

- Canada would like to thank the European Union and UNHCR for organizing this conference.
- Canada also recognizes the tremendous generosity of the government and people of Kenya in hosting a large population of Somali and other refugees on their soil for more than two decades.
- Canada is supportive of all reasonable efforts to find durable long-term solutions to protracted refugee situations.
- However, Canada expects that all returns of refugees will be conducted in a safe and voluntary manner, based on informed decisions, and in accordance with international law.
- As such, Canada appreciates the strong focus on protection issues that has been presented in the Operations Strategy and Action Plan to respond to this crisis.
- Canada notes that this response is predicated on conditions of increased security in Somalia and that many of the areas that have been identified in the Action Plan as safe for returns are still the subject of frequent reports of violence and terrorist attacks.
- Canada will be examining its options for supporting the Tripartite Agreement and the Action Plan presented at this conference over the coming months.