



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

**STATEMENT BY THE  
MINISTER OF HOMELAND SECURITY,  
HONOURABLE JEAN MUONAOMUWUZA SENDEZA, M.P  
AT THE  
73<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
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**Thank you, Chairperson.**

Allow me first of all to bring you warm greetings from Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa. I would like to thank the Government and people of Switzerland for the great hospitality accorded to my delegation. Let me also thank you, **Chairperson**, for the excellent humanitarian operations supported by your organization worldwide.

**Chairperson**, the opening statement of the High Commissioner highlights the many challenges that the world is facing.

We fully associate ourselves with the statement made on the plight of the people of Ukraine.

Malawi has not been spared from the many challenges affecting refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, and stateless persons across the globe. The country has a protracted caseload with a current population of over 56,000 against facilities that were designed for the protection of 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Malawi.

The foregoing notwithstanding, I am pleased to report that the Government of Malawi has maintained the open borders policy and continues to host refugees and asylum seekers even amidst so many challenges. Malawi's challenges are exacerbated by the limited resources which is restricting on the provision of the much-needed capacity to manage the different categories of persons of concern that Malawi receives through its borders.

You might need to note Chairperson that, Malawi is continuing to register all individuals that present themselves on our borders seeking International Protection. We have however noted that there are some that are not genuinely in need of such protection and we are taking measures in order to accord the needed protection to the intended population and individuals. As such, we have called for a verification exercise to help ascertain all individuals that require Government attention in the provision of protection and assistance. It is our only hope that the verification exercise will assist our Government to know who exactly falls in which category of Persons of concern; asylum seekers and refugees, and as the others will also have to be channeled to the rightful entities to be processed and assisted accordingly. It will also go a long way in making sure that the country is channeling the right assistance and resources to the population that is well-deserving. This is very important now when resources are continuing to dwindle.

**Chairperson,** you may wish to know that the effects of natural phenomenon like cyclone Anna and Gombe have affected levels of food security sufficiency and it is unfortunate to see some partners withdrawing their support. We therefore join the chairperson in calling on all partners' international financial institutions, states, development agencies and others to partners with us in these endeavors.

**Chairperson,** the Government of Malawi has made an appeal to different stakeholders and partners for the provision of resources towards management and support of refugees and asylum seekers. We realize that Government cannot provide every support on its own. I therefore invite the

UNHCR and all donor agencies to support the refugee management and operations in Malawi. We hope that all partners will respond with haste as there is a great need to alleviate and meet many of the required aspects in the management of refugees and asylum seekers. The involvement of various stakeholders will also help to making sure that we create very strong synergies in assisting those displaced due to the challenges highlighted here.

Our food distribution agency has been having some challenges. As such it has resorted to administering food assistance. In as much as this is the only way that will assist us of devise a plan for the provision food supplies support to the Persons of Concern. We also face financial and resource constraints for effective support. However, on our part, our view is that the change in administering support was done too soon. The beneficiaries of the assistance are dissatisfied and this is putting pressure on Government.

**Chairperson**, your statement has highlighted the need for solutions. We believe that effective solutions can only be found if we all cooperate and support each other. I, therefore our request you Chairperson and all delegates here present to encourage Resettlement and Voluntary repatriation.

**On resettlement**; allow me, Chairperson, to express my gratitude to the countries that are in here that usually support and assist in the execution of this durable solution; and on;

**Voluntary repatriation**; our Government fosters an environment that encourages voluntary return of those asylum seekers and refugees whose

circumstances of the countries of origin have greatly improved. Return and Re-integration should help member states to take back those that were displaced as doing so will help increase the population of individuals who will be self- sustaining in various aspects of their lives, noting that the 1951 Un Convention on the protection of Refugees provides that no- one is expected to be a refugee for the rest of their life. As we are encouraging voluntary repatriation, we also call for your support Chairperson as Malawi is in the process of engaging some of the refugee sending countries for a dignified return of some individuals that have resided in Malawi as refugees over a period of time.

**Chairperson,** I am very pleased to announce that Malawi has conducted a study on statelessness and risks of statelessness whose results will be disseminated and validated later this month. As such, we commit to sharing the findings of the study with your office.

In a special way, allow me to sincerely thank, the UNHCR for the excellent humanitarian operations in Malawi. The Malawi Government remains committed to the management of refugees together with your office and other partners in the best interest of the people that we all care for.

I thank you all for your attention.