

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Distinguished Guests

All protocol observed

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho wishes to align herself with sentiments of previous speakers in congratulating you and your team for organising this successful first ever Global Refugee Forum.

Chairperson

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho facilitates freedom of movement of refugees and asylum seekers. The Kingdom issues personal identity cards, machine readable travel documents to refugees and proof of identity certificates to asylum seekers. These documents are recognized by financial and public services institutions, enabling the socio-economic inclusion of persons of concern. Every child born in the country is issued a birth certificate. There is a process currently underway to review the social protection system to also include refugee children

Chairperson

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho wishes to pledge as follows:

- Adopting by 2020 the bill on nationality that grants nationality to children of unknown origin found in its

territory, and provides for a safeguard to grant nationality to children born on the territory who would otherwise be stateless.

- Developing a plan for suitable solutions to refugee response plan in its national disaster management strategy to help refugees in the country
- Creating opportunities targeting refugees in supporting their integration in other areas, in encouraging and facilitating refugees' access to income generation opportunities like the construction industry and seasonal agricultural markets.
- Facilitate sub-lease of 3 acres of land to refugees and asylum seekers for agriculture and livelihoods self-reliance. The purpose for this is to sustain and enhance life for them as opposed to their reliance on government stipends and food parcels.

Chairperson

There is a need, however for funding for refugees wishing to further their studies at university. The Kingdom of Lesotho may request fees support to enable it award scholarships to refugee children in the Kingdom for tertiary education. The Kingdom also needs assistance for refugees to be trained on livelihood skills.

Chairperson

I wish to end my statement by thanking once again for having invited the Kingdom of Lesotho to this historic and important forum.