

**Statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of the  
#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness**  
at the 74<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the Executive Committee  
9-11 October 2023  
(Time limit: 5 minutes / 598 words)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Friends of IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness.

The Campaign initiated in 2014 aims to eliminate statelessness for millions of people around the world who are not only deprived of the right to a nationality, but also prevented from the full enjoyment of human rights. In reality, stateless persons often face reduced access to legal employment, property rights and public services, such as education, health care, and civil registration. Many are subjected to travel restrictions, social exclusion, and heightened vulnerability to exploitation, trafficking in persons, forcible displacement, sexual and physical violence, and other abuses.

The **IBelong Campaign** was **grounded in the firm belief** that **statelessness can be resolved if** there are **strong political will** and **determination** to do so.

In the past decade, we have seen a lot of **progress** in addressing statelessness worldwide. **We welcome every effort** made by Member States ranging from granting or confirmation of nationality, provision of legal identity documents, allowing access to basic services, raising awareness on the issue to help generate more positive and accurate public perception towards stateless people, improving national data and statistics on statelessness building capacity for civil registration, to ratifying relevant Conventions on statelessness.

**We also appreciate** UNHCR's continued **advocacy** on the statelessness issue and **support to Member States** on the implementation of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness, as well as the **collaboration with affected persons and communities, civil society, and various partners** to mainstream statelessness in their respective mandates, such as UNICEF, OHCHR, and IPU, to name a few.

Mr. Chairman,

**The Campaign** is now in its **very last phase** before ending next year, **yet we still lag behind our goal of a world free from statelessness.**

Therefore, **we encourage** all Member States and relevant stakeholders **to intensify their efforts** and **mobilize their resources to the best of their capabilities** to **identify** and **protect** stateless people, **resolve** existing situations of statelessness and **prevent** the emergence of new cases. We welcome the adoption of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) by the UN Statistical Commission and call on States to consider utilizing these recommendations in efforts to strengthen data on statelessness.

**We encourage** those who have already made pledges in the first GRF and the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness, **to consider accelerating the implementation of those existing pledges.**

However, **our work to end statelessness should not end** when the IBelong Campaign concludes in 2024. We need to do our best, work harder, and work more creatively with existing and new partners, to formulate pragmatic solutions.

The upcoming **Second Global Refugee Forum (GRF)** this year will be an opportune time where States and stakeholders can come together to show their **solidarity** with stateless persons.

We look forward to **renew our commitment** to this important issue and **call on all States and stakeholders** to join force by making **additional pledges** for more **ambitious and concrete actions** that will make a difference on the ground.

**The Global Alliance to End Statelessness**, a new initiative with a multi-stakeholder approach that builds on IBelong Campaign, will be another important venue for those who share this very same view to work together. Under the Alliance, **the Solution Seeker Programme** will provide a space for states who are **champions** in this area of work. Therefore, **we invite** Member States and stakeholders **to consider joining the Global Alliance**, so together we can truly achieve the world where everyone knows where they belong and can live a dignified life – the world where no one is left behind.

I thank you.

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