent manner in which you are leading the proceedings of this important meeting.

The delegation of Mozambique is honoured to participate in person after long period due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Mozambique aligns itself with the statement of the African Group.

We would like to commend UNHCR at all levels for the visible and life changing work towards the protection of refugees, Internally displaced persons and other groups of vulnerable people around the world. UNHCR presence is felt in the most dangerous and adverse situations whenever there are people in need of your assistance.

The Government of Mozambique would like to thank UNHCR for the support provided to IDPs in the Northern Province of Cabo Delgado, caused by terrorist attacks since 2017, which have produced around 800.000 Internally Displaced Persons. The intervention and support of UNHCR in Mozambique has also mitigated considerably the impacts caused by Cyclones Kenneth and Idai and we are very thankful for the assistance.

The support of UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations, Governments and institutions to the Government of Mozambique and its Population is saving lives and it's making a difference in our country.

Mr. Chairperson,

In respect to the Global Refugee Forum and the Pledges made by Mozambique, the Government of Mozambique has made considerable progress towards the implementation of a Study on Statelessness, which is intended to be finalized by the first quarter of 2022 with the support of UNHCR. This study will allow the Government of Mozambique to map the situation of statelessness in our country and design the need intervention to address the issue in line with the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness by 2024.

Regarding the local integration for refugees, the Government of Mozambique has increased access to education, health and work for refugees. In 2020, the Government of Mozambique finished the construction of a Secondary School in Maratane Refugee Camp, which is now enrolling a higher percentage of refugee children.

In relation to local integration connected to sport practices, the Government of Mozambique is working with different partners with the support of UNHCR to encourage the integration of refugees initiatives in the area of sports.

However, parallel to local integration activities, we are now experiencing a different trend in refugee movement dynamic in Mozambique. We are now receiving more requests for voluntary repatriation and less arrivals of asylum seekers. We believe that due to improvements of conditions and opportunities in countries of origin, mainly from the

Great Lakes region, the refugees are now choosing voluntarily to return to their home countries.

Last month, in September, the Government of Mozambique successfully completed the first joint operation of voluntary repatriation to Burundi, and we are now working on the second operation with a higher number of requests and we wish to thank the Government of Burundi and UNHCR for the participation and collaboration in these process.

Mr. Chairperson,

One other different trend that we are observing in Mozambique is related to Maratane refugee camp. Mozambique hosts about 28.000 refugees. Up to 6 years ago, 65% of refugees were living in Refugee camp of Maratane and 35% in urban areas. As of today, only 30% are living in Refugee camp and 70% are living in urban areas.

We believe that it's now the time to consider an out of camp policy for refugee assistance in Mozambique and we ask the support and guidance of UNHCR in this matter.

To conclude, Mr. President, the Government of Mozambique stand confident towards the achievement of the goals established in the Global Compact for Refugees and other commitments undertaken towards the support and protection of refugees, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups in line with the core mandate of UNHCR.

We thank you very much for your attention