

MINISTER'S SPEECH - GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM (GRF)
2019

26

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE MINISTER OF HOME
AFFAIRS, HRH PRINCESS LINDIWE DLAMINI AND HEAD OF
THE ESWATINI DELEGATION TO THE GLOBAL REFUGEE
FORUM (GRF) 2019

Chairperson, I am humbled to be afforded this opportunity to forward the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini's deep appreciation at being invited to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2019, and by extension bring greetings from his Majesty's Government.

Chairperson, the Kingdom of Eswatini has over the years demonstrated a very strong commitment to refugee protection by dedicating considerable resources towards its asylum institutions and promoting the welfare of asylum seekers, refugees and persons of concern. The Kingdom commits to continue with this noble endeavour for as long as this situation persists.

The Kingdom of Eswatini is pleased to report that the Eswatini Refugees Act No.15 of 2017 is currently being implemented with technical and financial assistance from UNHCR, despite financial constraints. To ensure our ongoing effective support to refugees, the Kingdom continues to fulfil its commitment and mandate under signed international human rights instruments including treaties and supported Declarations.

To this end, the Kingdom pledges to improve and strengthen the re-established Refugee Status Determination process by maintaining specialised tools and systems in line with the new Act and the New York Declaration in order to best respond to the growing global phenomenon of large movements of refugees and migrants.

Further, the Kingdom re-affirms its commitment to implementing the said Declaration by pledging to improve refugee's economic inclusion. The Kingdom intends offering opportunities to refugees through agricultural livelihoods which will benefit both the refugees and host communities.

By way of implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the Kingdom will be fostering social cohesion to address the refugees' humanitarian and socio-economic needs by pledging to revamp one of our old reception centres which was formerly used to host Mozambican refugees. This will assist his Majesty's Government with issues of long stayers in our Malindza Reception Centre. It is hoped that moving some of the long stayers to the new centre will help return their dignity as they will be given land to farm and will be part of the earmarked agricultural projects.

The Kingdom of Eswatini would appreciate a continuous support from and through the newly-established asylum capacity support group in achieving our commitments to the strengthening of our asylum institutions and improving refugees' livelihoods.

With these remarks the Kingdom once again re-affirms its commitment to improving the lives of refugees by ensuring that

protection of their rights and interests is at the height of its mandate.

Lastly, the Kingdom commends UNHCR for continuously supporting countries hosting refugees and people of concern, especially the developing countries

I thank you.