



**PERMANENT MISSION OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**73<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH  
COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME**

**10<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2022**

**Agenda item 3: General Debate**

***PALAIS DES NATIONS***  
**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**



**Chairperson,  
High Commissioner,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honoured to join you at this 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ExCom meeting.

**Chairperson,**

I commend you on your able stewardship of this 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee and assure you of our full support.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by distinguished representative of Chad on behalf of the African Group.

Allow me to join other delegations who have congratulated the High Commissioner on the extension of his mandate. Kenya is convinced that his visionary leadership continues to be more vital at a time when the rate of forced displacement has reached unprecedented and alarming levels globally.

**Chairperson,**

As the High Commissioner noted, there is need for greater burden and responsibly-sharing to address forced displacement. Kenya has been a committed partner in global solidarity to provide protection to those most



in need for over decades. Kenya hosts 561,836 Refugees and Asylum seekers from Horn of Africa, Great Lakes Region and East Africa.

I take this opportunity to outline some of the additional recent steps that Kenya has made towards honoring its international obligations, while also expressing solidarity in collective action to address displacement.

1. The Government of Kenya signed into law a new Refugee Act of 2021 which came to effect in February 2022. The Act addresses the rights and privileges of refugees such as access to registration, documentation, right to work through issuance of work permits, access to services and protection. It also establishes several institutions aimed at enhancing service delivery to asylum seekers and refugees.
2. Kenya adopted its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in October 2020 to facilitate implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR). To implement this, a Marshall plan of action has been developed. The plan seeks to address access to activities and services like Security, Trade, Healthcare, Education, WASH, housing through conversion of camps to settlements, energy, agriculture, social protection, among others.
3. Universal Health Coverage; Refugees also have access to the Kenyan health care facilities including access to the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).



4. The two refugee hosting counties implement their budgets through County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) which also cover the development needs of the areas hosting refugees. The Government needs financial support in this area to implement the plans that also benefit refugees.

**Chairperson,**

Turning to solutions, Kenya expresses continued concern that the numbers of repatriation and resettlement remain low. To date in Kenya, only **59,634** refugees have been facilitated to resettle in third countries since 2015. Kenya calls for enhanced global solidarity, burden and responsibility towards finding durable solutions for displaced persons. Additionally, as we look forward to the second Global Refugee Forum in 2023, demonstrable progress on enhancing the quality, size and scope for development will be crucial.

**Chairperson,**

Echoing the High Commissioner's remarks yesterday on the climate emergency including in the Horn of Africa, Kenya reiterates the gravity of this crisis. In the Horn of Africa region, we are currently witnessing the most severe drought in recent history. There have been four consecutive failed rainy seasons across the Horn of Africa, a situation not witnessed over the past 40 years. This drought has triggered displacement of persons both internally and across borders in an already very fragile region. It is compounding other protracted drivers of forced displacement particularly violent conflict, aggravating an already dire situation. There is need for extremely urgent collective action to avert a disaster.



**Chairperson,**

While noting the rise in new emergency situations, Kenya reiterates the importance of renewed action and responsibility sharing to address protracted situations, especially those that no longer receive global attention. It is imperative to ensure that protracted conflicts remain central to our discussions, continue receiving attention and commensurate support to address them.

In this regard, Kenya welcomes the growing focus on the humanitarian – development nexus. A focus on development is key in the search for durable solutions. It is particularly important for the creation of conducive conditions in countries of origin to facilitate sustainable returns, in safety and in dignity. It speaks to addressing root causes. A focus on development also ensures that gains made over the years are neither reversed nor lost altogether.

**Chairperson,**

Moving forward and in conclusion, Kenya calls upon the international community;

1. To increase resettlement places as spelt out in the Global Compact for Refugees.
2. Provide additional support to peace and development initiatives in countries of origin in order to achieve sustainable return/repatriation of refugees.



3. Enhance burden-and-responsibility sharing to refugee host countries, through more funding for ongoing programmes such as the CRRF implementation.
4. Leverage partnerships with private sector organizations and development actors to harness development assistance in the pursuit of durable solutions for refugees.
5. Ensure sustainable environmental practices in refugee hosting areas that are climate and environment-smart to reduce the negative impact on the environment in refugee hosting areas.

**I thank you for your attention.**