



**ZIMBABWE**

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

**HONOURABLE PROFESSOR PAUL MAVIMA (MP)**

**TO THE  
73<sup>RD</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (EXCOM)  
MEETING**

**On**

**AGENDA ITEM 4A.**

**ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**13 OCTOBER 2022**

- **Chairperson,**
- **Your Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Delegates,**

Zimbabwe wishes to appreciate the discussion paper on International Protection which was presented by the Assistant Commissioner for Protection which raises pertinent issues on global trends, challenges and durable solutions to refugee issues.

Your Excellency, Zimbabwe has taken note of the issue of mixed movements and trafficking in persons, and wishes to encourage continued collaboration between the UNHCR and IOM. In our case, the two organisations are working very well in Zimbabwe, and we appreciate that the collaboration helps in bridging the funding gap which has been identified as a major concern during the General discussion of this Excom. The collaboration also helps to leverage on technical expertise to holistically address issues affecting persons of concern.

Your Excellency on the issue of Refugee Status Determination and asylum systems, I wish to highlight that Zimbabwe, as a host country, receives and processes applications from asylum seekers through an inter-agency Status Determination Committee. This Committee has worked very well with the assistance of the UNHCR, who are coopted as an observer. The Committee currently does not have any backlog on applications for refugee status as it meets regularly to process the applications. We would like to appreciate support from UNHCR Country Office.

Your Excellency, with respect to durable solutions, Zimbabwe supports addressing root causes for the displacement of persons. In addition, we view voluntary repatriation as a viable way to return persons of concern to their countries of origin in a dignified manner. However, Your Excellency, we have noted that in some cases, refugees are not willing to return to their countries of origin after a cessation clause has come into effect, and we request the UNHCR to assist member states to deal with these situations without compromising the dignity, safety and rights of the people of concern.

**I Thank You.**