

Remarks on behalf of the Amahoro Coalition

Your Excellencies,
High Commissioner,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Isaac Kwaku Fokuo, CEO of Botho Emerging Markets Group and Co-Founder of the Amahoro Coalition - an African-led initiative convening multi-sector actors from across the region to accelerate private sector leadership in driving sustainable market-based interventions that advance economic inclusion for displaced populations. We launched the Coalition at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, where we pledged to systematically mobilize the African private sector to catalyze their engagement in the economic transformation of refugee and host communities in Africa.

Since then, together with UNHCR, we have engaged over 200 African private sector firms which has led us to the realization that many African companies have very little information about the displacement crisis on the continent and how they can contribute. But we are changing that.

I'm pleased to share that from the 30th of November to 2nd December this year, the Amahoro Coalition in partnership with UNHCR, and the Africa Entrepreneurship Collective convened an inaugural event under the theme 36 Million Solutions - Africa Private Sector Forum on Forced Displacement. The event was held in Kigali, Rwanda and attracted over 200 in-person participants from Kenya, Somalia, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso,

Djibouti among others, with 600 others joining the Forum virtually.

The Forum was historic in many ways. This was the first time Africa's business leaders came together to discuss their contribution to the displacement crisis.

The event itself was successful on all accounts, anyone who was in the room could feel the eagerness from delegates to learn more about the displacement crisis and how they could work more collaboratively with actors that are already involved in this work. The diversity of the speakers — who included private-sector leaders, refugees, and representatives from refugee-focused organizations — enriched the conversation and gave a comprehensive overview of the refugee situation on the continent, the potential that lies in these communities, and the numerous opportunities for private sector engagement. The event's networking opportunities - from the welcome cocktail, to a gala dinner that featured performances from top African artists - also fostered a sense of community and trust among the participants and we believe that this will lead to increased multi-stakeholder collaboration in creating solutions to support refugees.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we were able to raise over \$3 million in commitments. These commitments came in the form of Financial contributions, investment capital, provision of health services, job opportunities, internships, and scholarships. Some of the companies that pledged commitments included Safaricom Limited, Africa Health Holdings, Canaan Group, KOS Group, Sterling One Foundation, Al-Ansar Foundation and Kush Bank. We are working collaboratively with UNHCR to support the implementation of these pledges and we are

confident that they will result in positive progress which we will report during the next Global Refugee Forum.

We at Amahoro Coalition are very grateful for the partnership with UNHCR. Specifically, the office of the Director, Regional Bureau, East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region, the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa and PSP Africa who have been stalwart partners to date. We are also very grateful that the Deputy High Commissioner took the time to join us in Kigali.

We are optimistic that the seeds sown during the 36 Million Solutions Forum will yield fruit and ask that you continue to work with us as we engage and mobilize Africa's private sector actors deeper into this important conversation.

Thank you for your time!