



Statement

By

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Republic of South Sudan

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Programme**

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Palais des Nations, Geneva

Your Excellency Ambassador Carsten Staur the Chairperson of the ExCOM,

Your Excellency the High Commissioner, Mr. Filippo Grandi

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the Republic of South Sudan, I would like to express our congratulations to H.E Ambassador Carsten Staur the Chairperson of the ExCOM for his assumption of the post of the chairperson of ExCOM and Excellency Filippo Grandi for his appointment as the High Commissioner,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the African Group. It is our wish, that the 67th session of the ExCOM will add a powerful voice to address the crisis of refugees and IDPS worldwide, increase the much needed care and assistance and global responsibility that refugees need today from all of us. Every continent is affected and feels the pain and human suffering refugees and displaced persons go through each day.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the 1960s, Southern Sudan started hosting refugees from Congo, Uganda, Ethiopia and many other African countries. When South Sudan gained independence on 9th July, 2011, the Government immediately enacted the “the Refugee Act, 2012”. In fulfillment of its commitment and obligations as member state of the United Nation, the country has progressed and ratified International and Regional legal instruments on refugees. I am glad

to announce that last June, South Sudan acceded to the OAU convention governing the specific aspects of refugees problems in Africa (1969) to become the 46th member state. As we speak, the 1951 Geneva Convention on the status of Refugees is at the final stage of Accession hopefully before the end of this year. The Government continues to enhance effective policies for the protection and safety of refugees and humanitarian workers. In collaboration with UNHCR the Government issued ID cards to refugees living in camps and urban centers to allow them to enjoy their full rights in the Country. Recently, the Government with the support of UNHCR inaugurated a new camp at Pamir which is well developed to host 52,000 refugees from Ida camp, this was attended by the assistant High commissioner for operations, Mr. George and Valentine, UNHCR Director for African Bureau as effort for protection and to provide safety to Sudanese refugees.

At this juncture, allow me to mention that in spite of the tragic conflict that erupted in July 2016 in my Country, none of the refugee camps was directly affected. The international community and humanitarian actors continued to access the refugee camps and provide services without interference.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following the 2013 conflict in South Sudan, many South Sudanese citizens were displaced internally as IDPs and externally as Refugees to the neighboring Countries. IDPs are hosted at Protection of Civilian Sites, (PoCs) across the country with the support of United Nation Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

The Government of Republic of South Sudan under the leadership of H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit signed in August, 2015, the Agreement of Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) to end the conflict in the Country. Today, the Transitional Government of national Unity (TGoNU) is committed to implement peace agreement and determined to invest in sustainable peace. In this connection, we are grateful to the international community for supporting the peace process to date and responding to the needs of the Internally Displaced persons and refugees equally.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

South Sudan is now a home to over 265,000 refugees and with our “open door Policy” we shall continue to welcome asylum seekers and refugees. We feel the same pain of refugees as many of our South Sudanese citizens have experienced the same in the past before independence in 2011.

As a result of lessons learned over many years of hosting refugees, we recommend to the UNHCR to provide technical support for the establishment of a unit for strategic studies on refugees in partnership with the University of Juba, South Sudan.

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates

In Conclusion, On behalf of my Government I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the High Commissioner Mr. **Filippo Grandi**, for keeping South Sudan refugees and IDPs under close monitoring and support. We hope he; will continue his commitment to support our people as he have always done since he took up his assignment

as the High Commissioner. We would also like to appreciate the unwavering support and selfless contributions of the UNHCR staff in the country and other UN agencies and Humanitarian partners. Also our sincere gratitude and appreciation go to our neighboring countries of Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia for hosting large numbers of our citizens since 2013.

Thank you.