

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



**75th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Program (ExCOM) of
the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

Presented by

Hon. Angelina Teny

**Minister of Interior
Republic of South Sudan**

Conference Hall, Palais des Nations

Geneva, Switzerland

Excellencies,

Dr. Katharina Stasch, chairperson of ExCOM

Mr. Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

It is with great honor that I address this assembly of the 75th Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Program today, reaffirming South Sudan's unwavering commitment to the protection and empowerment of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees and those at risk of becoming stateless in the Republic of South Sudan. South Sudan aligns itself with the Statement made by DRC on behalf of the African Group.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates

I take the opportunity to express the Government of South Sudan's gratitude and appreciation to the High Commissioner, H.E. Filippo Grandi for choosing South Sudan to celebrate the World Refugee Day with the refugees in Jamjag Refugee settlement and his visit to Renk Transit Point for Sudanese refugees and South Sudanese returnees forced to leave Sudan due to the ongoing conflict. This demonstrates commitment to ensuring that the challenges including floods faced by South Sudan in the face of severe cuts for donor funding are considered. His visit highlighted the vulnerabilities faced by both refugees, returnees and host communities as well as the efforts exerted by the Government, host communities and international partners. I therefore on behalf of the Government of South Sudan would like to thank H.E. the High Commissioner for keeping South Sudan visible and as one of the Priority Countries.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates

To underscore the commitment and dedication of the Republic of South Sudan, we continued to maintain the open-door Policy, receiving the forcefully displaced despite the severe economic challenges and folding faced by the Country.

Furthermore, to demonstrate its Commitment, the Government is undertaking comprehensive reforms as well as domestication of international instrument to align the national legal frameworks with international protection standards. At this juncture, I am pleased to announce that the government has completed the process of ratification of the **1954 and 1961 Conventions on Statelessness**. This marks a crucial step in preventing statelessness and ensuring that all persons at risk of statelessness are afforded the rights and protections they deserve.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates

The pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum as mentioned in the High Commissioner's speech this morning, South Sudan is currently in the process of implementation of the issuance of **digital refugee identity cards** and **Machine-Readable Convention Travel Documents**. These advancements is funded by the government, UNHCR and INKOMOKO. Government and partners efforts on capacity building of law enforcement has also been launched and strategy on civil registry is developed and launched. With the support of UNHCR and EU 15,000 individuals has been issued ID Cards.

On 10th October 2024 the Government and partners Launched the South Sudan Durable Solution Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, IDPs, Returnees and Host communities. It is worth mentioning that this strategy is the first of its kind in South Sudan. It is intended to provide sustainable improved livelihoods.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates

By working closely with traditional leaders, community-based organizations, and civil society, we ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and integrated into Government efforts.

Through partnerships with international organizations and the private sector, we are creating access to job opportunities, particularly for women and youth and host communities include agricultural programs, business opportunities to enhance food security. The experience of Jamjang refugees' settlement visited by the High Commissioner during the World Refugee Day is a good example. However, I might note here that Jamjang is now threatened by floods.

In conclusion, South Sudan stands firmly committed to fulfilling its obligations to refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless individuals. We recognize the immense challenges ahead, but we remain committed to build a more inclusive, sustainable future for all. As we continue to collaborate with our international partners.

Thank you.