

(51)



STATEMENT BY HON. PATRICK OLE NTUTU, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT DURING THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM, 17TH TO 18TH DECEMBER, IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

High Commissioner,

Excellencies,

Hon. Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya is delighted to participate in the first Global Refugee Forum. My delegation takes this opportunity to thank the High Commissioner for organizing the forum as it provides a turning point in history, to realize meaningful burden and responsibility sharing for refugee host countries.

Kenya is one of the top twenty refugee host countries globally. At present, we are hosting over **488,000**. Of these, 217,000 are in Daadab Complex; 193,000 are in Kakuma and 78,000 are in urban areas. Many of these refugees are in protracted situations.

Kenya, therefore, welcomes discussions whose ultimate end result will be to provide solutions. For this reason, Kenya is an AMISOM Troop Contributing Country to help stabilize Somalia and address the root causes of forced displacement. Our contributions in Somalia, and

elsewhere, defines our resolve to find solutions for protracted refugee situations. In this regard, we call upon the International Community and Development Actors to support the development of infrastructure in Somalia that will create conditions for sustainable return of the Somali refugees.

Refugees in Kenya live amongst host communities. Majority live among the Somali and Turkana Communities, where Dadaab and Kakuma Refugee Camps are situated. The two communities have shouldered the greatest burden of hosting refugees on behalf of the people of Kenya. They generously donated land on which the refugees are settled and the environment in the hosting areas has been heavily degraded. There are regular conflicts between the host and refugee communities over scarce resources. Therefore, whenever we address refugee issues, we have to be mindful of the needs of the host communities.

Kenya has numerous good practices to showcase at this Forum. For instance refugee children continue to access Kenya's education system. An enabling business environment for economic inclusion is provided in the country. Both refugees and host communities have access to integrated services. Additionally, talent of refugees is nurtured through sporting activities, such as athletics and football. You may recall that the first Refugee Olympic team in the Rio-Olympics comprised five (5) refugee athletes from Kenya. We support such activities because we are aware that empowerment of refugees will ultimately lead to sustainable solutions.

High Commissioner,

Kenya pledges to continue to implement the commitments made under the IGAD Process as contained in the Nairobi, Djibouti and Kampala Declarations. More specifically, we will continue to strengthen support to refugee and host community education, include refugees in development planning especially on area based development approaches, and will also continue to strengthen institutions that manage asylum, deliver services and provide security in refugee hosting areas. To actualize these pledges, we will require support from the international community.

High Commissioner,

The Government of Kenya remains committed to seek solutions for the various categories of persons in Daadab Reugee Complex. In this regard, we have embarked on a number of programmes, including, resolving the double registered cases and relocation of non-Somali refugees from the Dadaab Complex to Kakuma. It is clear in our minds that a solution for Dadaab is not only good for Kenya's National Security but for International Security, as well. We call upon our development partners to support us in this regard.

High Commissioner,

In conclusion, the Global Refugee Forum therefore presents a unique opportunity to mobilize support for refugee host countries and to increase the number of resettlement places so as to ease the disproportionate burden, which has persisted for far too long.

I thank you for your attention.