

**SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STATEMENT
TO THE 84TH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE UNHCR
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ON
AGENDA ITEM: INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION
13 OCTOBER 2022**

Chairperson

South Africa expresses its appreciation for the note on international protection delivered by the Assistant High Commissioner, Triggs. South Africa remains committed to provide international protection to persons of concern through coordination and cooperation with the international community.

Chairperson

It is in this context that South Africa commits to double its efforts to eradicate the backlog and strengthen the asylum system in partnership with the UNHCR, to ensure that deserving applicants have access to protection. In this regard, we have made progress through the support received from UNHCR towards the clearance of the appeal backlog. Some of the critical foundation work done includes joint training of the newly recruited members by Judicial Institute for Africa (JIFA) and UNHCR.

Following the above training, members have started with the adjudication of appeals, and in the coming months the work is expected to intensify. The Appeals Authority has also extended an invite to the South African Judicial Education Institute (SAJEI) for further training of members.

With these efforts and related policy review work, South Africa believes that it would have made significant contribution towards safeguarding protection space for deserving asylum seekers and refugees.

Chairperson,

Refugee status should not be permanent, addressing the root causes of forced displacement should be at the center of durable solutions. In line with intensifying efforts for burden and responsibility sharing, South Africa would like to reiterate that increased cooperation of international community with an understanding that the biggest responsibility is left with the refugee host countries that has to provide protection within the limited resources on the ground.

In conclusion, South Africa is looking forward to the High Commissioner's dialogue on protection challenges later this year. We hope that the dialogue will have a strong deliberations on intensifying resettlement and voluntary returns.

I thank you