



**COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO
BE DELIVERED BY H.E AMBASSADOR MAIMUNA K. TARISHI DURING
THE UNHCR HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS MEETING 2021
HELD FROM 14-15 DECEMBER 2021**

Chairperson,

At the outset, please allow me to thank the High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi, for his insightful remarks, which have aptly pointed a vivid description of the current global context of refugees against the backdrop of multiple global challenges as well as the complex issues which the UN humanitarian agency is currently facing. There is no doubt, that these are very trying and difficult times especially for many of us in the front line on the humanitarian affairs field. As the World battles with the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of refugees and those displaced continues to escalate and the institution of protection and asylum has been tested to its limits.

Chairperson, in the context of addressing the challenges of refugees, it is crucial that we ensure collective responsibility as enshrined in the principle of Responsibility and Burden Sharing. In this regard, the international

community should redouble its efforts and show solidarity in the continued search for durable solutions for global refugees crisis.

Chairperson,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, with the support from UNHCR Representation in Tanzania have continued to implement the pledges made in the Global Compact on Refugees meeting in December 2019 as follows:

1. It has continued to accept credible and genuine asylum seekers from various nationalities to enter our country. Tanzania now hosts around **255,275** refugees and asylum seekers, most from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The United Republic of Tanzania has continued to collaborate with UNHCR and other stakeholders to improve refugee education. Approximately **400** refugees are now pursuing tertiary education at various colleges and institutions across the country. However, inadequate funding affects the quality of education provided to refugees and limits the number of refugees who can pursue higher education.

2. On improving refugee status determination procedures, Members of the National Eligibility Committee for Refugee Status Determination in the United republic of Tanzania were trained to strengthen their working skills with UNHCR assistance, and two eligibility sessions for asylum seekers' status determination were held. The Government and UNHCR continues to discuss on how best to enhance the country's refugee status determination procedures.

3. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania continues to provide free work permits to refugees seeking to enter the country's labour market.
4. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is still working on finding lasting solutions for the remaining 1,972 Burundian refugees. In the search for durable solution on this group of refugees, the Government intends to conduct a mapping and documentation in the year 2022, particularly for individuals who have missed earlier registration exercises. In this regard, we request for financial assistance from the international community to complete this exercise successfully and provide a long-term solution for this long-forgotten group.
5. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania continues to facilitate voluntary repatriation to Burundian refugees in the margin of Tripartite Commission Meetings. However, this exercise is up against one major obstacle: inability to absorb the returnees in Burundi. Tanzania continues to urge the international community to provide further support to Burundi in the areas of return for the exercise to be sustainable, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees' fourth objective.

Chairperson,

Tanzania has begun issuing birth certificates to all refugees and asylum seekers born in Tanzania, in addition to implementing the pledges made. Refugees and asylum seekers have also been registered in the national database by our National Identification and Documentation Authority, with

the goal of issuing them with refugee identity cards. As a result, refugees will be able to obtain proper documentation.

Chairperson,

As I conclude my remarks, would like to thank the UNHCR, WFP, IOM, other UN Agencies, local and international NGOs, development partners, and the international donor community in general for their continued support and co-operation, which enable us to fulfill our responsibility as a host state.

I thank you for your kind attention,

Asante Sana.