

**STATEMENT BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND  
HEAD OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI DELEGATION TO THE SIXTY NINTH  
SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S  
UNHCR PROGRAMME**

HIGH COMMISSIONER,

CHAIRPERSON,

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I BRING TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE, GREETINGS FROM THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI. I AM HUMBLED TO BE AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY ADDRESS THIS SESSION AND TO DELIVER THE KINGDOM'S STATEMENT.

THE STATEMENT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IS NOTED AND WE ALIGN OURSELVES WITH THE STATEMENT DELIVERED BY UGANDA ON BEHALF OF THE AFICA GROUP.

Mr. CHAIRPERSON, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU OF MY GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE ASYLUM REGIME AND FURTHER ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING THE NEW YORK DECLARATION AND WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE OUR FELLOW AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO APPLY THE COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK.

OUR GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN LONG STRIDES IN ENSURING A WELL CO-ORDINATED AND IMPROVED ASYLUM MECHANISM. IT GIVES US PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE KINGDOM HAS ENACTED A NEW REFUGEES ACT NO.15 OF 2017 WHICH WILL COMMENCE ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER, 2018. THE ACT ENSHRINES PROVISIONS OF THE 1951 CONVENTION, ITS PROTOCOL AND THE 1969 OAU CONVENTION. THE NEW ACT WILL ACCORD TO REFUGEES ALL THE RIGHTS ENSHRINED IN THE CONVENTIONS AS WE RATIFIED ALL THESE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS WITHOUT RESERVATIONS.

HAVING THE ACT COMMENCE DESPITE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS IS A GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEES' RIGHTS. THE GOVERNMENT WITH SUPPORT FROM UNHCR WILL BE ESTABLISHING A COMPLETELY NEW ASYLUM REGIME. TO THAT END, WE HAVE HAD TO

CREATE THE POSTS OF STATUS DETERMINATION OFFICERS, ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL REFUGEES' ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL REFUGEES' APPEAL BOARD. OUR GOVERNMENT ENVISAGES THAT THE COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD WILL AMONGST OTHER DUTIES PROVIDE DURABLE AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO REFUGEES PROBLEMS. THE PROCESS OF DRAFTING REGULATIONS TO THE ACT IS ALMOST COMPLETE.

AS WE FIRMLY SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW YORK DECLARATION WHICH CALLS US TO USE AN ALL INCLUSIVE APPROACH IN ADDRESSING REFUGEE ISSUES, IN JANUARY 2018, WE SIGNED A TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WITH TWO IMPLIMENTING PARTNERS. ONE WHOM WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD, TO DEAL WITH PROTECTION ISSUES AND THE OTHER TO DEAL WITH LIVELYHOOD ISSUES. WE ARE ADVOCATING RETURNING DIGNITY TO REFUGEES BY MAKING THEM SELF RELIANT.

WE CURRENTLY GRAPLING WITH LONG STAYERS IN OUR MALINDZA RECEPTION CENTRE. THE SECOND IMPLIMENTING PARTNER IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING A PROFILING EXERCISE FOR REFUGEES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE AND HARNESS THE SKILLS THEY HAVE TO ENABLE THEM TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES. THIS EXERCISE WILL ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING THE MOST VALNERABLE WITHIN THE POPULATION WHO CAN NOT BE EXPECTED TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES, THESE INCLUDE THE ELDERLY, PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS.

MR CHAIRPERSON AS ALLUDED TO BY THE AFRICA GROUP WE ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED BY THE SCALING DOWN OF SUPPORT AND THIS IS VIEWED AS A THREAT TO THE REFUGEE PROTECTION REGIME. WE FURTHER CALL FOR MORE CONSECRATED EFFORTS TO ENDING CONFLICTS WHITCH LEAD TO INCREASE TO REFUGEE CRISIS.

THE COUNTRY WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF SWEDEN AND FINLAND WHO RESPECTIVELY ACCEPTED RESETTLEMENTS OF TWO FAMILIES ON MEDICAL GROUNDS. WE COMMEND THIS SPIRIT OF BURDEN SHARING. WE ALSO WISH TO EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO UNHCR AND IOM FOR ASSISTING WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH THESE RESETTLEMENTS

THE KINGDOM IS ALSO COMMITTED TO ENDING STATELESSNESS AS DEMONSTRATED BY RATIFYING 3 INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO STATELESSNESS. THE KINGDOM IS DOING ITS BEST TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES ENVISAGED IN THE "THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN TO END STATELESSNESS BY 2024".

AS I CONCLUDE CHAIR, THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI REITERATES ITS COMMITMENT TO CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR REFUGEES TO ENJOY ALL THEIR RIGHTS INCLUDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSIVENESS BY IMPROVING OUR REGIME'S LIVELYHOOD STRATEGY. THE KINGDOM HAS IN THE PAST IMPLEMENTED DURABLE SOLUTIONS SUCH AS LOCAL INTERGRATION BY GRANTING NATIONALITY TO REFUGEES AND SOME HAVE ACQUIRED LAND ON SWAZI NATION LAND.

MR. CHAIRPERSON

I THANK YOU