



**DRAFT STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, DR LEON  
AMOS SCHREIBER**

**AT THE**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**OF THE**

**75TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES' HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME  
(EXCOM)**

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**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

***Check Against  
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**Chairperson,  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

My delegation would like to express our appreciation to the High Commissioner for his report. South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by Her Excellency, Minister Irene Marie Cecile Mboukou Kimbatsa of the Republic of Congo on behalf of the African Group.

Chairperson,

As we gather here, our world is experiencing accelerating displacement, with the sound of bombing and gunfire growing louder across our world. Like the sound of thunder heralds the approaching storm, the crackling of these weapons warns us of the scale of approaching humanitarian emergencies.

The storms of armed conflict, and of the misrule that breeds poverty and hunger, are converging with the physical storms driven by a changing climate to displace millions of people at an exponential pace.

For this reason, South Africa believes in a rules-based multilateral system and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. It is thus important to focus on the humanitarian, development and peace nexus in our efforts to tackle the root causes of displacement.

I say so as a participant in the profound political shift towards cooperation that my own country recently experienced, which resulted in the formation of a Government of National Unity.

By uniting diverse political forces around a shared respect for South Africa's rules-based internal order, as expressed through our human rights-based Constitution, we have placed our country on a fundamentally healthier trajectory towards faster growth and inclusive development.

South Africa's new government brings to life our commitment to our national motto, which calls on diverse peoples to unite.

To address the humanitarian, developmental and conflict-driven root causes of global displacement, we also need diverse peoples to unite around shared values and in pursuit of common solutions at a global level.

We need to do more to invest in preventing conflicts.

We need to do more to embed good governance to drive economic and social development, because that is the only way to ensure that more societies provide peaceful pathways out of poverty and into opportunity.

Chairperson,

My delegation acknowledges the need to address the root causes of displacement which results in the mixed movement of persons. South Africa would appreciate further engagement on the route-based approach as it relates to the Southern Africa region.

Indeed, for the route-based approach to succeed, more investment is required in bolstering asylum systems and clearing backlogs in Africa, not less – and this includes engaging countries along these routes.

Chairperson,

The South African government has embarked on a process of digital transformation that will help us leverage technology for a better-managed system.

This is part of our broader contribution to the #IBelong campaign and our pledge to help end statelessness. This work has also seen South Africa roll out over 200 mobile offices for late birth registrations and deepening cooperation with hospitals to record births.

We are further setting clear new performance targets to improve our adjudication processes for asylum applications, and it is under these circumstances that South Africa looks forward to engaging more partners for technical and financial assistance.

Chairperson,

As South Africa celebrates its 30th anniversary of democracy under the Government of National Unity, we gratefully acknowledge the role that the family of nations played in supporting us on our democratic journey.

It is out of respect for the lessons of our own history that we urge members of this gathering to renew their commitment and respect for the institutions of a rules-based global order. For our part, South Africa will continue to support the work of the UNHCR.

Chairperson,

Now is the time to deepen cooperation to make our institutions work for all, in pursuit of that noble clarion call: diverse peoples, unite.

I thank you.