

GHANA

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STATEMENT ON STATELESSNESS BY THE HON. HENRY QUARTEY, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR, REPUBLIC OF GHANA AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 70TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME (EXCOM) OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND 7TH – 11TH OCTOBER, 2019

Your Excellency Chairperson of EXCOM

Ghana aligns itself with the statement made by XXXXX on behalf of the African Group and makes the following additional comments in our national capacity.

Let me begin by commending the Chairperson for his/her able manner with which s/he has conducted this session so far. You can count on the support of Ghana towards the success of this session.

1. MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TOWARDS ERADICATION OF STATELESSNESS IN GHANA

➤ **Regional Stakeholders Conference on Statelessness in Abidjan**

Since the launch of the *"I Belong campaign"* in 2014, the Government of Ghana has been working with the UNHCR to tackle the problem of statelessness assiduously. From 23rd – 28th February, 2015, Ghana participated in the Regional Stakeholders Conference jointly organized by the UNHCR and ECOWAS in Abidjan. Together with ECOWAS member countries, the meeting adopted the **ABIDJAN DECLARATION** with a Regional Action Plan pledging to end statelessness.

➤ **ECOWAS Heads of State Summit in Accra**

On 19th May, 2015, Ghana hosted the ECOWAS Heads of State summit and endorsed the Abidjan Declaration in a communique issued on the eradication of statelessness. As part of this commitment, a focal point for statelessness was appointed and tasked with the responsibility of developing a National Action Plan to end statelessness. In fulfilment of its commitment, Ghana committed to accede to the protocol on statelessness and undertake the necessary legal and administrative reforms towards accession.

➤ **NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

The Ghana Refugee Board (GRB), in collaboration with its partners, developed a national plan of action on the eradication of statelessness in 2016. The monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms for the implementation of this plan include a high-level steering committee for decision-making, and a national task force for operational and follow up activities.