

Geneva, 27 September 2019

Media Advisory

UNHCR's 70th Executive Committee and High Level Segment on Statelessness

To all Geneva Palais Correspondents,

To mark the mid-point of UNHCR's decade-long #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024, UNHCR is convening a High Level Segment on Statelessness (HLS) during its 70th annual Executive Committee plenary session to be held from 7 to 11 October 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

All UN Member and Observer States have been invited to take part in this meeting which will also be attended by other UN agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: <http://www.unhcr.org/executive-committee.html>.

Palais correspondents are kindly invited to cover the following events:

1. Opening of the 70th annual plenary session of UNHCR's Executive Committee and opening of the High Level Segment on Statelessness
Monday 7 October 10:00 – 13:00 CEST Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

This session will include opening remarks by the UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, an address by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, a dialogue between Maha Mamo, a formerly stateless refugee and an advocate for the rights of stateless people and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Cate Blanchett, as well as a panel discussion on statelessness.

The panel will be moderated by British TV journalist and presenter Anita Rani with panellists including Maha Mamo, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Cate Blanchett and OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Lamberto Zannier.

A webcast will be available on the webpage: www.unhcr.org/excom2019.

2. Special Press Conference on Statelessness
Monday 7 October 12:45 – 13:15 CEST Room III, Palais des Nations

On the occasion of the High Level Segment on Statelessness (HLS), Palais correspondents are invited to a special press conference on the need for urgent international action to eradicate statelessness globally. Please note, questions will only be taken on statelessness, the HLS and the #IBelong Campaign.

Speakers include: Formerly stateless refugee and advocate for the rights of stateless people, Maha Mamo, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Cate Blanchett and UNHCR Special Advisor on Statelessness, Carol Batchelor.

3. Treaty Accession Event

Monday 7 October 13:15 - 13:45 CEST Hall 14, Palais des Nations

As part of the HLS, UNHCR will host a special ceremony to recognise States that have joined one or both of the UN Statelessness Conventions since the #IBelong Campaign was launched on 4 November 2014. During this event, other States may also deposit instruments of accession to the Conventions. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees will host the event joined by the UN Deputy Secretary General. The UN Office of Treaty Affairs will also be represented.

4. Civil Society Event

Monday 7 October 13:45 - 14:30 CEST Salle des Pas Perdus, Palais des Nations

This event will showcase the role of civil society actors in the #IBelong Campaign. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees will deliver opening remarks and the event will be moderated by Mr. Chris Nash, Director of the European Network on Statelessness, and will feature short presentations from several non-governmental organizations.

Photography and Content requirements

With the exception of the press conference, **Palais media are advised to communicate in advance any requests for photography and videography at the Executive Committee and High Level Segment events**, to the contacts listed below. Based on demand we will look at how best to facilitate, including whether pool arrangements are needed.

A broadcast quality feed will be available at the UN Palais Studio.

Further information:

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